

2018 Reconciliation Fund Report



Compiled by Deborah Tsao

Premier (Chairperson)

98th Youth Parliament of Manitoba

Executive Summary

2018 was the most successful year of the Reconciliation Fund to date. The Fund was conceived three years ago, by then Minister of Reconciliation Ronald Gamblin. In its first year, the fund covered three Indigenous youth to attend. One year later, the Fund brought seven youth to Session. This year, I am extremely proud to say that the Reconciliation Fund was able to offer full scholarships for 12 members. Although 3 were ultimately unable to attend the event, YPM provided nine members with fully funded registration, clothes, travel costs, and a food stipend.

Another measure of the progress of the Reconciliation Fund was the number of sponsored youth from Northern reserves. In 2016, all Reconciliation Fund recipients were from Winnipeg. In 2017, two members were from Northern Manitoba. This year, in 2018, we flew six members from four different Northern reserves down to Winnipeg to attend Winter Session. The growth of the Reconciliation Fund is due in large part to the invaluable help and guidance we receive from our in-house Elder, Gary McLean. For the past three years, Elder McLean has offered teachings to open and close our Session, and has helped immensely with our outreach efforts.

When I reflect on the progress of our organization, I am amazed by the progress we have made towards reconciliation in the past few years. In the 92nd Winter Session, my first year in YPM, the membership was overwhelmingly non-Indigenous, a fact that was reflected in the debates and discussions. This year, in the 97th Winter Session, 20% of our membership was Indigenous, our Private Member's Bills were written about Northern food security and Indigenous education, and the lived experiences of Indigenous youth were consistently discussed in debates.

Although the Reconciliation Fund exceeded expectations, we expect it to continue to grow in scope and stability in the future. In this report, you will find information about who the recipients were, how the financials broke down, and the logistics were arranged.

The Reconciliation Fund recipients this year were incredibly passionate, intelligent, and kind. We have no doubt that they will form an integral part of the next generation of strong Indigenous leaders in Manitoba. The Reconciliation Fund would not be possible without you, so from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Deborah Tsao

Recruitment



Ms. Susan Scott, Platinum sponsor, pictured with 8 Reconciliation Fund recipients

L-R: River Turner (Minister of Reconciliation), GERALYNE SPENCE, River Harper, Krystal Beardy, Susan Scott, Alexis Spence, Marshall Morisseau, Drayton Myran, Sayde Harper, Holly Harper. Not pictured: Kyra Lacquette.

Improved Numbers

Recruitment was a great success this year. We received 13 applications for the Reconciliation Fund, and were able to sponsor nine Indigenous youth to attend - the highest number to date. We developed strong ties with teachers and community leaders in Northern Manitoba, and continue to make use of social media, school presentations, and word-of-mouth in our outreach efforts.

Positive impact on Debate

This year, the Reconciliation Fund recipients and the other Indigenous members who attended Session had an incredible impact on debate. They brought sharp, nuanced arguments and touching lived experiences to debates on mental health, family structures, police forces and drug harm reduction. Furthermore, GERALYNE SPENCE, a Reconciliation Fund recipient, wrote a Private Member's Bill on food security in Northern Manitoba that was passed unanimously in the House. A second Private Member's Bill was written on integrating Indigenous education into the K-12 curriculum, which was also extremely well-received by all members. Indeed, this year exemplified the idea that the Reconciliation Fund exists not only to benefit its recipients, but also to benefit every single participant in YPM through their invaluable contributions to discourse.

Financials

Overview

The Reconciliation Fund was very carefully budgeted this year. We had originally budgeted to raise \$4,500 and spend \$4,700 on the Reconciliation Fund this year. In the end, our fundraising efforts raised a total of **\$4,790.00** in 2018. Expenditures for the Fund were **\$5764.62**. This was \$974.62 more expensive than our fundraising efforts could cover, but we had sufficient leftover funds from 2017 to cover this cost. There is \$1356.93 remaining in our financial cushion for the Reconciliation Fund in years to come, which will roll over to 2019.

We raised more funds than ever before for the Reconciliation Fund, but due to the increased number of recipients we also expended more funds than ever before. The primary budgetary concerns this year was the cost of travel and clothing, as we provided six members with round-trip flights to Winnipeg from various Northern Manitoba communities. In the years to come, we will explore greater sponsorships from airlines and clothing companies to help offset this cost.

Our Donors

The Reconciliation Fund could not exist without the help of our donors. We are extremely thankful to the following individuals and organizations who helped make the Reconciliation Fund possible in 2018:

Susan Scott

Calm Air International

Perimeter Aviation LP

Rotary Club of Winnipeg

Darren Haber

Aidan Prenovault

Michael Urban

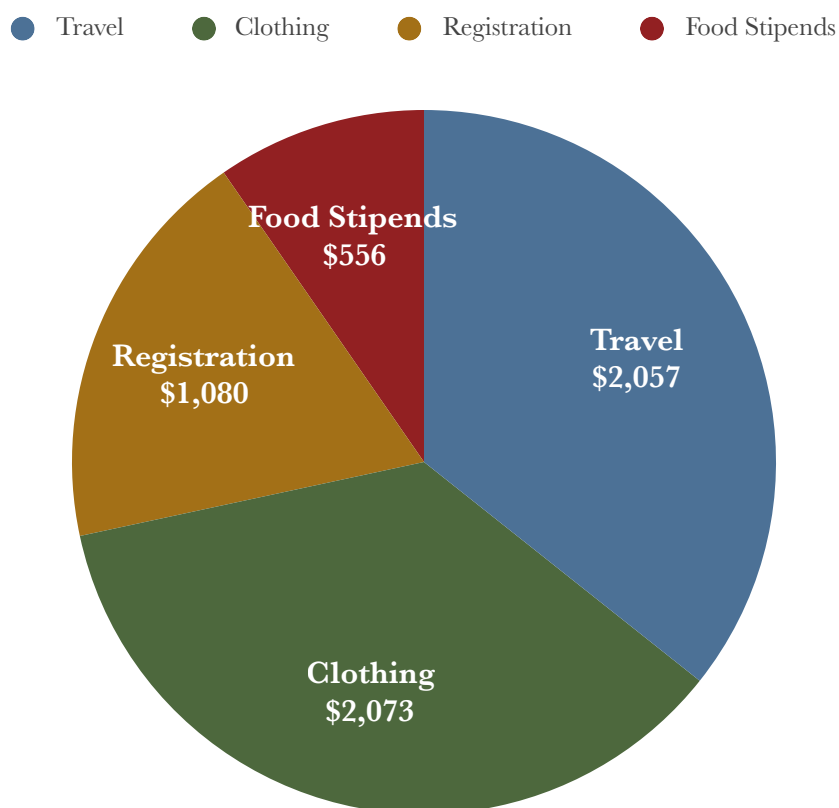
Dana Gregoire

Stacey Watts

Madeline Lischka

Beverly Fredborg

Breakdown of Expenditures



Clothing

Clothing costs were initially projected to be about **40% (\$2000)** of the total Reconciliation Fund budget. In the end, clothes made up around **35%** of our Reconciliation Fund expenditures. We spent \$2073 on clothing for nine members, which was very close to the budgeted amount. The decreased percentage of expenditures (35% versus 40%) primarily reflects greater-than-anticipated spending in other sectors, such as travel. Purchasing parliamentary attire is an integral part of the Reconciliation Fund, as the majority of recipients do not own any business or formal clothing. The business clothes purchased through the Fund not only serves to help the members fit in and have confidence during Winter Session, but can also be used by the members in the years to come - for job interviews or any professional opportunities that arise. For this reason, it is a priority for YPM to provide well-fitting, high-quality clothing that the Reconciliation Fund recipients can wear with pride and comfort.

Travel

We initially budgeted travel to account for **30% (\$1500)** of the Reconciliation Fund expenses. In the end, we spent **35% (\$2057)** of the Reconciliation Fund on travel expenses this year. The primary expense was the cost of round trip airfare from Northern Manitoba to Winnipeg. Last year, we had only two members who needed to be flown in. This year, six members required air transportation (2 from Split Lake, 2 from St. Theresa Point, 1 from Nelson House, 1 from Red Sucker Lake), representing a 300% increase from last year. Although quite expensive this year, airfare costs would have been prohibitive were it not for generous sponsorships from Perimeter Aviation LP and Calm Air International. These sponsorships, continued from last year, are essential for the continued operation of the Fund. Other travel expenses primarily included taxi fares, as members from Split Lake took taxis to Thompson Airport.

Registration

We charge a \$120 registration fee for attending Winter Session, which is waived for Reconciliation Fund members. Therefore, for nine members attending, the Youth Parliament of Manitoba absorbed \$1080 in the cost of registration fees. We keep the cost of registration constant every year, so this portion of expenses will only change proportionally to the number of Reconciliation Fund recipients.

Food Stipends and Discretionary funds

Budgeted at \$60 per recipient, this amount is intended to cover three meals that the recipients must purchase during the event. For nine members, our food budget was \$540. In the end, we spent \$556 on food and discretionary spending. Part of the discretionary funds covered the cost of a pre-Session movie social for Reconciliation Fund recipients, organized by our Minister of Reconciliation River Turner.

Logistics

Fundraising was conducted through Abigail Theano-Pudwill (Director of Finance) and Deborah Tsao (Vice-Chairperson). Recruitment was conducted through River Turner (Minister of Reconciliation) and James Pruden (PS to the Minister of Publications). Our recruitment efforts this year relied on social media, word-of-mouth, and school presentations. The Reconciliation Fund application was opened in October, and closed in mid-November. Recipients were chosen and contacted in late November. Deborah coordinated flights with airlines, shopping, and lodging needs. Various members of the Executive and Cabinet accompanied the recipients on their shopping trips for parliamentary attire.

One significant logistical hurdle lies in the timing of flights for out-of-town members. Winter Session runs from December 26-31 and airlines in Northern Manitoba do not fly on December 25 or 26, so members must fly on December 24 or December 27. This year, four members flew in on December 24 and two members flew in on December 27. Flights on December 24 are challenging because members may wish to spend time with their families on Christmas Eve. Additionally, although two members were able to stay with family in Winnipeg, two members who arrived on December 24 were billeted by a member of the organization. Flights on December 27 are also challenging because this necessitates that members miss the first day and a half of Session, which impedes on the complete Youth Parliament experience.

The other logistical challenge lies in the coordination of shopping trips for out-of-town members. The four members who arrived in Winnipeg on December 24 had their shopping trips on the same day. Due to scheduling constraints, this required three members of the Executive and one member of Cabinet to go shopping. Furthermore, members arriving on December 27 also needed shopping, which was conducted after they arrived in Winnipeg. This further cut into the amount of time that could be spent at the event itself, and required members of the Executive be away from Winter Session to supervise.

Because the timing of Winter Session and the schedules of airlines cannot be changed, we decided for next year that the best solution is to have all out-of-Winnipeg members fly on December 24. Although it is difficult to spend Christmas away from home, we hope that most members will have family in Winnipeg, or YPM can offer hosting for them. December 24 is still preferable to December 27, to avoid members missing too much of Winter Session.

Conclusion

The Reconciliation Fund is proving to be a prime example of what people and organizations can achieve when they commit to an idea. Three years ago we created the Reconciliation Fund out of little more than determination and a firm belief that YPM had a duty to address the systematic and historical inequity of Indigenous youth in our province. From then, it has grown exponentially and has become woven tightly into the fabric of our organization in debates, administrative decisions, and social networks.

Ultimately, we hope that all recipients of the Reconciliation Fund can rise through the ranks of leadership in YPM, through Cabinet and eventually even through the Executive. We are also confident that all recipients of the Fund will return to their own communities as inspiring leaders, effective communicators, and strong advocates. Although YPM is a model *of* Parliament, we also hope to be a model *for* Parliament, and all other bodies of governance and influence. We hope to model that it **is** possible - through commitment, hard work, and awareness of the people you serve - to radically and wholeheartedly effect positive social change.



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