



# THE YOUTH PARLIAMENTARIAN

*A Newsletter for alumni and community members*

## March 2024

Welcome to this issue of the Youth Parliamentarian – your monthly newsletter for updates about the Youth Parliament of Manitoba. To hear more live updates, follow us on social media! Link found at the bottom of this newsletter.

In this issue you will find

- **HEAR HEAR!!** Voice your opinion on the newsletters
- **Meet the Team:** YPM103 Executives
- **RECAP:** The First Quarter 2024
- **Stay Connected**



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## ***HEAR HEAR!! Voice your opinion on the newsletters***

Ever want to know something more about YPM? Ever find your monthly newsletters unsatisfying, or even disappointing? Let us know what you want to hear in your YPM103 newsletters today!

Voice your opinion here!

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## ***Meet the Team: YPM103 Executives***

*Elected by the members, meet your YPM103 executives!*



### **Premier - Xiao Zhang**

Xiao joined YPM in the 98th Session. He joined Cabinet in the 99th Session as the Minister of Supply and Service, and presented the [Online Video Game Regulation Act](#) as the Minister of Revenue in the 100th Session.



Xiao is currently studying Computer Science and Biochemistry at the University of Winnipeg. He has a passion for scientific research and hopes to incorporate modern technology into the healthcare field. In his free time, he enjoys exploring nature and playing sports with friends. Whenever he's not outdoors, he is probably tinkering around with his robotics projects and spending time with family.

As the Premier, Xiao serves as the Chairperson of the organization. The Premier's responsibilities include overseeing YPM's strategic direction, leading the planning of Session, and presiding over meetings of the Executive, Cabinet, and general membership.

### **Speaker - Josephine Zhao**

Josephine joined YPM in the 97th Session. She joined Cabinet in the 98th Session as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Supply and Service, and presented the [Temporary Foreign Worker Rights Act](#) as the Minister of Labour in the 99th Session.



Josephine currently studies mechanical engineering at the University of Manitoba. She enjoys her time working in aerospace thermofluids research at the university. Josephine loves astronomy, reading, watching various sports, and is a big fan of many different music genres. Send her book recommendations, or any type of media that has a good storyline! Josephine is also a glider pilot, she enjoys soaring the sky on a summer day very much.

As Speaker, Josephine serves as the Past Chairperson. The Speaker's responsibilities include maintaining relationships with YPM's alumni network, facilitating the bill-writing process, and presiding over sittings and debate at Session.

### **Deputy Speaker - Charlize Medina**

Josephine joined YPM in the 97th Session. She served four years on Cabinet as the P.S. to Human Resources, Minister of Publications, and Registrar General before being elected to the Executive in 2023. During her time on Cabinet, she presented two bills – the [Community Service Act](#), and the [Cashless Society Act](#).



Charlize is currently studying Political Science at the University of Toronto. She has served as an executive member for several student-run organizations and enjoys volunteering her time to the community. She is also passionate about the arts and takes pleasure in visiting museums and galleries.

As Deputy Speaker, Charlize serves as the Director of Finance. The Deputy Speaker's responsibilities include overseeing YPM's financial standing, creating and managing a budget, and managing scholarships that YPM offers.

#### **Deputy Premier - Madison Jones**

Madison first joined YPM in the 100th Session. He joined Cabinet in the 101st Session as the Minister of Supply and Service, subsequently presenting the [Affordable Housing Supply Act](#) as the Minister of Revenue in the 102nd Session.



Madison is currently studying Computer Science and Statistics at the University of Manitoba. With a deep passion for entrepreneurship and problem solving, he aims to utilize his education to develop technological solutions for complex challenges in both business and daily life. In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with friends and family, exploring new places and nature, and listening to music.

As Deputy Premier, Madison serves as the Vice-Chairperson. The Deputy Premier's responsibilities include overseeing YPM's recruitment strategy, external relations, and communications strategy; and managing the registration framework for Session.

### **House Leader - Jourmae Abengoza**

Jourmae began her YPM career in the 99th Session as the Member from Abbotsford. She then served three years on Cabinet as the P.S to External Affairs, Minister of Public Relations and Minister of Human Resources where she presented the [Child-Friendly Operating Systems Act](#) before being elected to the Executive.





Jourmae is currently double majoring in International Studies and History at the Université de Saint-Boniface. Her passion lies in foreign policy and she hopes to eventually pursue diplomacy. She is also a proud francophile who believes in the value of advocating for bilingualism. During her free time, Jourmae enjoys reading classical literature, travelling around the world, baking sweet pastries and discovering new music.

As House Leader, Jourmae serves as the Director of Procedures. The House Leader's responsibilities include overseeing logistical planning and creating the schedule for Session.

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## ***Recap - The First Quarter***



The 102nd Session concluded with tears of joy and happiness as young members part ways with their new friends. With a record number of registration of **85** participants, YPM is rejuvenated, refreshed, and reimagined after the pandemic. Young members of YPM had the chance to debate 3 topical bills written by Cabinet members throughout the year and 2 more bills written by backbenchers during late nights of research and discussion at Session. Four luncheons were sponsored by various political parties and civil servants, during which the members of YPM102 had an experience they would never forget.

Since the conclusion of the 102nd Session, the YPM members sat down and reflected profoundly on their experience in the past session during a series of **autopsies**. Upon reflecting on our history, it was these small steps towards change that led us to where we are today.

A special committee, **SOBLOC** (Standing Orders and By-Laws Organizational Committee) took place in early march. Led by our House Leader Jourmae, members made recommendations to the changes that should be made to YPM's governing documents. Hit [this link](#) to check them out for yourself!

Lastly, led by the Premier Xiao, **Extended Cabinet** projects goes on with much excitement. Members of Cabinet decided to dedicate their time not only from July to December, but also year-round. These active members contributed their expertise in designing new merchandise, drawing up story boards, and undertaking many more



projects! Keep an eye out on our social media and upcoming newsletters to learn more!

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## ***Stay Connected: Get in Touch***

If you have any comments about this newsletter or simply want to connect, feel free to reply to this email and your message will come to me (Jacob). YPM is always happy to hear from our alumni, supporters, and friends in the community.

You can also stay connected by following us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#), and liking 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](#)!

## ***Stay Connected: Donate***

YPM is an independent, non-partisan, non-denominational charity. We receive no direct government funding for our operations and financial aid provisions, and rely entirely on member registration fees and donations from individuals and corporations. We are deeply appreciative of all donations, and thank all of our donors for helping us empower and educate youth across Manitoba.

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