



## April, 2021

Welcome to this issue of the Youth Parliamentarian - your alumni newsletter for updates about the Youth Parliament of Manitoba. In this issue, you will find a **Capital Campaign update**, a call for **photo submissions**, and an alumni spotlight on **Bojan Pirnat**.



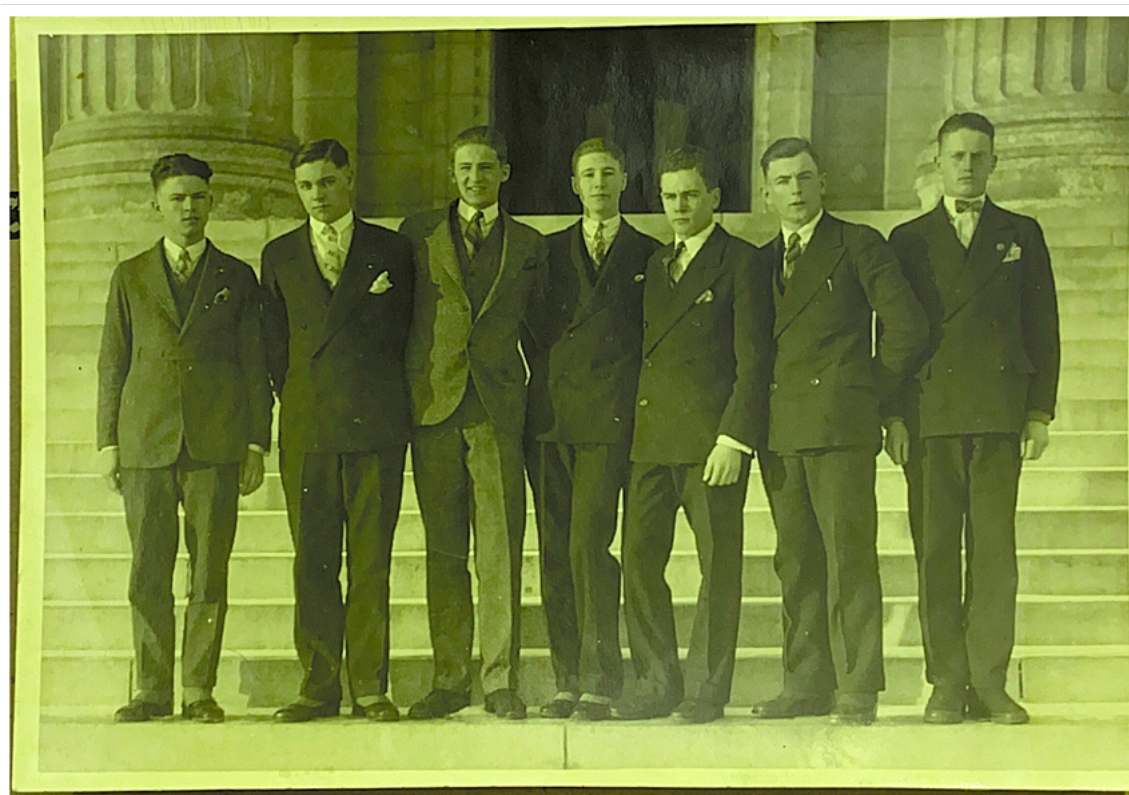
Vishwa Srinivasan, a member of the 98th Session (2019) delivers a speech.

### Capital Campaign Milestone!

Since we began fundraising for the YPM100 Capital Campaign in mid-2019, we have raised nearly \$45,000 for our Endowment Fund. We are very excited to announce that, as of this month, the **balance of the Fund has now surpassed \$100,000!** With 8 months to go before the conclusion of the Campaign in December 2021, this marks a significant milestone in our fundraising efforts. We extend our deepest gratitude to the generosity of the donors who have made this possible.

The YPM100 Capital Campaign seeks to raise \$100,000 for our Endowment Fund, held at the Winnipeg Foundation. The annual interest generated from this Fund will provide financial aid for dozens of Manitoban youth to attend Session. In doing so, it will amplify the voices of underrepresented youth - including those from Manitoba's Indigenous and refugee communities. Please visit the link below to learn more about the campaign, read the sponsorship package, and contribute to our efforts.

[Support the Campaign!](#)



Members of the Tuxis and Older Boys' Parliament standing on the steps of the Manitoba Legislative Building (date unknown)

### Send us your YPM photos!

To celebrate our upcoming centennial, we are writing a history book about the past 100 years in YPM! The text has been researched using archival documents, newspaper clippings, and firsthand interviews with alumni. Now it's time to collect photos that will bring this history to life. If you **have photos or memorabilia from your time in YPM that you would like to share for the book**, please get in touch with me at [speaker@ypmanitoba.ca](mailto:speaker@ypmanitoba.ca).

Pictures from all time periods are welcomed. These include group shots, candid, photos from the Legislature, photos from overnight recreational activities, and photos of cabinet activities or meetings. Thank you for helping to preserve the history of this wonderful organization!

### Alumni Spotlight: Bojan Pirnat



Left: Bojan Pirnat in the 89th Session. Right: Bojan Pirnat

### Bojan Pirnat (86th to 92nd Sessions)

Bojan joined YPM in the 86th Session as a backbencher. He later held several Cabinet positions, including the PS to Publications in the 87th Session, Registrar General in the 88th Session, and Minister of Government Services in the 89th Session. As the Minister of Government Services, he wrote legislation abolishing Canada's constitutional monarchy, which garnered much spirited debate in the House. In the 90th Session he was elected to the Executive as the Deputy Speaker. He was the Premier of the 91st Session, and the Speaker of the 92nd Session. In the 93rd Session, Bojan was inducted into the YPM Senate. Additionally, he completed his BA in Politics at the University of Winnipeg in 2013, and his MA in Political Theory at the University of Toronto in 2014.

Diagnosed with hemophilia when he was six years old, Bojan grew up surrounded by the bleeding disorders community, who provided family support, education, and summer camps for children with bleeding disorders. He also spent much of his time giving back to that community, serving as a volunteer. At age 18, he became a Board Member of the Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Hemophilia Society, a position he held until he moved to Toronto.

In Toronto, Bojan began working with Hemophilia Ontario, eventually becoming Vice-President in 2016, President in 2018, and Interim Executive Director in 2019. He currently serves as the Member Support and Services coordinator. In this role, he helps people with hemophilia navigate the healthcare system, addresses accessibility concerns for people with hemophilia-related disabilities, provides patient education, and mobilizes a social safety net for vulnerable populations. As someone who has hemophilia himself, Bojan brings a level of empathy and investment to his work that is unique to someone with firsthand experience with the disease.

Bojan's advice to current members: *"Don't worry about your position or where you fit in any power structure. Invest in a cause you believe in, in any way possible. I found a cause I wanted to see advanced, and gave myself to it. You can only give your best work when you're fully dedicated to something".*



Attendees at the 2012 Speaker's Night, our annual fundraising dinner.

### Stay involved!

We would love to keep you involved in the community! Here are two ways:

1. **Share your YPM experience.** We are writing a YPM history book in commemoration of the 100th anniversary! Alumni stories are *invaluable* in helping us construct and contextualize the organization's past. If you would like to share, please fill out the google form ("Share your YPM Experience") below, or email [speaker@ypmanitoba.ca](mailto:speaker@ypmanitoba.ca) to set up a video interview.
2. **Stay connected.** Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Like our page on [Facebook](#)! If you are receiving this email, you are on the Youth Parliamentarian email list. However, if you know someone who is an alum of YPM but *isn't* receiving these emails, please encourage them to join the mailing list!

[Share your YPM Experience](#)

[Join our mailing list](#)

Cheers,

Deborah Tsao

Speaker, 100th Session of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba

