



November, 2020

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 updates on our **online Winter Session**, information about how you can **sign up to clerk**, and a special introduction to **this year's Lieutenant Governor, Stuart Olmstead**.



A page enjoys his seat in the Premier's chair (93rd Winter Session, 2014)

Winter Session Goes Online

With Manitoba entering the Code Red level of COVID restrictions, YPM is moving our Winter Session online this year. We are still committed to providing the fullest experience possible to our members. Parliamentary staples will be maintained, with Question Period, debate, Private Member's Bills, and committees adapted to fit a virtual format. Nothing can replace the unique bonding experience that comes with living together for five days, but we will still provide evening social activities using a YPM Discord server. We have also incorporated more breaks and small group discussions with the aim of increasing engagement and reducing "Zoom fatigue".

Due to Session being completely online, the registration fee has been **reduced to \$30**. Do you know someone aged 16-20 who might be interested in attending? They can visit our website (www.ypmanitoba.ca) to register.



Ann Thompson-Courchene (52nd to 59th Sessions), clerking in the 98th Winter Session (2019)

Clerk for us this December!

Despite the online format, we still need Parliamentary Clerks to observe and make records of the proceedings. Our clerk slots are traditionally filled by YPM alumni who are in Winnipeg over the winter holidays. Excitingly, a virtual Session means that **any alum, regardless of geographic location, can serve as a clerk this year!**

You can find our sitting and committee schedule [here](#). We need one clerk for each sitting slot and three clerks for each committee slot. If you are interested in clerking, please fill out [this Google form](#). Your time slot will be confirmed by email within ten days. You will also be provided a Zoom link to join the sitting/committee and a Google Docs template for record-keeping purposes.

Sign up to Clerk!

Presenting the Lieutenant Governor of the 99th Winter Session: Stuart Olmstead



Left: Stuart Olmstead. Right: [L] Stu Olmstead and [R] Robert Pankhurst (83rd to 89th Sessions) attending Speaker's Night in 2019.

Stuart Olmstead (68th to 75th Sessions)

Stuart first attended the Youth Parliament of Manitoba in 1989, when Def Leppard was constantly on the radio, cell phones were a novelty, and Big Hair and Spandex were not yet a fashion faux pas. His first Cabinet post was Minister Without Portfolio, a position that now does not exist due to the advent of technology. The duties of that Ministry were to compile a research library for members to further study the bills that were presented during session, something that can now be done by any member with a cellphone and Google.

He also served as Minister of Provincial Affairs and Minister of External Affairs and greatly enjoyed presenting and defending legislation during session. Eventually, he ran for Executive and held the positions of House Leader, Deputy Speaker, and Premier-Elect of the 75th Session.

Graduating from Carberry Collegiate Institute in 1991, he went on to attend Brandon University where he studied Political Science and History while also serving in the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves with the 26th Field Royal Canadian Artillery Regiment out of Brandon.

Starting his own business in 1995, he has been involved in the insurance industry for over 25 years as The Group Insurance Guy, specializing in benefit plans for small businesses. He works with local Chambers of Commerce and numerous clients throughout Western Manitoba and has served as President of his local Chamber several times, as well as the Parade Marshall of the Santa Claus Parade for over 20+ years.

In 2006, Stuart was elected to Town Council in Carberry, and in 2011 he was also elected as one of the Western Manitoba Director to the Association of Manitoba Municipality's board, the umbrella organization for all of the Municipalities across the province. In the fall of 2014, he had the great honour of becoming the Mayor of Carberry and was re-elected in 2018.

On the biggest lesson he learned from YPM: I think the biggest lesson I learned from my time in YP was that there are people out there that are just like you. People that want to know more, understand an issue, discuss and debate their ideas for or against a position, all the time while being respectful and being open to new ideas and experiences. Coming from a small town and being welcomed into such an environment felt both empowering and enlightening.

In recent years, Stu has consistently been one of YPM's most supportive and engaged alumni - we are extremely grateful for his continued service to the organization!

Support YPM



Aasiyah Khan (Backbencher, 96th Winter Session in 2017) delivers a speech. This year, she is the Minister of Finance and will present legislation on transport and urban planning.

Stay involved!

We would love to keep you involved in the community! Here are three 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 to set up a video interview.
2. **Become a mentor.** Mentorship is one of the most valuable experiences a young person can receive. YPM is privileged to have such a diverse and illustrious alumni network, encompassing hundreds of different career paths and life experiences. If you are interested in being paired with a current YPM member to mentor, let us know what you're up to now and you may be connected!
3. **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

Become a mentor

Join our mailing list

Cheers,

Deborah Tsao
Speaker, 99th Session of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba

