



YPM 99 - A Remarkable Success

Happy New Year! In the YPM community, a new year is always accompanied by the close of another Winter Session. In this email, you will find a **recap of the 99th Session, the first of its kind.**



A group photo of the members attending the 99th Winter Session. Screenshots taken by Cosette Beaudin

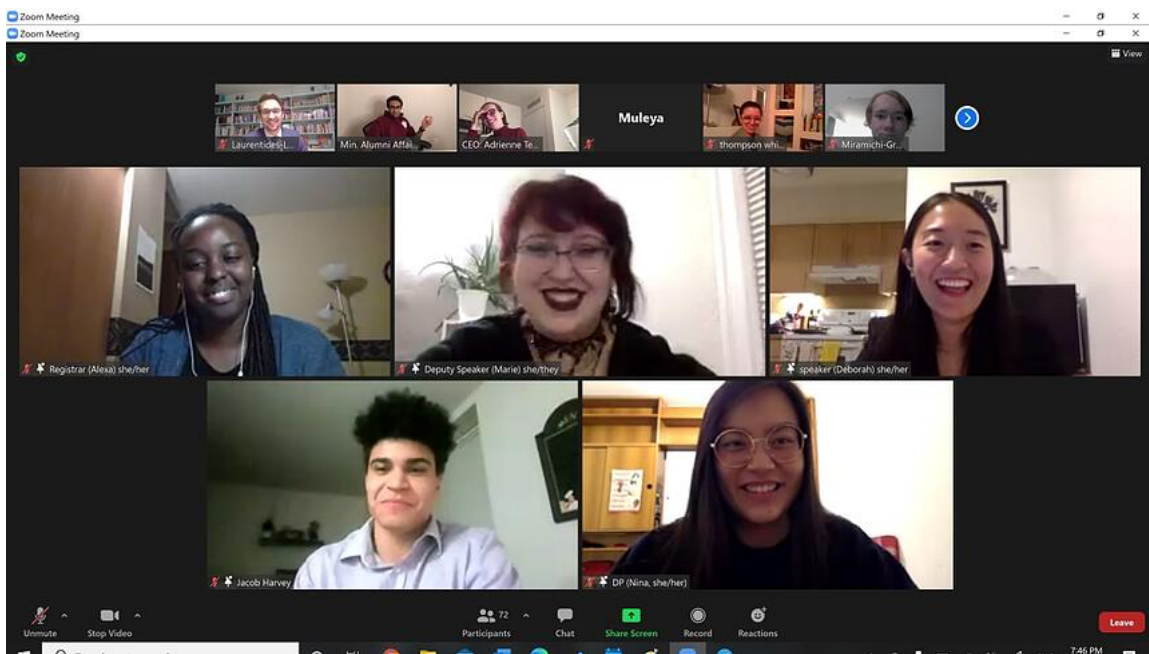
YPM concludes the 99th Winter Session

This year, YPM held a first-ever virtual Winter Session amid incredibly challenging circumstances. We are happy to report that the 99th Session was a resounding success. Over 60 members (size-limited due to the online format) participated in lively debate and Question Period, their energy never flagging over the course of five long days. The **community building** was especially strong, as members quickly adapted to parliamentary procedure, established their own inside jokes, and **continued to talk and play games until the wee hours of the morning.**

Of course, adaptations were made. The "chamber" and "member's lounge" were breakout rooms within Zoom. Documents such as legislation, order papers and the ACRONYM were made available to members over Google Drive. And the opening banquet featured rotating breakout rooms instead of physical tables. The Ministry of Alumni Affairs also doubled as the "Ministry of Zoom Affairs" to provide invaluable technical support during the week.

Despite these adaptations, nearly every aspect of an in-person Session was translated to a virtual setting. Members still wrote Private Member's Bills, alumni still visited in the "gallery", the Whips still performed songs prior to votes, the political parties still visited during lunch, bagpipes still played during Opening and Closing ceremonies, and the backbencher Takeover was still a great source of laughter and camaraderie.

So, perhaps the **most remarkable thing about this 99th Winter Session was its sheer normalcy.** It proves that the YPM spirit transcends physical settings and material objects. The YPM spirit exists in the *people* who organize and attend Winter Session. The dedication, passion, and resilience of these youth are the reason it has continued for 99 years, and will be the reason it continues on into the future.



The newly-elected 100th Executive of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba. Starting with top left: Alexa Mucyo Kayonga (House Leader); Marie Sutherland (Deputy Premier); Deborah Tsao (Speaker); Jacob Harvey (Deputy Speaker); Nina Lam (Premier).

The Executive of the 100th Session

As always, the 99th Session closed with the election of the Executive of the 100th Session. Held using specialized election software to maintain the security and confidentiality of the election, the membership elected the following positions:

- Premier: Nina Lam
- Speaker: Deborah Tsao
- Deputy Premier: Marie Sutherland
- Deputy Speaker: Jacob Harvey
- House Leader: Alexa Mucyo Kayonga

We could not be more excited to begin the work of planning YPM's historic 100th anniversary. Personally, I (Deborah), am looking forward to continuing these monthly newsletters, developing relationships with more alumni, completing the YPM history book, and seeing a successful conclusion to the YPM100 Capital Campaign.



A DIY phone stand made of Legos serves as a makeshift webcam for our Ministers of Zoom Affairs, responsible for technical support during Winter Session.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of the YPM alumni who participated in our Session. The alumni who clerked, visited sittings, came to Dino Dinner, and attended the executive elections - *thank you*. Your time and presence are an integral part of Winter Session, and we are so grateful that you chose to spend part of the holidays back in this community.

Cheers,

Deborah Tsao
Speaker, 100th Session of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba

