



Youth Parliament of Manitoba

BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH

**YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA
103rd SESSION
DECEMBER 26TH - 30TH 2024**

Press Conference:

December 12th, 2024 at 13:00 CST
Manitoba Legislature Building Press Conference Room
Chairperson: Tom Lindsey, Speaker of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly

Youth Parliament of Manitoba Board of Directors:

Xiao Zhang, Premier (Chairperson)
Josephine Zhao, Speaker (Past Chairperson)
Madison Jones, Deputy Premier (Vice-Chairperson)
Charlize Medina, Deputy Speaker (Director of Finance)
Jourmae Abengoza, House Leader (Director of Procedures)

Bill-Presenting Ministers:

Lien Huynh, Minister of Public Relations
Rowan Hildebrand, Registrar General
Matthew Sévigny, Minister of Government Services

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Fast Facts: Youth Parliament of Manitoba

- ❖ YPM was founded in 1922 as the Older Boys' TUXIS Parliament of Manitoba.
- ❖ YPM had female members before there were female MLAs sitting in the Manitoba Legislature.
- ❖ YPM is the longest consecutively running model parliament in the world, now in its 102nd year.
- ❖ The organization is run completely by youth under the age of 25.
- ❖ Alumni include distinguished Manitobans such as Lloyd Axworthy, Bill Blaikie, Darren Praznik and Bill Norrie.
- ❖ This year's Honorary President is Alan Campbell.
- ❖ This year's Lieutenant-Governor is Alicia Dueck-Read.
- ❖ This year's Traditional Knowledge Keeper is Doris Young.
- ❖ This year's session includes over 90 members.



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History of Youth Parliament

Youth Parliament of Manitoba Inc. (YPM) is a non-partisan, non-denominational corporation and registered charity. Run completely by local youth, YPM is a model parliament, a unique opportunity for young adults to improve their communication skills, learn about the Canadian democratic parliamentary tradition, and meet like-minded youth from across Manitoba.

YPM was first started in 1922 by George Stewart, Lieutenant Governor of the Older Boys' TUXIS Parliament of Manitoba. Since then, it has become the oldest mock parliament in Canada and one of the oldest of similar organizations across the world. Our aims then, as they are now, are devoted to the development of leadership and awareness of the parliamentary system among the young men (and later, women) of Manitoba.

Today, our annual Session brings together up to one hundred passionate youth from across the province who come to experience five days of debate, leadership experience, and comradeship.



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Press Schedule

Thursday, December 12, 2024

12:45 — Arrival and Setup

The press conference has not begun yet. Members of the press may arrive early and members of YPM will greet you and assist with setting up.

13:00 — Opening Remarks

The Hon. Tom Lindsay (Speaker of the House) and Josephine Zhao (Past Chairperson of YPM) will deliver opening remarks.

13:10 — Introduction of Legislation

The Voters for Open and Transparent Elections Act.

The Child Protection Act.

The Equity in Education Act.

13:20 — Question and Answer

Press and other community members present are invited to ask questions relating to the bills and YPM.

13:30 — Closing Remarks

Josephine Zhao (Past Chairperson of YPM) will deliver closing remarks.



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Summary of Bills

The Voters for Open and Transparent Elections Act: In response to the career politicians who dominate elected government office and strategic voting, this Act reimagines Canada's Federal Electoral System by implementing a Last-Past-the-Post vote. In this system, the candidate with the least amount of votes wins their riding. This system would dramatically change how people vote, party's methods of campaigning, and the media's influence on elections.

The Child Protection Act: This Act aims to remove the automatic assumption that a birth parent or parents of a child can properly care for that child in a way every child deserves. By requiring new parents or guardians of a child to complete a child readiness test, it is the hope of this Act that common early issues in a child's development by unfit parents or guardians can be avoided.

The Equity in Education Act: By establishing an education system based on equitable secular, intercultural and multilingual education, we can foster a society that is more tolerant and more informed about our multicultural society. This will include the transfer of all private educational institutions to the appropriate provincial education Ministry and the implementation of minority language immersion streams, including one in Indigenous languages. This bill also sets out provisions to ensure that students with disabilities or who want to enter the trades can receive the proper education they need. It establishes specialised education in trades and specialised education for students with disabilities in each school division to ensure proper education for all.