

# Youth Parliament of Manitoba Inc.

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 84th Session

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<b>Parliament:</b> 86	<b>Meeting:</b> AGM	<b>Date:</b> 30 March 2008	<b>Time:</b> 1330
<b>Location:</b> UMSU Council Chambers (176 Helen Glass Centre, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB)			
<b>Recorded by:</b> Jennifer Pawluk (jjpawluk@mts.net)			

<b>Present:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evan Allan</li> <li>• Alec Beatty</li> <li>• Matt Bolley</li> <li>• Garth Coutu</li> <li>• Amy Dhillon</li> <li>• Kiran Dhillon</li> <li>• Katrine Dilay</li> <li>• Jessie Dwyer</li> <li>• Will Ferris</li> <li>• Josh Giesbrecht</li> <li>• Dana Gregoire</li> <li>• Nirbir Grewal</li> <li>• Dana Grose</li> <li>• Heather MacPhee</li> <li>• Shubha Mathur</li> <li>• Akosua Matthews</li> <li>• Alyssa Morrison</li> <li>• Jenna Myles</li> <li>• Jennifer Pawluk</li> <li>• Tiffany Ryner</li> <li>• John Szilagyi</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katie Szilagyi</li> <li>• Josh Titus</li> <li>• Darcy Vermeulen</li> <li>• Amos Wiebe</li> </ul> <b>Proxies: (*partial)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sam Grauer to Josh Giesbrecht</li> <li>• Alex Hogeveen Rutter to Nirbir Grewal</li> <li>• Jenna Myles to Akosua Matthews*</li> <li>• Alyssa Morrison to Akosua Matthews*</li> <li>• Reid Olnick to Jenna Myles</li> <li>• Sameera Abdulrehman to Jennifer Pawluk</li> <li>• Katelynn Northam to Jennifer Pawluk</li> <li>• Kweku Matthews to John Szilagyi</li> <li>• Meagan Houle to John Szilagyi</li> <li>• John Szilagyi to Katie Szilagyi*</li> <li>• Caroline Crawford to Katie Szilagyi</li> <li>• Robert McGregor to Josh Titus</li> <li>• Matt Sanche to Darcy Vermeulen</li> <li>• Daniel Vermeulen to Darcy Vermeulen</li> <li>• Heather Sandhu to Amos Wiebe</li> </ul>
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<b>Agenda:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call Meeting to Order</li> <li>2. Approval of Agenda</li> <li>3. Approval of the Minutes from AGM</li> <li>4. Approval of the Minutes from Election Meeting</li> </ol>
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<b>5. Presentations</b> 5.1 State of the Corporation Address (Chairperson) 5.2 Budget (Director of Finance) 5.3 Presentation Regarding Cabinet (Chairperson)	<b>6. Reports and Motions of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees</b> 6.1 SOBLOC – Amendments to Governing Documents <b>7. Motions of Membership</b> 7.1 Josh Titus/Alec Beatty – Amendment to Bylaws 7.2 Josh Titus/Josh Giesbrecht – Amendment to Bylaws
8. Adjournment	

**Appendices:**

- Annual Report (PDF)
- State of the Corporation Address (PPT)
- FY08 Budget (XLS)
- Regarding Cabinet (PPT)
- SOBLOC87 Report (DOC)
- Standing Orders (PDF)
- Bylaws (PDF)

## **1. Call Meeting to Order**

(The date, time and location for this meeting were given to all members, who would normally be permitted to attend, on 28 February 2008 and it is therefore a regular meeting. There is no specified quorum for meetings of the membership.)

Amy Dhillon called the meeting to order at 1345.

## **2. Approval of Agenda**

MOTION to approve the agenda of the meeting of 30 March 2008 [Meeting AGM, 87<sup>th</sup> Parliament] (Akosua Matthews/Nirbir Grewal): carried.

## **3. Approval of Minutes from AGM**

MOTION to approve the minutes of the meeting of 18 March 2007 [Meeting AGM, 86<sup>th</sup> Parliament] (John Szilagyi/Shubha Mathur): carried

## **4. Approval of the Minutes from Election Meeting**

MOTION to approve the agenda of the meeting of 30 December 2007 [Election Meeting, 86<sup>th</sup> Parliament] (Jenna Myles/Amos Wiebe): carried

## **5. Presentations**

### 5.1 State of the Corporation Address (Chairperson)

Amy Dhillon, Chairperson and Premier, provided an outline for the upcoming year of YPM. She explained that the purpose of the State of the Corporation Address (SOC) is to develop goals for the year and give direction to the Board and Cabinet. The SOC is also meant to encourage members to feel more involved in the direction of the organization. It outlines YPM's current state of affairs, and its future direction for the members.

Amy emphasized that YPM has had quite a few notable successes in recent history, including the inaugural Spring Session, fostering team dynamics through the implementation of personal development sessions at Cabinet meetings, the growth of the Rural Caucus, and strong fundraising efforts have been recognized, as well.

In addition, Amy went over some of the challenges YPM faces as we move forward. These include, currently limited opportunities for leadership development, a need for even more fundraising dollars, and strengthening alumni relations. YPM will continue to strive for improvement in these areas.

As Chairperson and Premier, Amy also outlined her goals for YPM87, too. She spoke of wanting to ensure the overall wellness of YPM, as a healthy organization inwards and outwards. To achieve this wellness, Amy will mandate Cabinet appreciation, effective and efficient Cabinet training, and more opportunities for the membership as the year progresses. On the whole, care will be taken to improve the structure of YPM, specifically that within the Cabinet. YPM will continue to build its community, and foster alumni relations. With the inauguration of a major,

annual fundraising event this year, Amy is hopeful of the financial longevity and corporate development of YPM, which will continue to be built upon.

In closing, Amy encouraged the members to get involved in YPM's initiatives, and to support its growth by invoking progress, embracing change, attending events, applying to Cabinet, and generally showing support in any possible way.

### 5.2 Budget (Director of Finance)

Matt Bolley, Director of Finance and Deputy Speaker, presented the budget for the 2008 fiscal year, (FY08) which runs from 01 February 2008 to 31 January 2009. Matt attended the AGM via phone, as the weather was extremely poor that day, and driving conditions dangerous. He explained YPM's goals in budgeting and gave a basic overview of the approach of the Board when it comes to spending money.

Matt detailed projected revenues and expenses for FY08, including breakdowns between Winter Session and Spring Session. A few notable features of the FY08 budget are revenues pertaining to the endowment fund, and direct mail campaign, through which we hope to earn over \$3000 this year. As well, unique expenditures for this year include the purchase of accounting software, which will be used to further professionalize YPM's financial affairs, and allowances for Cabinet appreciation, in order to fully recognize the work that Cabinet does in making YPM stronger as an organization.

Matt stressed that YPM's aim for any given fiscal year is to run a small surplus in order to ensure the sustainability of the corporation.

Matt mentioned the financial effects of the inaugural Speaker's Night, which, although it was a smash social success, nonetheless resulted in monetary losses for YPM. Matt has therefore projected the budget accordingly. As well, in conjuncture with profits made during FY07, the losses incurred from the inaugural Speaker's Night should have no long-term impact upon YPM's financial state.

Matt requested that should anyone have questions about the budget, they contact him directly.

### 5.3 Presentation Regarding Cabinet (Chairperson)

Amy Dhillon, Chairperson and Premier, presented the newly restructured Cabinet model to the membership. The Board saw many problems with the structure of Cabinet as it previously stood. Namely that they do an exorbitant amount of work for YPM year-round, while the individual Cabinets for Spring and Winter Session only felt accountable to their respective Session. Amy stressed that this did not allow for a year-round strategy for YPM to build upon, nor did it mandate leadership development, something YPM really tries to promote. Therefore, beginning this year, Cabinet positions will look radically different from previous years. As of YPM88, this Cabinet shuffle will take full effect in the form of a year-round Cabinet. Amy went over some of the notable changes.

First of all, as of YPM87, there will be no Bill-Presenting Ministers. Rather, legislation writing will become a secondary duty of six Senior Cabinet members, whose portfolios range from Registrar General, to recruitment, event planning, finance, and sessional arrangements (2).

More information about specific titles is to be included with the Cabinet application package. The Cabinet of YPM87 will include seven Senior Cabinet positions, as the Minister of Corporate Development (who will become one of the six as of YPM88), was appointed this year before this new structure was decided, and new policies on legislation writing developed. And so, the tentatively-titled Minister of Finance will assist with CD-related duties for YPM87, while writing legislation. However, naturally, this position will be dissolved as of YPM88. As well, as of Winter Session87, the Ministry of Foods will cease to exist. Its duties will be taken over by the two Senior Cabinet Members in charge of sessional arrangements. Of course, because of these changes, Cabinet teams will also be shuffled and reassigned to different Team Leaders.

Amy asked the rhetorical question...why all these changes? She proceeded to further detail the Board's reasonings behind this restructuring. Namely, the intent was to get Cabinet more interested and engaged in the well-being of YPM as an organization, to allow for greater leadership opportunities, to complement the efforts of the Board, to make a shift of mentality in striving for year-round growth, not just sessional growth, and to promote membership integration and succession planning.

Amy then went on to explain some of the new roles of this restructured Cabinet. Please see attached powerpoint presentation for details. Amy also extended an invitation to freely approach or contact her with any questions. Cabinet applications will be available mid-May.

**Question:** Kiran Dhillon questioned the logistics of making someone who is in charge of defending legislation in the House, and thus needs to be sharp and awake, also in charge of staying up late, and getting up early to do the work of Foods.

Amy answered by recognizing the challenges that this may pose, but pointed out that Foods used to be a two-person ministry, and that Foods always has the help of the membership, particularly during Caucuses, at their fingertips. She also noted that Foods' preparation of MegaFeast has now been stricken from the schedule, as well, since the aim for YPM87 and onwards is to have it catered.

**Question:** Akosua Matthews sought clarification as to the role of Corporate Development as compared to the Minister of "Finance".

Amy answered by reiterating that as of YPM87, the Ministry of "Finance" exists to assist CD, and to write legislation. As of YPM88, this position will cease to exist, and the Ministry of Corporate Development will become a full-fledged Senior Cabinet position, writing legislation and all.

## **6. Reports and Motions of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees**

### **6.1 SOBLOC – Amendments to Governing Documents**

Darcy Vermeulen explained the composition and goals of SOBLOC for this year. The committee consisted of Darcy (Chair), Amos Wiebe, Louisa Ederhof, John Szilagyi, and Katie Szilagyi. Darcy quickly discussed the role of SOBLOC with the membership. As a committee, SOBLOC87 focused on researching several major issues pursuant to running YPM as an organization, including defining non-partisanship, the potential for institution of mini-parliaments, the impossibility of awarding partial membership, and lowering the age limit to 15

or raising it to 21 (both of which SOBLOC87 decided against). They also made minimal updates to YPM's Governing Documents. Please see appended SOBLOC Report for further details.

*Order-in-Council*

On 19 December 2007, the Board passed an OIC to reformat Second and Third Reading procedures, in order to accommodate a new Committee structure, which saw debate more akin to actual Parliament, and thus brought YPM closer to its Mission. The most notable provision was that Third Reading subsequently featured debate on each Bill, rather than simply a vote to pass or defeat each Bill. Committee Reports also became a staple of Routine Proceedings of the House. Finally, only Senators of YPM, as opposed to all former members, are now permitted to view proceedings from inside the House. Darcy stressed that debate at Session was positively affected, improving from recent years, because of these changes. He also mentioned that in order for an OIC to continue in its force, it needs to be ratified at the following AGM.

MOTION to pass the OIC of 19 December 2007 (BOARD): Carried.

*Amendments to the Standing Orders*

Darcy explained that the Standing Orders incorrectly referred to Resolutions, as opposed to Bills, according to updated terminology.

Therefore, the Standing Orders were amended to replace all instances of "Private Members' Resolution(s)" to "Private Members' Bill(s)."

MOTION to accept changes made to the Standing Orders (SOBLOC): carried.

*Amendment to the Bylaws (Article 16): Involvement in WCYP*

Darcy emphasized that in any given year in which Westerns is to be held, YPM may not be able to find and fill its delegation as early as 01 February, especially given that this is the fiscal year start date, and the date of official Board turnover, as well.

Therefore, it was proposed to strike the date requirement of "February 1" and replace it with "the specified registration deadline."

MOTION to approve the amendments to Article 16 of the Bylaws (SOBLOC): carried.

*Amendment to the Bylaws (Article 19): Dissolution*

A new Article 19: Dissolution was inserted into the Bylaws, and any subsequent articles renumbered accordingly.

Darcy went over the rationale behind this addition to the Bylaws. SOBLOC86 had outlined the need for a protocol in case of YPM's dissolution.

Therefore, it was proposed that any assets currently existing in YPM's name at the time of dissolution should be donated to a registered charity operating within the Province of Manitoba, at the current Board's discretion. However, this charity must have a mandate similar to that of YPM's; namely, to foster fellowship amongst Manitoban youth, and to encourage leadership development.

MOTION to pass a friendly amendment rewording “be to develop the leadership skills and fellowship of Manitoban youth” to “pertain to the development of leadership skills and fellowship amongst Manitoban youth” (Akosua Matthews/Nirbir Grewal): carried.

MOTION to approve the amendments to Article 19 of the Bylaws (SOBLOC): carried.

## **7. Motions of Membership**

### 7.1 Josh Titus/Alec Beatty – Amendment to Bylaws

#### *Amendment to the Bylaws (Article 5): Membership*

After having done extensive research into other Youth Parliaments around the world, Josh proposed to increase the age limit of YPM to 21 years of age. His introductory remarks detailed the precedent set by Spring Session, and included commentary on various public policies regarding the definition of “youth.”

Subsequent debate went as follows. Amos Wiebe conjectured that such an age limit increase would do wonders for YPM as an organization, and so should be the prerogative of the Board. Katie Szilagyi argued against the amendment in favour of the realization for a time to end participation and move on, as YPM should be focused upon cultivating the growth of its younger set, not detracting from it by sustaining the older set. She also pointed out that YPM is a distinct organization from its WCYP counterparts and other Youth Parliaments around the world. Kiran Dhillon countered that this age limit increase would not at all take away from the younger set; rather it would promote a greater passion for this organization. Josh Titus compared various possibilities for leadership development that this amendment allows for. Jennifer Pawluk observed that YPM is not meant to preserve tradition amongst its returning members, but to instil those traditions in its new members, who still have long YPM career ahead of them. Dana Gregoire did not see a reason why this amendment should not pass, if it were to serve Manitoban youth in the best possible way, and the registration space was available for 21 year-olds. Nirbir Grewal insisted that there is always a time to move on in anything one does – for YPM, this time comes at age 20. He also asserted the fact that YPM recruits primarily in high school for good reason. Evan Allan claimed that there are plenty of new people who would join YPM at age 21. Jessie Dwyer spoke of how this amendment would change the dynamics of the Executive, should it pass. John Szilagyi furthered this line of thought, stipulating that all of YPMs’ processes as an organization would suffer in consequence of the passing of this amendment. He felt that it was extremely unnecessary to complicate YPM for selfish reasons. Tiffany Ryner spoke in favour of the amendment with a “why not” rationale. Kiran Dhillon mentioned that the passing of this amendment would severely change Cabinet dynamics. Akosua Matthews found the proposed amendment to stand for nothing more than an arbitrary change. She emphasized that YPM only needs to be concerned with its own definition of youth. In closing, she advocated for the maintenance of the status quo. Amy Dhillon reiterated previous remarks as to the purpose and direction of YPM, which do not correspond to the intent of this amendment.

Josh closed the debate by recapping his earlier points about leadership, stronger debate, and positive influence in general, while encouraging members to think critically about this issue, and then vote according to his/her own conscience.

MOTION to approve the amendment to Article 5 of the Bylaws changing the word “twenty” to “twenty one” (Josh Titus/Alec Beatty): defeated.

#### 7.2 Josh Titus/Josh Giesbrecht – Amendment to Bylaws

##### *Amendment to the Bylaws (Article 5): Membership*

Following the previous debate, Josh Titus proposed the amendment again, with a slight variation. In his introductory remarks, Josh expressed this varied amendment as a compromise to both sides of the previous argument.

MOTION to close debate (Dana Gregoire/Akosua Matthews): carried.

MOTION to approve the amendment to Article 5 of the Bylaws inserting the words “although those of twenty one years of age may forward a written request to be accepted as a member if there are sufficient spaces to accommodate,” between “thirty-first of December,” and “with the exception of Directors” (Josh Titus/Josh Giesbrecht): defeated.

### **8. Adjournment**

MOTION to adjourn Meeting AGM at 1645 (Tiffany Ryner/Dana Grose): carried.

*The above are considered to be a true and accurate recording of all items discussed. Please advise the recorder of any ambiguity, discrepancy, inconsistency, error or omission noted.*

JENNIFER PAWLUK  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON (DEPUTY PREMIER)  
87<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT  
YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA INC.