



THE YOUTH PARLIAMENTARIAN

A Newsletter for alumni and community members

January 2025

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

- ***Alumni Spotlight:*** Ruth Romanow Wilson
- ***Archive Entry:*** YPM103!
- ***Archive Entry:*** Summative
- ***Archive Entry:*** Farewell!



Alumni Spotlight: Ruth Romanow Wilson



I am happy to share our next alumni spotlight!

Ruth Romanow Wilson first attended YPM in 1975 at the 54th Session as a backbencher, following the family tradition of her father and two brothers before her. She returned to the 55th Session as a backbencher, and then in the 56th Session, Ruth served on cabinet as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education, Dave Najdich, and the 57th Session as the Minister of Provincial Affairs. After aging out of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba, Ruth continued to dedicate herself to the causes of YPM. In 1980, she was the Leader of the Opposition of the first session of Youth Parliament Jeunesse (YPJ) in Ottawa and served on the Board of the National Youth Parliament Association from 1979 to 1984.

There had been many efforts to hold a National Youth Parliament from the very beginning of YPM's history in 1922, with some success and failures. The 1980

session was the result of work of representatives from the provincial youth parliaments beginning at a 1977 meeting in Collingwood, Ontario, culminating with that first gathering held in the Senate Chambers in Ottawa. YPJ was a completely bilingual event, and held seven sessions until 1988. (To read more about the YPJ, turn to pages 84 and 85 of the YPM100 history book, *The Voices of Our Future*.)

Ruth says the most important lesson she learned from her time in youth parliaments was how to respectfully present ideas in public and listen intently to opposing points of view. Participating in the debate in the House boosted her confidence as a young person, gave her a better understanding of world political affairs, sharpened her critical thinking skills, and helped her grow both personally and intellectually.

Ruth graduated from the University of Manitoba with an English Honours Degree in 1981. She left Winnipeg in the same year to move to British Columbia to pursue a career in book publishing. She worked for many years in North Vancouver as an in-house editor before becoming an independent consultant and partner of West Coast Editorial Associates. She continues to edit a variety of non-fiction publications, and she also offers editorial training to corporate clients. Ruth also instructed editorial skills courses in Simon Fraser University's Writing and Publishing program for almost 20 years.

When asked about the work she is most proud of in her career, she points to *The Voices of Our Future*, which she edited. "That was a highlight – to be able to put my professional skills to a publication that was the product of such hard work by an amazing, dedicated team, celebrating an organization that meant so much to me, and to so many others. I am so impressed by the respect, intelligence, and critical thinking that was displayed by everyone I worked with. It heartened me to see young people engaged and interested in celebrating a legacy and wanting to build and improve on it for years to come."

Ruth has formed life-long relationships from her time in youth parliaments. Besides the friends she made at YPM, she met her husband, a former Premier of British Columbia Youth Parliament (BCYP), through her involvement with YPJ. The family tradition continued with her son attending BCYP in Victoria in the 2000s, and even attending YPM one year as an ambassador from BCYP, the year Ruth served as Lieutenant Governor of the session.

Ruth urges the current members to stay involved, open minded, and enthusiastic after their time at YPM is over. She says, “It’s easy to become discouraged – even apathetic – with the state of current affairs today, but you will carry the lessons you learn at YPM for the rest of your life, and if you choose to stay engaged with your community and informed politically, you *can* make a difference.”

Archive Entry: YPM103!

Maxcyn Gualdrapa, Minister of Publications

Hello everyone!

My name is Maxcyn, and I’m so excited to share my experience as a Cabinet member at Session. Over the past two years, I’ve had the privilege of being part of Cabinet in YPM. I first started in YPM101 as a backbencher, then served as P.S. to the Minister of Public Relations in YPM102, and now I am the Minister of Publications in YPM103. In my experience, preparing for Session is always one of the most thrilling parts of my year, but there is no greater feeling than seeing how it all comes together!

At Session, one of my main highlights is debate. To me, this is the heart and soul of Session! Despite not speaking much, I love watching our members passionately layout their points, whether presenting a well-researched bill or eloquently opposing one. The mix of speeches, questions, and what feels like a thousand points of order is what keep me and everyone extremely engaged. After all the effort leading up to Session, nothing beats watching Backbenchers grow from shy individuals into confident speakers. Over the course of the week, I love seeing how everyone can have fun with debate and make meaningful connections with other members. In my opinion, that's what makes YPM so great!

While Cabinet sets a person up for success in their professional careers, the best parts of being a part of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba are the passion and growth they inspire. So whether you may be continuing to work in the political field, business, or STEM like me, being on Cabinet allows for an unforgettable experience. Thank you to everyone who helped make this so great! I'm looking forward to the success of YPM104!

Archive Entry: Summative

Trinity Sperling, Minister of Human Resources

Hi everyone! My name is Trinity Sperling and I am currently the Minister of Human Resources. I am a third year student at the University of Manitoba in the Interdisciplinary Health Program pursuing a bachelors of health studies with a concentration in health policy, planning, and evaluation. I have always been interested in politics - not partisan politics, however, my one true love is the political process. My dream job is researching and writing health policy for whatever government that happens to be in power.

I cannot, for the life of me, remember where I heard about YPM, I am glad I did! My best guess is that one of my fellow pages at the legislative assembly page program told me about it as I know she was a member at the time. Nonetheless, my youth parliament journey started in the 100th Session, which was held online, as the member from Waterloo. Then, in the 101st session, I completed a second Backbencher year, but this time in person! Finally, in the 102nd session, I joined Cabinet as the Minister of Supply and Service, and now in the 103rd session I am serving as the Minister of Human Resources. This year, I, along with my PS, recruited a record number of 94 participants!

Youth Parliament has meant so much to me over the last four years. I have made so many valuable connections and met some of my very best friends here. I hope to maintain those relationships long past my term in the organization. I have also come to be very passionate about the mission of the organization: getting youth involved in the political process. I think that making sure young people understand what happens in our legislative assemblies and parliament is integral to not only foster the next generation of politicians, but more importantly, the next generation of civic minded doctors, lawyers, parents, teachers, engineers, and citizens in general. The Youth Parliament of Manitoba has been benefiting our community for 103 years and I can only hope it will persevere for another 103 years doing the same.

Archive Entry: Farewell!

Josephine Zhao, Speaker

Hello everyone! This is Josephine, YPM103's Speaker, Past Chairperson, and writer of 2024's Youth Parliamentarians. I am a recent mechanical engineering graduate at the University of Manitoba.

I want to thank everyone for your support, feedback, and continued engagement with the 103rd Members. Among 94 registered Members, I received nothing short of positive feedback on the success of this Session, and we couldn't have done it without the support from our community, and alumni. I had a great time connecting with all of you, and writing each issue of the Youth Parliamentarian.

As I join you in the stands for YPM104, I wish everyone a happy 2025, and our members a successful 104th Session in December! I will pass it on to our Speaker elect Xiao /sheaw/ Zhang now, farewell!

HEAR HEAR!! Voice your opinion on the newsletters

Thank you for those who have provided feedback to the Newsletter! The writer of the next issue (Xiao) will be implementing these changes! More feedback is more than welcome by clicking the blue bottom 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, for the last time,

Josephine Zhao

Speaker, 103rd Session of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba



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