

2019 Garry McLean Scholarship Fund Report



Compiled by Nina Lam (Vice-Chairperson) and
Deborah Tsao (Past-Chairperson)
99th Youth Parliament of Manitoba

Executive Summary

2019 marked the Youth Parliament of Manitoba (YPM)'s fourth year of administering the Garry McLean Scholarship Fund (GMSF), which aims to provide Indigenous youth from across Manitoba with the opportunity to attend our annual Winter Session at no cost – an event that has traditionally been unrepresentative of Manitoba's Indigenous population and their geographical diversity. First spearheaded by Ronald Gamblin and Ariel Melamedoff in 2016 as the Reconciliation Fund, the Fund was renamed this year in memoriam Elder Garry McLean, who was a crucial supporter of the initiative, our organization, and our mission of empowering leaders of our generation.

This year, the GMSF offered support to 14 youth, eight of whom were able to attend. Out of these eight members, two were returning members, six identified as First Nations (representing God's Lake First Nation, Sagkeeng First Nation, St. Theresa Point First Nation, and Tataskweyak Cree Nation), and two identified as Métis. This year, YPM provided air travel to Winnipeg for four members from three northern communities (God's Lake Narrows, St. Theresa Point, and Thompson).

Their presence at Session had a marked positive impact on Session. Reconciliation was an ongoing theme throughout all of our debates, and members smudged at the Legislative building. At luncheons with the Manitoban political parties, MLA's answered for their record on Indigenous issues.

Even more importantly, however, the GMSF has strengthened the YPM community. This year, the two returning GMSF members acted as leaders to the rest of the group, and to the entire membership of backbenchers. Recipients developed close bonds with each other that continued well after Session.

As YPM continues to learn and evolve as an organization, we strive to use our position to empower those who have been traditionally marginalized. In alignment with our mission to engage youth in politics, we must prioritize those youth who are the least represented in our legislative bodies, but who have often suffered the most at the hands of discriminatory lawmaking. The GMSF represents an excellent step in that direction, and one that we hope will continue for the years to come.

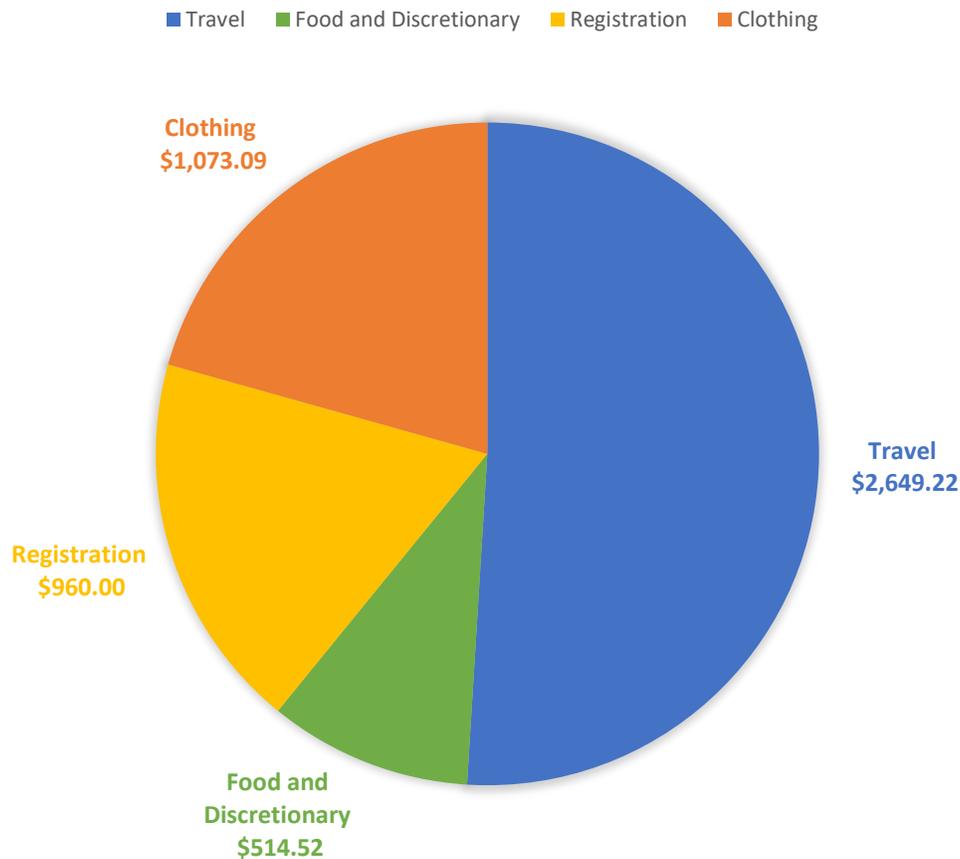
Financials

Fundraising for the GMSF reached a record high this year. We raised a total of **\$7,594.56** and disbursed **\$5,196.83**, which marks the first year the GMSF has run a surplus. In comparison, we raised \$4,790.00 in 2018 and disbursed \$5,764.62.

This year's higher revenue is owing to an increased donation from our primary sponsor, as well as the successful efforts of our Minister of Reconciliation, Marshall Morrisseau, in raising \$1,730.00 through the Winnipeg Foundation.

Including our remaining financial cushion of \$1,356.93 from 2018, this gives YPM a surplus of **\$3,754.66** to dedicate towards the continuation and expansion of the GMSF in future years, especially as our 100th anniversary approaches in 2021.

Breakdown of Expenditures



Travel

This year, YPM flew in four members: two members from St. Theresa Point, one member from God's Lake Narrows, and one member from Thompson. This was two less people than 2018, but consistent with our goal of having 50 percent of GMSF recipients coming from out-of-town.

This year, we did not receive a reply from Perimeter Aviation regarding continued sponsorship, which accounted for the larger amount we paid overall to book the three flights from St. Theresa Point and God's Lake Narrows. Calm Air generously provided us with an 80 percent discount, which we used to purchase the flight from Thompson. We originally budgeted to spend \$4,500 on travel to leave ourselves room for price inflation; in the end, we spent **\$2649.22**, which is \$1,850.78 less than budgeted.

Clothing

We spent **\$1,073.99** on formal clothing for participants this year, which is approximately \$1,000 less than 2018. Our budget for clothing for 2019 was \$2,500, meaning that we spent \$1,426.01 below budget.

The reason for our reduced spending was the addition of a new question on our GMSF application form: "Do you need formal clothing for five outfits?" Applicants could then specify if they had no formal items, some formal items, or sufficient items for five formal outfits. We then asked successful recipients what items they owned, and bought items according to need. This was extremely successful at making the shopping process more efficient and cost-effective.

Registration

YPM charges a \$120 registration fee for all participants. As part of the GMSF, this fee is waived for successful applicants. Therefore, for eight recipients, YPM absorbed **\$960** in registration fees this year.

Food and Discretionary

We disbursed **\$420** in food stipends (\$180 less than our budget of \$600) to seven recipients to cover the cost of three meals during Winter Session, which members purchase on their own during their dinner break enjoyed with other fellow participants.

We also budgeted \$100 for discretionary spending, of which we used **\$94.52**. This money was used for meals during shopping trips, a social activity for a member billeting with an Executive member, and a gas reimbursement for an Executive member who picked up members and facilitated shopping trips.

Donors

The GMSF is only made possible by the generosity of our donors who support our goals of inclusion and reconciliation. We are extremely thankful to the following individuals and organizations who donated to the GMSF this year:

Anonymous (\$5,000)
The Winnipeg Foundation (\$1,730)
The Rotary Club of Winnipeg (\$500)
Breta Passler (\$300)
Aidan Prenovault (\$75)

Logistics

This year, applications for the GMSF opened in September and closed in November – the same timeframe as registration for Winter Session. The logistics were streamlined through a triaging process during the application phase. On the application form, applicants were asked to indicate how much formal clothing they already owned, whether they would require transportation arrangements to Winter Session, whether they would require accommodations in Winnipeg before the start of Winter Session, and whether they would need a food stipend. This greatly helped YPM assess what the needs of each individual recipient were and make arrangements for shopping, transportation, and accommodations accordingly.

Consistent with recommendations from last year, all members who needed air travel from a remote community flew in on December 23, 2019. Only one member needed accommodations hosted by YPM; the three other members had family they could stay with in Winnipeg. Abigail Theano-Pudwill (Vice-Chairperson) billeted this member at her house. Members were then able to go shopping on either December 23 or 24, which alleviated much of the stress associated with having to rush shopping trips on the 24th in past years.

The logistics of the GMSF were headed by Nina Lam (Director of Finance), who oversaw the fundraising, collected the applications, booked the flights, and set up the schedule for shopping trips. Marshall led the recruitment efforts, conducting presentations at schools and spreading the word on social media. Marie Sutherland (Director of Procedures) and Marshall organized a gathering on December 25 for the members. Nina, Marie, and Breta Passler (a supporter of the GMSF) picked up members from the airport and chaperoned shopping trips.

Overall, logistics for 2019 significantly improved compared to 2018. YPM is optimistic that as we continue to run the GMSF program, we will continue to learn from experience and “iron out the kinks” as they arise.

Recipients



Alex Courchene

Alex Courchene is 16 years old, from Sagkeeng First Nation. His mother, Ann Thompson, is a YPM alum and served as our first female Premier in 1979. Growing up on his mother's stories, Alex came to YPM hoping to discuss electoral reform, Canada's role in international politics, and issues of justice surrounding reconciliation. He is interested in learning about how parliament works and discussing these issues with other engaged youth. He currently attends St. John's High School.



Kaydon Flett

Kaydon is 16 years old, from St. Theresa Point First Nation. He has a passion for improving youth mental health, particularly on Northern reserves. By attending Winter Session, he hopes to develop leadership skills and gain experience in parliament. It was particularly meaningful for him to sit in the seat that Elijah Harper once sat. Outside of YPM, Kaydon also has experience conducting biomedical research at St. Boniface Hospital.



Mario Flett

Mario is 16 years old, from St. Theresa Point First Nation. From his experience seeing the impact that drugs and alcohol can have on youth in Northern reserves, he hopes to raise awareness about this problem at Winter Session. In the future, Mario hopes to become more involved in politics and law. He attends Southeast Collegiate and is a highly accomplished rower, having recently received the Sport Manitoba Order of Sport Excellence.



Drake Harper

Drake is 17 years old, from God's Lake First Nation. They came to YPM through the recommendation of Marjorie Kanabee, another GMSF recipient. In attending Winter Session, they hoped to experience new things and debate bills from the perspective of a Northern community member. Throughout Session, they also shed light on issues from their perspective as an LGBTQ* community member and advocate.



Marjorie Kanabee

Marjorie is 20 years old, from God's Lake First Nation. She is a returning member, having attended the 96th Winter Session. At both the 96th and 98th Sessions, she shared powerful experiences of growing up in an isolated, fly-in reserve. Marjorie is particularly motivated to reconcile Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth and to use these relationships to have meaningful conversations about reconciliation. She is currently a student at the University College of the North.



Alexina Nault

Alexina is 16 years old and Métis. She has always had an interest in bettering Manitoba and sees YPM as a way to gain mentorship – thereby empowering her to make positive change in our province. In particular, she is interested in child welfare, justice, healthcare, and education. She is currently a student at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate.



Bob Rodriguez

Bob is 17 years old and Métis. She has a wide range of interests, including climate change, women's bodily autonomy, and raising the minimum wage. In coming to YPM, she hopes to explore different career options and potentially enter into politics herself. Bob currently attends R.B. Russell Vocational School.



Alexis Spence

Alexis is 19 years old, from Tataskweyak Cree Nation. She is a returning member, having also attended the 97th Winter Session. Alexis wanted to continue in YPM to learn more about public speaking and politics. In particular, she hopes to bring attention to the impact of Manitoba Hydro dams on Northern First Nations. Alexis is currently a student at the University of Manitoba.