

Youth Parliament of Manitoba – 2019 Year-In-Review



*Prepared by: Deborah Tsao
Chairperson, 98th Winter Session. Past Chairperson-elect of the 99th Winter Session.*

Table of Contents:

Part 1: Executive Summary

Part 2: 2019 Fiscal Year Financial Statements – *see attached at end of report*

Part 3: Events

Part 4: 98th Winter Session

- A. Attendee Information
- B. Backbencher Feedback
- C. Cabinet Feedback

Part 5: Testimonials



98th Winter Session, 2019

Part 1: Executive Summary

The Youth Parliament of Manitoba Inc. (YPM) 2019 fiscal year was a great success.

Speaker's Night, our annual fundraising gala dinner held at the Winnipeg Winter Club, was widely enjoyed by those in attendance. We were pleased to welcome Dr. Annette Trimbee, the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Winnipeg, as our keynote speaker. She spoke about how her background in aquatic ecology informed her later career in politics and university leadership. She also conducted a very engaging Q&A session for our attendees afterwards. Our Director of Finance, Abigail Theano-Pudwill, acted as Master of Ceremonies.

At Speakers Night, we also kicked off the Capital Campaign for our upcoming 100th anniversary in 2021. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$100,000 for our Endowment Fund, held at the Winnipeg Foundation. Reporters from the Winnipeg Foundation's *Working Together* magazine interviewed Deborah Tsao (Chairperson) and Abigail Theano-Pudwill (Vice-Chairperson) about this campaign. The resulting article can be found here: <https://www.wpgfdn.org/literacy/engaging-youth-in-the-parliamentary-process/>

In the Fall, we were pleased to host our first-ever Winnipeg Youth Leadership Night. This event, held at the University of Winnipeg, was an opportunity for leaders of Winnipeg youth organizations and clubs to gather and share their work. Several youth leaders were present, and we hope that this event can continue to grow in the years to come.

As always, the height of our year came at the 98th Winter Session. This year, we had 77 members attend, filling all the Legislative chamber beyond capacity. Members engaged in lively, often touching, debate on subjects ranging from universal basic income to Pharmacare to disability rights. The House also debated two Private Member's Bills, on prison reform and on sustainable burial practices.

We were particularly proud to expand the Garry McLean Scholarship Fund (GMSF) this year to fully fund eight Indigenous youth to attend Winter Session. These Youth represented a variety of First Nations, including God's Lake First Nation, Sagkeeng First Nation, St. Theresa Point First Nation, and Tataskewiyak Cree Nation. This fund covered registration, travel, food, and clothing if needed. YPM is deeply committed to reconciliation, particularly Call To Action #66 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that addresses youth programs.

Amy Dhillon, an alum of the organization who currently works as a prosecutor for the Canadian military, served as our Lieutenant Governor. Jerry Storrie, co-chair of the Association of Former Members of the Manitoba Legislation Assembly, served as our Honourary President. Unfortunately, this year, our Elder Advisor for the past three years, Garry McLean passed away. We are grateful to work with Clayton Sandy, a Traditional Knowledge Keeper, to continue YPM's path to reconciliation. Clayton offered teachings to open and close the event.

2019 was an excellent year for YPM Inc, and we hope to have many more in the future.



Deborah Tsao
Chairperson, 98th Winter Session

Part 2: 2019 Fiscal Year Financial Statements

See attached at the end of this report

The 2019 fiscal year ran a deficit of \$4625.69. This occurred primarily for two reasons, both related to lower-than-expected revenue.

First the revenue from Speaker's Night, our annual fundraising gala dinner, was about \$1700 less than expected. We anticipated approximately \$5000 in ticket sales, and ended up making \$3301.81.

Although attendance at the event was comparable to previous years, a greater proportion of attendees were donors who had received free tickets as part of their sponsorship package. Therefore, YPM fully absorbed the cost of those attendees. In 2018, we had just three such attendees, but in 2019 we had nearly twenty. Because each ticket sells for \$100, the loss of revenue from these compensated tickets accounts for Speaker's Night revenue falling approximately \$1700 short of expected. In the coming years, we still plan to offer free tickets to Speaker's Night as a sponsorship benefit because we believe the event is an important opportunity to show appreciation for our donors. To offset this lost revenue, however, we plan to increase the attendance capacity of the event in the future to accommodate more paying guests as well.

Second, we did not receive a bus grant from Winnipeg Transit this year. YPM uses Winnipeg Transit buses to provide transportation during Winter Session. In almost every year, we apply for and receive a \$2700 grant from Winnipeg Transit to help offset the cost of the buses. This year, our request for funding was not granted and YPM shouldered the full cost of transportation for Winter Session, \$4628.08. In future years, we have learned to not rely on receiving this grant and we will adjust our budgeting accordingly.

Ultimately, the 2019 fiscal year provides us with two lessons.

First, that revenue trends from previous years are always subject to change. For a small organization such as ours, one or two changes (more donors attending Speaker's Night, loss of a grant) can have an outsized impact on our operating budget. Therefore, it is important to build budgets that are flexible to such changes and diversify our asset streams so that we can compensate for unexpected changes in revenue.

Second, we learned that YPM Inc. is a financially resilient organization. Despite the lost revenue in 2019, years of careful planning and budgeting ensured that we still had the means to carry out all operations without cutting corners or sacrificing quality. For an organization run entirely by youth under 25 and whose senior leadership undergoes complete turnover every 5 years, this is a testament to the excellent and responsible management that youth are capable of.

Part 3: Events

Cabinet Retreat: Held from July 5-7, 2019. We organized a weekend retreat at Rock Lake United Church Camp for our youth volunteer team (“Cabinet”) to learn some professional development skills, teamwork, and bonding.

Speaker’s Night: Hosted on July 23, 2019. The event was held at the Winnipeg Winter Club and featured Dr. Annette Trimbee as our keynote speaker. We sold 60 tickets for the event.



Cabinet Retreat 2019

Press Conference: Held on December 18, 2019 at the Manitoba Legislative Building in collaboration with the Hon. Speaker Myrna Driedger.

98th Winter Session: Held from December 26-31, 2019. There were 77 members in attendance. Daytime debate occurred at the Manitoba Legislative Building, evening activities/overnights at Kelvin High School.



Dr. Annette Trimbee speaks at Speaker’s Night 2019

CKUW Radio Show: Aired a radio show on CKUW station on November 20, 2019. The show featured the Vice Chairperson of our Board of Directors and a youth volunteer member.

Winnipeg Youth Leadership Night: Held on December 2, 2019 at the University of Winnipeg. Featured several leaders of various school groups and youth organizations in Winnipeg.



98th Winter Session

Part 5: Testimonials:

I've never thought of being a politician and this may have brought up a new chapter in my life.

I became **more comfortable with the group** but mostly because I realized that I was in an **environment where nobody was going to judge me** for my speaking ability and people were actually listening.

I really liked talking to people who are like minded and have similar interests. I think **it can be very hard to find people as smart and as insightful as the people at Youth Parliament in the general populace**. Youth Parliament creates a concentration of young intelligent people who can express and share ideas, while I may disagree with the positions of some, I respect every single person at session deeply.

My first Winter Session was **legit a life-changing experience for me!** This event has done so much for me in just one week. The people, the location, the environment, and the nature of the event were just such a great fit for me. I can really see **session being one of the most meaningful things I ever do with my life**. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend!



The newly-elected Executive of the 99th Winter Session, 2020