



THE YOUTH PARLIAMENTARIAN

A Newsletter for alumni and community members

May 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

- ***Archive Entry: Annual General Meeting***
- ***Member Spotlight: Edlynne Paez***
- ***Member Spotlight: Bisman Randhawa***



Archive Entry: Annual General Meeting

YPM had a productive Annual General Meeting on May 11, 2025, in the UWSA Boardroom at the University of Winnipeg.

There was an opportunity to hear about a Year-In-Review of 2024 from Speaker Xiao Zhang, State of the Corporation from Premier Charlize Medina. The members then approved the 2025 budget presented by Deputy Speaker Madison Jones.

In addition to these presentations, YPM also passed amendments to its By-Laws, Standing Orders, and Code of Conduct. These changes were recommended by the Standing Orders and By-Laws Organizational Committee (SOBLOC), chaired by House Leader Lien Huynh.

Members contributed greatly to the future of the organization through discussion at the AGM. We saw informative presentations and important amendments to the governing documents. The updated governing documents are on [our website](#).

Member Spotlight: Edlynne Paez



As one of two Loran Scholars from Manitoba, Eddy Paez is looking forward to their transition from rural life in Niverville to attending the University of Toronto – Scarborough campus this upcoming fall. The Loran Scholarship is a community leader scholarship focused on commitment to service, community, and leadership. Each year, 36 recipients are selected out of 6000+ applicants through four rounds of screening. This includes a paper application, video supplementary, regional interviews, and final interviews in Toronto. Recipients are provided with monetary

support for 4-5 years of undergraduate studies, mentors, and paid learning opportunities, which are valued at \$100,000. Eddy hopes to pursue a bachelor's degree in International Development Studies (co-op) and then graduate studies or law school.

The 102nd Session of YPM was when Eddy first joined as the Member from Joliette. They proceeded to return as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour in the 103rd Session. Although they never participated formally in debate before joining YPM, they claim to "love arguing". Eddy hoped by joining YPM, they'd be able to organize their thoughts and communicate more effectively. Although, it seems the more accurate story was because their friend Kristine begged them to join and accompany them to YPM. Before attending YPM, they expected the experience to be 100% serious, which held true for the first day. They felt like a fish out of water, forcing themselves to talk and stand up for every question period. Being outside their comfort zone for such extended periods of time taught them to embrace the discomfort. Upon arriving at the Legislative Building was another huge moment. "To be physically in the building, sitting in the chairs, is an unbelievable experience for someone who loves provincial politics. You are imposed with a sense of gratitude and civic responsibility," says Eddy. This space made them feel important and helped become fully immersed in debate. Returning to Kelvin High School for after-hour activities, Eddy solely participated in drafting Private Members' Bills. They did not have much opportunity to participate in debate and bill writing, so they made use of every second while attending YPM.

Outside of YPM, Eddy is currently a grade 12 student at Niverville High School. They are active in many extracurricular activities, such as YPM, Student Leadership, Student Action, Choir, Band, Volleyball, Basketball, Ribbon Skirt/Moccasin Making Club, Youth Leader at Church and Choir, Bear Clan volunteering, Manitoba Student Advisory Council, and Debate Club. Eddy doesn't just have quantity, but also quality of events hosted through these clubs. YPM served as a seed that gave rise to many events through their improved public speaking skills and newly acquired connections in the community. The Asian Excellence in Politics Panel was hosted as part of Asian Heritage Month, which invited many Asian politicians to attend a panel at Niverville High School. Eddy realized the value of face-to-face time with politicians, and seeing politicians that look like you is very empowering for youths. They also collaborated with YPM peers from Maples Asian Heritage Club and Maples Sikh Heritage Club to host food and dance workshops at Niverville High

School. Apart from organizing events, Eddy has appeared as a workshop facilitator at the Maple for Women HERizons event and as a guest speaker at Pembina Trails Collegiate.

Reflecting on their time in YPM, Eddy appreciated being outside their comfort zone. Being the only person from Niverville, they initially felt out of place. They got to meet new people and felt seen for the first time. However, seeing such a diverse Executive team empowered them to take on leadership positions and achieve higher goals. "If you're open-minded and fully immerse yourself, then you'll get out of it much more than expected," says Eddy. They encourage future members to stand up for every question and take every opportunity for debate. Final message from Eddy: "Think about applying for Cabinet, Cabinet is great!"

Member Spotlight: Bisman Randhawa



Bisman was selected as a University of Toronto National Scholar and TD Scholarships for Community Leadership. Handed with a difficult choice, Bisman

declined their TD Scholarship for Community Leadership. She is now excited for a full-ride scholarship to attend the University of Toronto – St. George campus in the Munk One program, which focuses on Global Affairs and Public Policy. The University of Toronto National Scholarship is the largest scholarship for domestic students, covering tuition, incidental fees, and residence for 4 years of undergraduate studies. Each year, 15 recipients are selected and runners-up are named Arbor Scholars. This exclusive process is only available to students nominated as National Book Award recipients by their respective school. Bisman hopes to use this scholarship to pursue their interest in Public Policy, and potentially law school in the future.

The 102nd Session of YPM was when Bisman first joined as the Member from Victoria. She returned to join Cabinet in the 103rd Session as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs. Bisman found YPM through a simple google search – “youth opportunities in manitoba”. She had not quite met the minimum age requirement, so she initially became a Page at YPM. While Bisman was always interested in politics and public policy, YPM served to accelerate her interest in public policy even more. When arriving at her first Session, she thought it would be very serious. Especially as a young Backbencher, Bisman only spoke 3 times during Sittings, afraid of being judged. This past year as a Cabinet member, Bisman spoke 2-3 times every day after seeing that no one will judge you at YPM. Despite everyone being at a different level of debate, most people were comfortable expressing themselves and friendships formed quickly during committees and after-hour activities. She was also impressed by our motto “by youth, for youth”. There were no (older) adults present, but somehow everything was run very smoothly. During after-hour activities, Bisman was everywhere. During the first few nights, she helped Backbenchers draft and prepare presentations for Private Members’ Bills. Later in the week, she participated in various activities hosted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, such as presentation night, the Mario Kart tournament, as well as hanging out with Backbenchers. These activities allowed her to become closer to the Members of YPM and develop countless new friendships.

Outside of YPM, Bisman is a grade 12 student at Maples Collegiate. When not doing school work, she is often busy with many extracurricular activities, such as: Maples for Women, Student Council, Sikh Heritage Committee, MUNA Organizing Committee, Folklorama, Sikh Share Intern Program, Legislative Page Program, Manitoba Student Advisory Council, and YPM. She holds positions

ranging from member to ambassador to president and co-president. As part of Maples for Women, she helped curate a political panel inviting female MLAs to speak on their experience as women in the political field. She also organized a Student Leadership Summit, inviting 15+ female community professionals to present their various different careers for an audience of 200+ youths. Every year for 2 weeks in the summer, Bisman volunteers at Folklorama helping initially as a Pavilion Ambassador and now as General Ambassador.

Reflecting on their time in YPM, Bisman feels that the experience is invaluable. Being in the space where people create legislation is a fundamental experience. Being able to learn about policy making and that our voice does matter. YPM bills are grounded in social issues today and hearing fresh voices is interesting. Different perspectives brought by youths of YPM represent the diversity of Manitoba's population, which helps improve your view of the world and breadth of knowledge and skills. For all the future members of YPM, it is a great place to develop your passion, not directly related to specific fields, but more specifically about the experiences you get (e.g. writing skills). Cabinet is a great experience and has the power to shape your interests now and in the future. The experiences and community you foster carries into your academic and professional careers.

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



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