



THE YOUTH PARLIAMENTARIAN

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A Newsletter for alumni and community members

August, 2021

Welcome to this issue of the Youth Parliamentarian - your monthly newsletter for updates about the Youth Parliament of Manitoba. If you have not done so already, **now is the time to donate** to our YPM100 Capital Campaign. In this issue, you will find a personal testimonial from **Geralyne Spence**, a beneficiary of YPM's financial aid program.



Marie Sutherland (left) and Jonny Hoang (right) at the 97th Session (2018)

Pledge your support for YPM's next 100 years

As our 100th anniversary in December draws closer, YPM needs your contribution to our YPM100 Capital Campaign! This campaign seeks to raise \$100,000 for our Endowment Fund, which will secure YPM's financial aid programs and long-term stability for the future.

The Winnipeg Foundation, which hosts our Fund, is **matching all donations on a 1:5 basis**. If you want your donation to be matched in time for our 100th anniversary, you must **donate by September 30, 2021**.

If you are receiving this email, it means that you've likely been impacted by this organization in some way. The way YPM facilitates thoughtful debate, trains future leaders, and fosters lifelong friendships is truly unique. Your generosity can help ensure that we continue providing these opportunities for generations of Manitoban youth to come.

Please see our [sponsorship package](#) to learn more.

Support the campaign



Left: GERALYNE at the 97th Session. Right: GERALYNE Spence

The Impact: Meet GERALYNE

GERALYNE Spence attended the 97th Session of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba as the Member from Papineau. That year, GERALYNE was **one of nine Indigenous members to receive full financial aid** to attend Session through the Reconciliation Fund (now renamed the Garry McLean Scholarship Fund). The award covers the cost of **registration, round-trip travel, parliamentary attire, and food for the entire five-day Session.**

GERALYNE learned about this opportunity from one of her high school teachers in Nelson House, the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation reserve. In her own words, she recounts her experience attending YPM that year:

“I remember being excited to fly on a plane for the first time, I had never been on a plane before that. [At Session], I presented a bill about food scarcity on reserves. I was really nervous when I presented it but everyone was so adamant that I do it because it was my idea. I pushed myself out of my comfort zone and it ended up being a really good presentation, which helped

me get over the anxiety of public speaking. I still have one of the supportive page notes I received afterwards in my wallet today.

“I got to meet a bunch of people with different perspectives, and we always had something to converse about. Being able to experience what happens in Parliament was really insightful and educated me on how laws are passed. I know it was “mock” but being with those people and how supportive they were showed me that there are people out there who do listen. Especially when it comes to serious issues such as [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women] MMIW. *I saw more people my age speaking up. It made me realize that there is a lot of hope for the future.*

“That was the peak of my adolescence, and definitely a good experience that I will always remember”.

The Private Member’s Bill that GERALYNE presented, the Food Equity Act, passed with a unanimous vote in the House.

Today, GERALYNE attends the University of British Columbia where she is majoring in Creative Writing and minoring in English. In the future, she hopes to become a high school English teacher, working in Indigenous communities. She is currently taking a gap year, working with children with learning disabilities at the Otetiskiwin Kiskinwamahtowekamik Elementary school in Nelson House.

GERALYNE is one of [dozens of youth](#) who have benefitted from YPM's financial aid packages in the last few years.

Please consider donating to the YPM100 Capital Campaign and help us secure these programs in the years to come. Remember, donations received **before September 30, 2021** will be matched 1:5 by the Winnipeg Foundation.

Donate now

Cheers,

Deborah Tsao

Speaker, 100th Session of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba

