

ANNUAL BURSARY AWARDS

Bursaries are presented annually by the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Elected Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta constitute the branch association membership.

The purpose of the bursaries is to increase interest in parliament among young Albertans. Each year two recipients are nominated as co-winners from the Alberta Girls' Parliament and one from TUXIS. Nominations are made by the parliament with whom the candidate is associated and each bursary (\$400.00 for co-winners from AGP and \$800.00 for TUXIS) is presented along with a commemorative plaque.

The first bursary for \$100.00 was presented to Mr. Douglas Beechey on February, 23, 1967.

ALBERTA GIRLS' PARLIAMENT

This program is sponsored by the Alberta Council of Girl Guides of Canada and has been in existence since 1971. Girls from Senior Branches, Pathfinders, Canadian Girls in Training, Junior Forest Wardens, and Alberta 4-H are eligible to attend.

Mrs. Ethel Wilson, former Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta from the constituency of Edmonton North was instrumental in organizing the original objectives of the parliament which were to acquaint girls with their responsibilities as voting citizens. Today, the emphasis is placed on gaining knowledge of parliamentary procedure, the enhancement of public speaking abilities, and increased awareness of current events.

TUXIS PARLIAMENT OF ALBERTA

TUXIS Parliament grew out of a national inter-church boys' movement known as TUXIS which began in 1916. The "T" and "S" in TUXIS stand for "Training for Service". The "X" at the centre symbolizes Christ, with "U" and "I" on either side with no one but Christ between us.

TUXIS Parliament is a self-governing body and is not affiliated with any political party. It is open to young men and women from 15 to 20 years of age who are interested in seeking out the challenge expressed in the life of Christ. Most members represent a church, school or community organization.

In 1985, in cooperation with the Department of Education, the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (which is comprised of all elected Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta) offered an essay contest to Grade 6 students in Alberta.

This proved to be a very successful program and has become an annual event.

In commemoration of the Alberta Legislative Assembly's Centennial, in 2006 the Royal Commonwealth Society, Canada enhanced the first place award by \$100 for a total of \$200. The Society also included an award for the second place winner in the amount of \$75 and the third place winner for \$50.

The main objective of the contest is to encourage a greater awareness of the Commonwealth and the parliamentary system.

Essays must be 750 words or less and are judged on the basis of content (knowledge of the subject matter), originality, organization and development, vocabulary (appropriate word choices), sentence structure (including some variation and use of transitions), conventions of language use (spelling, punctuation, capitalization) and presentation (neatness).

Students are asked to select one of the present member countries of the Commonwealth and provide a general review of the geography, history, culture and economy of that country.