



THE YOUTH PARLIAMENTARIAN

A Newsletter for alumni and community members

September 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

- ***Meet the Team:*** YPM103 Dignitaries
- ***Alumni Spotlight:*** Tom Axworthy
- ***Archive Entry:*** First Cabinet Meeting



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 bottom below!

Voice your opinion here!

Meet the Team: YPM103 Dignitaries

Youth Parliament of Manitoba cannot be what it is without the generous mentorship and help from our dignitaries every year! We'd like to thank every one of our past dignitaries for guiding us with knowledge, patience, and everything you've done! YPM103 is no different, we are extremely fortunate to have our dignitaries this year joining us for the 103rd Session.

- **Honorary President:** Alan Campbell
 - **Lieutenant Governor:** Alicia Dueck-Read
 - **Traditional Knowledge Keeper:** Doris Young
-

Alumni Spotlight: Tom Axworthy





I am happy to share our next alumni spotlight, highlighting a very notable alumnus who is also a mentor in the Alumni Mentorship Program this year!

In 1964, Thomas (Tom) Axworthy's YPM journey began with his successful election to the post of Deputy Minister of External Affairs for the 43rd Session. Subsequently, he served as YPM's Minister of External Affairs in the 44th Session and the Minister of Canadian Affairs in the 45th Session. In the 46th Session, Tom was elected as an executive member of YPM, and served as the Deputy Premier. Tom continued to lead YPM as the Premier of the 47th Session, and the Speaker of the 48th Session in 1969.

Tom attended United College (now the University of Winnipeg). After graduating with a bachelor of arts with honors in history and politics, he began graduate school at Queen's University, where he graduated with a master of arts degree in 1972 and a doctoral degree in 1979. After years of work in the Canadian political world, Tom returned to academia at Harvard University. In 1984, Tom was invited to be a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Centre of International Affairs (Canadian program). During this time, Tom also taught comparative politics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. In 2003, he returned to his alma mater, Queen's University. Tom worked as the Chair and Executive Director of the Centre for the Study of Democracy, where he oversaw the publication of several studies on improving Canadian political institutions, and how Canada could advance democracy abroad.

Tom's work in the Canadian political world began around the same time as his YPM career. In 1958, he was a young Liberal volunteer in that year's Canadian federal election for Winnipeg local ridings. He continued this role in subsequent elections until 1968, the same year that he served as YPM's Premier. In 1967, Tom went to Ottawa where he worked in the Pearson government as a research assistant for the Task Force on the Structure of the Canadian Economy which reported to the Hon. Walter Gordon, the President of the Privy Council. This valuable work experience informed his values and allowed him to establish life-long connections with his colleagues. After graduating from Queen's University with a PhD, Tom soon began working in Ottawa, taking on various roles, such as political strategist and policy advisor to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, eventually becoming Chief of Staff to Mr. Trudeau and head of the Prime Ministers Office in 1981-1984. In this position he worked on repatriation of the Constitution and the adoption of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Tom also devoted much of his professional life to work in foundations. During his time at Harvard University, Tom also served as head of the Charles R. Bronfman Foundation, where he contributed to the creation of the "[Heritage Minutes](#)" series of short videos, displaying various aspects of Canadian history in a digestible format. In 1999, Tom helped create the Historica Foundation, and became its executive director. The [Historica Foundation](#) aimed to improve the teaching and learning of Canadian history, and established the Heritage Fair Program, allowing hundreds of thousands of students to display their own heritage project annually. In 2009, Tom became the president and CEO of the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, created by Walter Gordon, his first boss in Ottawa. During his tenure, the Gordon Foundation focused on Canada's North and freshwater preservation, and eventually assisted in the creation of the [Canada Water Agency](#).

After spending most of his professional life away from his childhood home, Tom retired to Winnipeg recently to be closer to his grandchildren. However, he continues to make important contributions to the world through his work in academia, currently serves the Public Policy Chair of Massey College at the University of Toronto. Reflecting on his YPM time, Tom stated that he learned how to formulate thoughtful speeches on his feet by participating in debate in the chamber, which he had to often exercise in his professional career. The unique experience of working in a legislative building was also magical to Tom as a youth, and a sight that he did not

witness until his own professional work on Parliament Hill. As an alumnus mentor of YPM103, Tom is very happy to see that the legacy of YPM has continued to make impacts on the world, and benefit the youth of Canada.

Archive Entry: First Cabinet Meeting

written by Aiden Peters, Minister of Defence

Greetings all wonderful readers,

My name is Aiden. Today, I will be telling you about the first official cabinet meeting of YPM103! Before that, however, I would love to introduce myself to everyone reading. As I said before, my name is Aiden, I am the current Minister of Defence and this is my second year serving on Cabinet. I am in my first year at the University of Manitoba studying Plant Biotechnology. Some of my biggest interests, however, include politics and history.

But enough about me, let's dive into the first official cabinet meeting of YPM103!

Skipping past the boring parts, like calling the meeting to order and all the “blah blah blah...” that comes with it, the first important part of the meeting had begun: the Internal Affairs icebreaker activity. Within seconds, a wave of excitement roared across the room, the hoards of cabinet members both in person and on Zoom were on the edge of their chairs in anticipation. What was the activity to be? A dice roll. A game of chance and fate, one in which your whole life would depend on the number of a 6 sided dice. The game worked as such: the cabinet member would answer a question assigned to the number they rolled on the dice. These were fun questions, for example, “who are three people you would bring in a zombie apocalypse?”

After the games of fortune and mischance, we moved onto the next item of our agenda. Team meetings. Though I cannot tell you anything notable about the actual meeting, I can tell you about something exciting that came right after. The snack break.

The snack break (my personal favourite part of the meeting...) was where the fun really happens. Not only was there excitement of having delicious food provided by our Ministry of Labour, but also the lively conversation that swept the room with it. It

is the period of the meeting where friendships are formed, especially in this early stage of a new cabinet.

And after some more mind-numbing procedure to the meeting, (during this I sat around and spun in my chair a few times) our first meeting came to a close, just as quickly as it had begun.



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



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