

Youth Parliament of Manitoba: Year in Review 2017

In 2016, the Youth Parliament of Manitoba Inc. hosted or participated in the following events:

- Association of Former Manitoba MLAs AGM and Luncheons
- Executive and cabinet autopsies; 3rd annual backbencher autopsy
- Provincial all candidates debate
- YPM goes bowling!
- PJFM's annual general meeting
- YPM's annual general meeting
- 9th annual Speaker's Night fundraising gala
- Cabinet and executive retreats
- Manitoba Teacher's Society SAGE conference
- 95th Winter Session
- 3rd annual alumni debate
- YPM 96 election meeting

Partnerships:

- Aboriginal Youth Opportunities, PJFM, AFMMLA, West Broadway Youth Outreach, and Career Trek
- Alumni Scholarship and Youth Alliance Agency
- Alumni and Community Newsletter

Organization Strengths:

- Rapid development of the Reconciliation Fund initiative, which has had a significant impact on YPM in just one year. Along with better coordination with the Alumni Scholarship organizers and YAA has made YPM significantly more accessible financially. And when taken with the second year of inclusion of indigenous ceremonies has transformed YPM.
- Strong social media and traditional media presence
- A robust community that remains open and welcoming
- Ability to maintain a professional appearance and engage on equal footing with provincial and local leaders
- Strong presence in organizations with similar missions including MUNA and Equal Voice

Areas for Improvement:

- More secure funding streams for operations. While there was significant growth in contributions for specific projects, baseline operations funding is inconsistent and this is worrying in advance of YPM 100 and WCYP 2018 in Winnipeg.
- Connections to reserves – the Reconciliation Fund was effective at getting membership from the Winnipeg area but recruitment from reserves fell through.
- Storage/office space – not resolved.

Comments:

- Out-of-town executive – two execs were out of from September but all executives were in town before September. Having all five executives in town has not happened in many years and was a noticeable boon.
- Legislation – legislation was more ideologically diverse with some right-wing bills and some legislation that did not neatly fit into the conventional political spectrum.
- Disease and weather – these uncontrollable elements had a significant effect on Session. While weather is completely of our hands, there needs to be aggressive action when it comes to controlling the spread of illness, especially gastro-intestinal viruses.
- Cabinet and executive rebate – the full rebate was discontinued for financial reasons and cabinet/executive members paid \$20 for session.
- Connection to other youth organizations – participation with groups like PJFM and AYO seem to fluctuate year-to-year. There isn't a clear idea of what each organization means/provides to the other.
- Expanding repositories – there has been efforts to film more of session and to make better records of membership. It should be prioritized to save these videos and names somewhere that can be found and accessed into the future.
- Vision for YPM 100 – developing a plan for YPM 100 is a crucial project with less than 5 years to go. Early talks about raising money for YPM 100 have started and it will be important for fundraising, notoriety, membership, and awareness of the organization.
- YPM 's cabinet is younger. Having greater participation from high school students is important for recruitment and talent development.
- Smaller cabinet – a smaller cabinet did not make things administratively easier. There were some hiccups that resulted from having smaller teams. It is doable but reigning in cabinet size need not be priority going forward.

Speaker's Message:

It has been an honour to be in a leadership position for the last three years in YPM. Being a leader in this organization reminds me how this organization is driven by smart and engaged people at all levels. The strong sense of community surrounding YPM is why myself and so many others prioritize keeping the organization in their life and how we can have an impact much greater than our size and finances would suggest.

I came out of an era in YPM that was dominated by people from private schools and more affluent backgrounds. YPM as an organization will likely always find it easy to recruit from private schools and debate tournaments. But I believe that the most important initiative that we have taken while I have been on the executive is put resources and effort into more inclusive recruitment. YPM should be a melting pot between the different communities that make up Manitoba. The exchange of backgrounds and experiences creates a better learning environment for everyone. And as an organization that educates and supports, we should strive to extend those benefits to the poor and vulnerable.

The executive of the next few years will have back-to-back major projects in YPM 100 and WCYP 2018. Executing these events right will give YPM the opportunity to expand and solidify its current gains. This will require a huge effort on the part of everyone in our community. It will require a cabinet

and executive that is more flexible and inventive in its actions than we have needed in the past. I believe that I am leaving YPM to good hands and that we will succeed in the next four year's projects.