



THE YOUTH PARLIAMENTARIAN

A Newsletter for alumni and community members

October 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 addition to ***Hear Hear!!*** and ***Stay Connected***, in this issue you will find

- ***Insider: Clerk for the 103rd Session***
- ***Insider: Dino Dinner 2024***
- ***Alumni Spotlight: Anne Gregory***
- ***Archive Entry: Coffeehouse***



Insider: Clerk for the 103rd Session

The Ministry of Alumni Affairs

Alumni Clerks are responsible for taking notes, recording decisions, and assisting the Speaker/Chair during sittings and committee meetings at session, from the 26th to 30th of December. Volunteering as a Clerk is an excellent way to give back to YPM and relive your Session nostalgia from the floor of the Legislative Chamber!

If you are interested in Clerking for Session this year, please fill out the following form. Don't worry if you're only available for one or two times - we appreciate any level of contribution to Session that you can make. If at all possible, please fill out the form by **13 December 2024**.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions, thank you for your interest! We look forward to seeing you at Session!

Clerk for YPM103

Insider: Dino Dinner 2024

Mark your calendars! YPM103 is bringing back **Dino Dinner**!

Dino Dinner is an occasion made for the alumni of YPM. Whether you participated in Session once as a backbencher, or seven times as an executive member; whether your YPM career happened a few years ago, or a few decades ago, you are welcomed!

At Dino Dinner, you can **get together with your old YPM friends** over dinner and meet other alumni, who may become your new friends! You are also welcomed to come **visit the current Members** at the legislature, who will be in a sitting right before Dino Dinner.

Please invite your fellow YPM alumni, and if you are interested in attending, please **RSVP** using the following form for us to gauge attendance!

- **Date:** December 28th, 2024
- **Time:** 7:00PM
- **Location:** TBD, Winnipeg Manitoba

Dino Dinner 2024

Alumni Spotlight: Anne Gregory



I am happy to share our next alumni spotlight, highlighting an alumna and supporter of YPM.

Anne Gregory was YPM's 59th Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment, and the Under Secretary of State of the 60th Session. She served as the Co-Minister of Canadian Affairs in the 61st Session, and was the Co-Minister of External Affairs in the 62nd Session. Anne was the first person to serve in Cabinet while going to university outside Manitoba, opening the door for future members to continue their YPM career while away from Winnipeg. And, she points out, they did it without fax, email or Zoom. Draft bills travelled between Manitoba and Nova Scotia by Canada Post.

Anne has many fond memories of traditions at YPM (then Youth Parliament of Manitoba and North Western Ontario). There were shenanigans like last night story time (Jim Duval and Ann Thompson), lots of singing, the Cabinet Luncheon, The National Emergency and later the December 26th Dino Dinner. During her last year in Cabinet, Anne's portfolio included getting the army bunks for the "Y" dormitories with her co-minister Graham Steele. As a result, she was awarded a trophy mounted with a stray army bunk bed knob. The engraved plaque on the base said "History is Bunk" (credit: Graham Steele).

Anne completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science at the University of King's College (Dalhousie), and a Bachelor of Journalism at King's a year later. At

twenty-years-old, Anne was interested in continuing her YPM career on the Executive, but the distance made that impossible at the time. However, Anne took advantage of the opportunity to attend the Nova Scotia Youth Parliament, the National Youth Parliament and the Western Canada Youth Parliament. There were also some Mini-Parliaments which involved all night train and bus travel in Saskatoon and Thompson (and singing).

Anne has drawn on her YPM experience during her professional life. After receiving her B. Journ., Anne began working for CBC radio. For the next seven years, she worked as a journalist in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Ontario and Nunavut (then the Northwest Territories). Anne was active in her various unions, and her first paid union job was acting executive director for the CBC radio producers' association.

Anne found her calling in labour union work, and continued her career as a staff representative at the Manitoba Government and General Employees Union. After a decade, Anne returned to school, walked a picket line with striking U of M faculty and completed her Bachelor of Laws at Robson Hall. Anne articulated with a prominent Manitoba Labour Law firm and after her Call to the Bar, began a career as an in-house lawyer for United Food and Commercial Workers, moving to CUPE National and finally The Manitoba Nurses' Union. Today, Anne has more than 30 years of experience working with unionized workplaces, and has been a member and past executive member of the Canadian Association of Labour Lawyers and member of the Canadian Bar Association.

Reflecting on her time in YPM, Anne commented that she has "...taken Youth Parliament with me" throughout her professional and personal life. Knowledge of the legislative process, committee structure, and current political issues were all instrumental to her careers. In YPM, she learned early on how to think critically, analyze problems, formulate opinions and express information in an accessible way. She notes that persuading others is key to storytelling. Journalism and Law both involve not only story telling, being able to think on your feet. YPM helps you develop those skills.

It's more than forty years later, and many of the intense friendships Anne formed at YPM remain strong - even though life has scattered them across the country. Maintaining this closeness is, she points out, much easier now that we have email.

Asked if she has any advice for current members of YPM, she laughs and says, “Choose your YP friends carefully. You could be stuck with them for life! “

Archive Entry: Coffeehouse

Bisman Randhawa, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs

Hello and greetings!

I’m Bisman Randhawa, and I’m the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs! I’m here to share a glimpse of YPM’s most recent event, the Coffeehouse! But before I begin, I’d like to introduce myself . This may be my first year in Cabinet, but my Youth Parliament journey started in 2022 as a page, then followed by my attendance as a backbencher the next year. As a grade 12 student with an interest in politics and law, I hope to see myself navigating a pathway to law school one day. For now, I shall explore the realm of youth leadership and policy making to find out where the wind takes me!

A few weeks ago, on September 9th 2024, The Youth Parliament of Manitoba hosted a Coffeehouse fundraiser! Gathering youth and alumni from all across southern Manitoba, the event was held at Good Earth Coffeehouse. A local cafe radiating the aroma of baked muffins, to the mouth watering flavours of tea— all of us seemed to enjoy the tastes before us. From Coffee and Walnut, Black Forest and very Berry Bran flavoured muffins— many of us grabbed seconds or seventh muffins. Nonetheless, the food was incredible and such a delightful way to savor the atmosphere!

Beyond the beverages and food sprung fierce games of Uno, Monopoly, nostalgic board games and even buildings of lego! We heard laughs, screams of distress and victorious claps, but most of all, we heard meaningful conversations. From prospective interests to attend Session, to reminiscence about their time in Youth Parliament, memories and conversations connections between bridged alumni and guests.

To me, this was a way to connect, a way to be mesmerized by what Youth Parliament really was, beyond session— and that is, a community.

People who are willing to connect, assist and share through their passions for making a difference for youth. On the surface level, the coffeehouse was a way to have fun and help fundraise for the session, but to us attendees, it was a place for us to let loose from our worries and enjoy each other's company... alongside some scrumptious bites!



HEAR HEAR!! Voice your opinion on the newsletters

Thank you for those who have provided feedback to the Newsletter! The writer of this issue (Josephine) is implementing these changes! More feedback is more than welcome by clicking the blue button below!

Voice your opinion here!

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 (Josephine). 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.

Not every young Manitoban who wishes to participate in YPM could due to financial barriers, if you wish to sponsor a member, or establish a scholarship fund, please reach out to us!

DONATE NOW

Cheers,

Josephine Zhao

Speaker, 103rd Session of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba



Youth Parliament of Manitoba Inc., PO Box 595 Stn Main, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2J3, Canada

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