

Winnipeg Rotary Club's 2025 MUNA

MUNA 2025 has come and gone. This year saw an even larger group of young high school delegates signed up for Winnipeg Rotary's 68th Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA), held again this year at the Canadian Mennonite University, May 1 – 3th. About 140 high school students from across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwestern Ontario spent time discussing how to protect and support refugees around the world and the potential costs and benefits of using GMO's in agricultural production to feed a growing human population. This year's theme, addressed in the opening plenary session, was *adaptation* and *shared responsibility*.



MUNA 2025 Delegates

For the MUNA Organizing Committee, this year was particularly gratifying. It was one of the largest MUNA's over the past decade, and the debriefing session suggested it was one of the best. The Organizing Committee, many of whom had just finished their own university exams, made the event noteworthy. We also had better rural representation than in years past, in part because the Organizing Committee reduced the registration significantly for rural teams. We also had delegations from rural and northern communities like Flin Flon, Creighton and Prince Albert SK, Kenora and Dryden ON, Flin Flon, Neepawa, Dauphin, and Brandon.



Opening Plenary Session of MUNA 2025

This year's event expanded the involvement of student delegates in the planning and delivery of the program. Although Winnipeg Rotary members continue to direct and support MUNA much of the work of running MUNA has been undertaken by MUNA alum and current delegates. The events President, Secretary General and other table officers were delegates. The Committees and Informal Group meetings are all led by high school student committee chairs and facilitators. Students led discussions, built consensus and facilitated small group and committee decision-making. Although the debate is lively and informative, leading the event, producing a resolution by consensus or vote, builds leadership skills, people skills and the kind of confidence young people need to make a difference in their lives, community and our country.



MUNA 2025 Assembly Leaders

Front Row: (L-R) MUNA – Vice President: Rhythm, President: Matthew Richards, , Secretary General: Bisman Randhawa and Deputy Secretary General: Victor Silva Do Prado

Special Guests

MUNA 2025 started with the introduction of special guests who spoke to the Assembly. This year delegates heard from Her Honour, L.G. Anita Neville, by video link, the Honourable Tracy Schmidt, the Minister of Education, US Winnipeg Consul Rebecca Molinoff, and Winnipeg Rotary Club President Frank Cosway. Their remarks set the tone for the discussion that followed.

The MUNA Organizing Committee

This year's organizing committee was made up of high school students serving as delegates, former MUNA delegates and former MUNA leaders, along with Rotarians and friends so of MUNA.

The Organizing Committee would also like to thank Rotarians Elly Hoogterp and Christine Harapiak (Dauphin Rotary Club) who is not in the picture for her support, along with long-time

community supporter Donna Alexander and for their on-going commitment and work on behalf of the MUNA project.



Front row: Emily Mann, Celina Casiano, Adria Anha Alam, Nathaniel Casiano, Akbar Imran, Divya Sharma, Jane Markesteyn, Anwyn Kroeker Friesen, Dhruvi Shah.
Back row Captain Marc Pelletier, Jerry Storie, Wells Mayes, Sophie Jaxa Debicka, Viraaj Banthia, Matthew Richards (Not in the picture Prabhnoor Singh, Sifa Kagondu, Christine Harapiak and Christel Hildebrandt)

Winnipeg Rotary's MUNA Award Winners

Each year the MUNA Organizing Committee presents two awards to honour the contributions of exceptional delegations. The Bert Friesen Award for the Best Prepared Delegation and the Rais Khan Award for the Most Diplomatic Delegation. This year's **Bert Friesen Award** went to **Maricail Joanne Philp** from W.P. Sandin School in Shellbrook and the **Rais Khan Award** was won by **Esther Akinjobi and Umer Hashim** from École St. Mary High School in Prince Albert.

Many Thanks

The Organizing Committee would also like to thank Rotarians Christine Harapiak (Dauphin Rotary Club) and Elly Hoogterp, and Christel Hildebrandt from Lord Selkirk S.D. They are not in the picture, but we thank them, along with long-time community supporters Donna Alexander, who provided guidance for the MUNA training sessions and Captain Marc Pelletier. Marc Pelletier, who has volunteered his time for more than two decades, is recognized for his tech savvy innovations and unflappable nature. He has allowed us to use technology to streamline the event and make it more enjoyable for all. He has also organized the Cadet support group who act as pages during the session.

MUNA's Organizing Committee would like to thank Rotary members for their generosity and continuing support of MUNA and its goal of developing leadership in our young people.

And thanks to the Rotary Clubs across the District for helping to get local high school students to MUNA in 2025.

Submitted on behalf of the MUNA Organizing Committee

Akbar Imran, MUNA 2025 Chair

Jerry Storie, Winnipeg Rotary Club