

# Youth Parliament of Manitoba

*ESTABLISHED: 1922*

*INCORPORATED IN THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA: 22 AUGUST 1983*

*WESTERN CANADA YOUTH PARLIAMENT ACT LAST REVISED: 30 APRIL 2006*

## **WESTERN CANADA YOUTH PARLIAMENT ACT**

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### *Contents*

#### Section

- 1 Definitions
- 2 Member Parliaments
- 3 Biennial Sessions of Western Canada Youth Parliament
- 4 Host Parliament
- 5 Eligibility for membership
- 6 Recruitment
- 7 Representation of Member Parliaments
- 8 Selection of membership
- 9 Ambassadors
- 10 Western Canada Youth Parliament Committee
  - Composition
  - Representatives
  - Chair
  - Quorum
  - Voting
  - Responsibilities
- 11 Responsibilities of Host Parliament
- 12 Matters not covered by Act
- 13 Amendment
- 14 Commencement

WHEREAS the young people of Western Canada have an opportunity to utilize Western Canada Youth Parliament to facilitate the discussion and debate of local, national, and international issues, to offer leadership, training and education in parliamentary democracy;

AND WHEREAS it is now expedient that the rules and regulations for the conduct and organisation of the said parliament be set forth;

THEREFORE, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative

Assembly of Western Canada Youth Parliament, enacts as follows:

### **Definitions**

- 1** In this Act,
  - “**Executive Committee Member**” means a prominent house leader at Western Canada Youth Parliament such as a Premier, Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Alternate Leader of the Opposition, President of the Privy Council or House Leader.
  - “**Host Parliament**” means the Member Parliament hosting the upcoming Session of Western Canada Youth Parliament;
  - “**Member Parliament**” means a youth parliament that has agreed to take part in the organisation of and be represented at Western Canada Youth Parliament;
  - “**Member**” means an individual selected to participate in Western Canada Youth Parliament;
  - “**Session**” means the parliamentary sittings of Western Canada Youth Parliament;
  - “**Western Canada Youth Parliament Committee**” or “**Committee**” means the perpetual committee struck to facilitate communication between Member Parliaments regarding Western Canada Youth Parliament issues and to advise the host parliament regarding the organisation of Western Canada Youth Parliament.

### **Member Parliaments**

- 2** The Member Parliaments of Western Canada Youth Parliament shall be
  - (a) British Columbia Youth Parliament,
  - (b) TUXIS Youth Parliament of Alberta,
  - (c) Saskatchewan Youth Parliament, and
  - (d) Youth Parliament of Manitoba.

### **Biennial sessions of Western Canada Youth Parliament**

- 3** Session of Western Canada Youth Parliament must be held on the weekend of Victoria Day in alternate years.

### **Host Parliament**

- 4** The Member Parliaments shall rotate acting as Host Parliament for Western Canada Youth Parliament in the following order:
  - (a) TUXIS Youth Parliament of Alberta;
  - (b) Youth Parliament of Manitoba;
  - (c) British Columbia Youth Parliament;
  - (d) Saskatchewan Youth Parliament.

### **Eligibility for membership**

- 5** Members must be
- (a) nominated by one of the Member Parliaments, and
  - (b) at least 15 but no more than 25 years of age by December 31 of the year in which the Session of Western Canada Youth Parliament is being held.

### **Recruitment**

- 6** Each Member Parliament is responsible for the recruitment of members from their parliament.

### **Representation of Member Parliaments**

- 7** (1) Each Member Parliament must be allocated 20 seats at Western Canada Youth Parliament.
- (2) The Host Parliament must appoint at least one executive committee member from each Member Parliament.

### **Selection of membership**

- 8** If a Host Parliament intends to reject the application of a Member nominated by a Member Parliament under paragraph 5(a),
- (a) the Host Parliament must notify the Committee at the earliest practical opportunity and provide reasonable grounds for rejecting the application, the onus of which lies on the Host Parliament, and
  - (b) the Member Parliament may substitute its nomination through its Committee representative.

### **Ambassadors**

- 9** The Host Parliament may invite ambassadors from non-Member Parliaments to participate at Western Canada Youth Parliament provided that such ambassadors do not reduce the number of seats allocated to a Member parliament under section 7 and that such ambassadors pay the full cost of participation and travel.

### **Western Canada Youth Parliament Committee**

#### **Composition**

- 10** (1) The Committee shall consist of two representatives from each Member Parliament and a Chair.

#### **Representatives**

- (2) Each Member Parliament must appoint two representatives to the Committee, at least one of whom will be attending the upcoming Session of Western Canada Youth Parliament.

### **Chair**

- (3) The Host Parliament must appoint a Chair who must
  - (a) chair the Committee, and
  - (b) cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

### **Quorum**

- (4) The presence of one representative from each Member Parliament plus the Chair shall be necessary for a meeting of the Committee.

### **Voting**

- (5) In matters requiring a vote, each Member Parliament shall have one vote and either of the two representatives of the Member Parliament shall be eligible to cast that vote.

### **Responsibilities**

- (6) The Committee must
  - (a) authorize any changes necessary to the number of seats allocated to each Member Parliament at Western Canada Youth Parliament,
  - (b) resolve any situation arising from the need for a change of date, change of Host Parliament or similar situation,
  - (c) ensure that subsidies for travel costs to Western Canada Youth Parliament are fair and appropriate, and
  - (d) ensure that registration fees for Western Canada Youth Parliament are reasonable.

### **Responsibilities of Host Parliament**

- 11** The Host Parliament is responsible for organising Session of Western Canada Youth Parliament, including but not limited to
  - (a) the budget,
  - (b) the facilities,
  - (c) the schedule, and
  - (d) the Standing Orders.

### **Matters not covered by Act**

- 12** All matters not covered by the provisions of this Act are at the discretion of the Host Parliament.

### **Amendment**

- 13** (1) The Committee may amend this Act.
- (2) If it is impractical for the Committee to convene in order to consider urgent business, the Host Parliament is authorized to operate notwithstanding the provisions of this Act subject to ratification by the Committee at the earliest practical opportunity.

- (3) Any amendment made pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) above must be subject to approval at the next session of Western Canada Youth Parliament by a resolution as set forth in subsections (4) to (6).
- (4) This Act may be amended by a resolution of the Western Canada Youth Parliament.
- (5) A resolution under subsection (4) does not take effect until ratified by each Member Parliament.
- (6) Any existing resolution or agreement governing the organization of Western Canada Youth Parliament remains in force until the condition in subsection (5) is satisfied.
- (7) If the ratification under subsection (5) does not take place before the following session of Western Canada Youth Parliament, the resolution under subsection (4) is of no force or effect.

### **Commencement**

- 14** (1) This Act repeals all resolutions governing the organization of Western Canada Youth Parliament which were in force as of the commencement of this Act under section 13.
- (2) This Act comes into force upon ratification by each Member Parliament.