



THE YOUTH PARLIAMENTARIAN

A Newsletter for alumni and community members

March 2025

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

In addition to ***Hear Hear!!***, ***Stay Connected***, and ***Support YPM***, in this issue you will find

- ***Alumni Spotlight: Jean-Paul Lapointe***
- ***Archive Entry: First Experience as a Backbencher***



Alumni Spotlight: Jean-Paul Lapointe



Left: John Bowles-Lapointe, Right: Jean-Paul Lapointe

In 1987, Jean-Paul Lapointe joined YPM as a Backbencher in the 67th Session. He continued to spend two more years as a Backbencher in the 68th and 69th Sessions before joining the Cabinet in the 70th Session as Parliamentary Secretary to the

Minister of the Status of Youth. In this position, he worked alongside his minister, Mark Matz, to draft bills for the Winter Session. In the subsequent year, Jean-Paul was elected as Deputy Premier for the 71st Session, Premier for the 72nd Session, and concluding his YPM career as Speaker for the 73rd Session.

During his time in YPM, Jean-Paul had a significant impact on the way we operate today. One of his great contributions was the implementation of the Cabinet position of Registrar General. Back in the day, most registrations still took place via the “snail mail” as computers were not yet abundant in everyone’s homes. The stacks of over 100 registrations were handled by the Deputy Premier up until this point. However, the Deputy Premier of the 72nd Session was working heavily on fundraising. The idea of a Registrar General to handle registrations was conceptualized in previous years but never truly implemented. Leading the team as Premier, Jean-Paul made the decision to fully implement the Registrar General as a Cabinet position, which allowed the Deputy Premier to free up more time. As of today, the position of Registrar General remains as a foundational pillar that is crucial to the functioning of our Session.

Since Jean-Paul left YPM, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies from the University of Manitoba in 1993. However, he did not pursue any political career paths. Instead, he returned to school and earned his IT certifications from Red River College. He worked as a developer for 3 years, as a database analyst for 20 years, and is now an instructor at Red River College teaching Full Stack Web Development.

While he has not much use for his political science degree and Westminster parliament experience as an IT instructor, he is still actively involved with his union, the Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union. In fact, he was recently elected as 1st Vice President of the MGEU at the provincial level. His interest and experience with public speaking, chairing meetings, and working on conceptual ideas similar to legislation, were fulfilled through his involvement with his union. His time in YPM helped him have a better perspective on organization — having an executive team, delegations of tasks, timelines, budgets, etc.

Reflecting on his experiences, he urges current members to keep in touch with each other! Some of his closest friends are from YPM, and he still goes to them for advice. Additionally, the experience in YPM will serve you no matter what career

path you pursue. Cherish your time in YPM and try to enjoy every moment of Session, even if it's filled with many sleepless nights.

Archive Entry: First Experience as a Backbencher

John Bowles-Lapointe, Member from Avalon

Hi all, my name is John Bowles-Lapointe. As of writing this, I've participated in one Session at YPM as a Backbencher and intend to do another. Those who met me last year may know me as the 16-year-old who looks 20 or as the guy who wrote his inaugural speech on his totally reasonable and under control caffeine addiction. But if you didn't that's A-OK because I'm going to tell you about myself right now.

First, I became interested in YPM after hearing my dad (Jean-Paul Lapointe) and some of his friends reminiscing about how wonderful it was and after developing a further interest in politics and legislation. While at YPM, I loved meeting all the brilliant and like- and unlike-minded people, many of which I would call my friends. I also loved hearing everyone's opinions on all the different bills we discussed, and the Legislative Building is truly a sight to behold.

Outside of YPM I'm in 11th grade at Fort Richmond Collegiate where I try to take as many Social Studies classes as possible. This is where I developed a deep interest in theology even though I'm about as agnostic as you can get. I'm also a member of many clubs like Reach for the Top where I dominate at trivia, ethics club, and TCG club where I play Magic the Gathering with my friends.

On my own time I love playing board games with my family, playing music on my electric guitar and piano, fishing, and hanging out with my brothers. To conclude, if I had anything to say to new members it would be, get to know the other members there, all super nice people and although they can be intimidating with how smart they are, they're really not that bad.

-John B-L.

HEAR HEAR!! Voice your opinion on the newsletters

Thank you for those who have provided feedback to the Newsletter! The writer of this issue (Xiao) will be implementing these changes! 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 (Xiao). 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](#)!

Support YPM: 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,

Xiao Zhang

Speaker, 104th Session of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba



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

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)

Send free email today