



January, 2022

Happy New Year! The start of 2022 feels like a new beginning after the tumultuous final weeks of 2021. In this email, you'll find a recap of YPM's historic 100th Session, a note about our gala dinner, and an introduction to the 101st Executive.

Recap: YPM's 100th Session!



Members of the 100th Session

YPM's 100th Session was historic not only for marking our centennial, but also for perhaps having the most tumultuous lead-up to Session, ever. On December 22nd (four days out!) we visited all the venues for an in-person Session and gala, planning set-up, testing microphones, and finalizing food deliveries. By the afternoon of December 24th, our gala was postponed and Session was changed to a completely virtual format. That two-day span saw *hours* of feverish late-night Zoom calls, countless emails, some tears, and ultimately, one of the best displays of teamwork I've ever had the privilege to participate in.

Despite these challenges, members who attended the 100th Session had a wonderful time. With the experience learned from the 99th Session last year, we were able to transition smoothly into the virtual format this year. Debate and question period was vibrant, with members clambering to speak on several controversial topics including the abolishment of Canada's military, mandatory organ donation, and nationalizing Canada's telecommunication services. After the scheduled activities, members continued to bond over conversation, games of trivia and *Hamilton* watch parties, often to the wee hours of the morning.

The success of Session this year relied entirely on the reliability and adaptability of so many people: the pages and clerks who patiently accommodated numerous last-minute scheduling changes, the Legislature staff who sacrificed their holidays to try and make our in-person Session happen, and **especially our members** who each brought incredibly positive attitudes to every day, even through the headaches and stiff necks brought on by hours of Zoom began to set in. The 100th Session may not have been quite what we had expected, but in a way it demonstrated the very characteristics that have allowed our organization to thrive over the past century: resilience in the face of difficulty, ability to adapt to new circumstances, and the unflagging enthusiasm that youth have for engaging in discourse about issues that matter to them.



YPM100 History Book available for purchase!

After nearly two years of research, writing, and editing, we are so excited to announce that the YPM100 history book is now [available for purchase](#) on our website! In 120 pages and 7 chapters, this book chronicles the organization's founding and evolution over the past century. The narrative, pieced together from interviews with alumni, primary archival material and newspaper records, tells the compelling story of how generations of youth have shaped YPM.

Whether you attended YPM last year or 60 years ago, some sections of the book will evoke nostalgic familiarity, while others will shed a fascinating light on previously unknown parts of our history. Whether you want to take a walk down memory lane, or are curious about the organization before and after your involvement, there is something in the book for everyone! Click on the button below or visit the link above to buy your copy.

The Voices of our Future: The 100-Year History of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba



Some of the alumni attendees at YPM's virtual gala on December 26, 2021.

YPM100 Gala - Rescheduled!

Although our in-person gala was postponed due to COVID-19, alumni still gathered on Zoom to celebrate and reminisce. A special thank-you to Tom Axworthy (42nd to 48th Sessions), Ann Thompson (52nd to 59th Sessions), J.P. Lapointe (67th to 73rd Sessions) and Amy Dhillon (80th to 88th Sessions) for delivering remarks at the event.

We have rescheduled the gala for this year's **May long weekend (May 20-23)**. Stay tuned for a future email containing the exact date and ticket purchasing options! If you purchased tickets for last December's gala, your ticket will be **automatically transferred** to the upcoming May gala. If you would instead prefer a refund, please email deputyspeaker@ypmanitoba.ca.



Presenting: The 101st Executive of YPM!

YPM's next century will be ushered in by our newly-elected Executive. Clockwise, from top left:

- Jacob Harvey (Premier)
- Nina Lam (Speaker)
- Josephine Zhao (Deputy Premier)
- Alexa Mucyo Kayonga (Deputy Speaker)
- Xiao Zhang (House Leader)

The organization is in safe hands!

and now, a personal note:

As I transition out of my role as Speaker this month, this is my last Youth Parliamentarian newsletter. It has been a privilege to share these monthly updates, to speak with so many of you, and to serve this organization. Starting next month, you'll hear from **Nina**, the Speaker of the 101st Session.

For the past nine years, YPM has been the best part of my life. But if there's anything that the past two years as Speaker have taught me, it's that you never truly leave YPM. This community, and our places in it, lasts a lifetime.

Cheers,

Deborah Tsao

Speaker, 100th Session of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba

