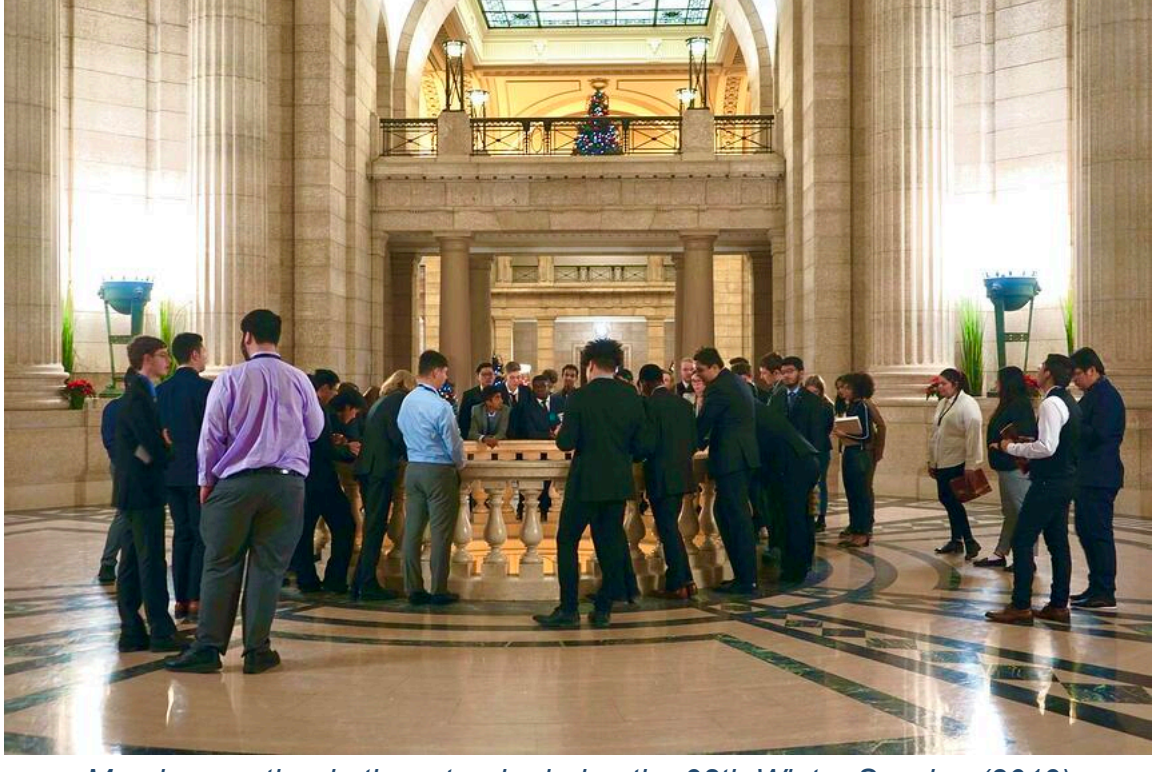




January, 2021

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 **fundraising update**, a call for **photo submissions**, and a spotlight on **this year's Alumni Achievement Award winner, Dave Najduch**.



Members gather in the rotunda during the 98th Winter Session (2019)

YPM100 Capital Campaign!

Our YPM100 Capital Campaign is now in full swing. To celebrate the anniversary, we are seeking to raise \$100,000 for our Endowment Fund. Since the Campaign was launched last year, we are so proud to have **raised \$30,795 so far**. Of that amount, **\$19,250 was raised this past December alone**. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated so far - I am blown away by the generosity of this community.

With the Winnipeg Foundation matching all contributions on a 5:1 basis, YPM needs to raise an **additional \$53,205 in 2021 to meet our goal**. The Endowment Fund represents an incredible opportunity for YPM to provide inclusive financial aid for in-need youth, and to secure our financial future for generations to come. Let's keep the momentum going! Please consider giving, if you can.

[Donate now!](#)



THE CABINET
Vic Mearon, Dave Holman, John Turnbull, Ron King, Harry Makin.
A candid shot of Cabinet members in the 31st Session (1952)

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.

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 Achievement Award Winner: Dave Najduch



Premier
David Najduch



Left: Dave Najduch as the Premier of the 57th Winter Session (1978). Right: Dave Najduch

Dave Najduch (52nd to 58th Sessions)

Dave joined the Youth Parliament of Manitoba as a backbencher in 1973. After two years on lower Cabinet, Dave presented legislation as the Minister of External Affairs in the 55th Session and the Minister of Education in the 56th Session. Bills were meant to be radical and spark debate - Dave remarks that YPM "let people play with ideas, and play with them in a safe environment". He was directly elected as the Premier of the 57th Session, and as the Speaker of the 58th Session. In addition to YPM, he also attended the first National Youth Parliament held in Ottawa in 1980, and several mini parliaments in Saskatchewan. In the 84th Session in 1985, Dave returned to YPM to serve as the Lieutenant-Governor. In December, Dave received the Alumni Achievement Award during the 99th Winter Session.

Dave fondly remembers his years in YPM, particularly the evenings spent at the St. James YMCA. Between swimming in the pool, games of backgammon, and fiery political discussions, he reflects: "I laughed probably more than I've ever laughed before".

After graduating with a B.Ed. from the University of Manitoba in 1981, Dave embarked on a decades-long teaching career that took him from Birtle, MB to Trois Rivières, QC before eventually returning home to the Winnipeg School Divisions. For the next 35 years, he taught history, social studies, and law at high schools across the city including Tec Voc, Sisler High School, Grant Park High School, and the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre. As a teacher, he ran political workshops and mini parliaments for his classes. These events often featured other notable YPM alumni as guests and speakers, including Lloyd Axworthy and David Asper. During his long teaching career, Dave also spent 11 years as the President of the Winnipeg Teachers' Association. He retired earlier this year, after a 39-year career as an educator.

When he thinks about how his time in YPM shaped his later life, Dave says, "**Youth Parliament has always been about service**. But it doesn't always mean service in the norm of running for office. Lots of people went on to serve in other organizations, **to work in their communities**".

Thank you, Dave, for your long years of service to your students and community. Congratulations on receiving the Alumni Achievement Award, and on your well-deserved retirement.



Left: Dave Najduch's name badge from the 57th Session. Right: Dave Najduch (top left) receiving the AAA at the 99th Winter Session (December 2020).

Stay involved!

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

- 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 to set up a video interview.
- 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, 99th Session of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba

