

Winnipeg Rotary Club's 2026 MUNA Report

Winnipeg Rotary Club's 69th Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA), was held again this year at the Canadian Mennonite University from April 30 – May 2. About 150 high school students and 25 counsellors attended the event. The delegates, all high school students, spent time discussing two resolutions, one dealing with the importance of access to humanitarian aid and one dealing with freedom of the press and journalistic freedom. This year's theme, addressed in the opening plenary session by many national delegates, and underlying the conversations on the resolution, related to *truth, access and resilience*.

MUNA 2026 Delegates



For the MUNA Organizing Committee, this year was particularly gratifying. It was one of the largest, if not the largest MUNA, ever held at CMU. With 75 teams registered from high schools across three provinces and many rural and northern communities, it was hectic. For the first time in many years, teams had to be turned away because of space limitations at Canadian Mennonite University.

This year MUNA greeted 25 teams from smaller communities. Delegations arrived from rural and northern communities like Flin Flon, Creighton and Prince Albert SK, Weyburn SK, Kenora and Dryden ON, Neepawa, Dauphin, and Brandon.

Dignitaries Welcome MUNA Delegates

MUNA 2026 started with the introduction of special guests who spoke to the Assembly. This year delegates heard from several honoured guests. Their remarks highlighting the importance of youth engagement, combined with thoughtful, respectful discussion, set the tone for the debates that followed. Her Honour, L.G. Anita Neville and Mayor Scott Gillingham delivered messages by video link. Below are the dignitaries that attended the event.



(Left to Right) Winnipeg Rotary Club President **Frank Cosway**, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Youth Representative, **Alexis Antoine**, special guest Senator, **Mary Jane McCallum**, US Consul General, **Rebecca Molinoff** and the **Honourable Tracy Schmidt**, the Minister of Education.

MUNA 2026 Assembly Leaders

The transition from an event run almost exclusively by Rotarians to one organized and run by youth was completed this year. The organizational work for this year's MUNA was led by and delivered by a group of former MUNA delegates. Every aspect of the event was led by this dedicated group of young people.

The MUNA 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.



(L-R) Deputy Secretary General; Izzah Imran, Secretary General: Ravnoor Kochhar, President; Jayden Villanueva, Vice President; Keith Wierckx

Students led discussions, built consensus and facilitated small group and committee decision-making. The debate is always lively and informative, and leading the event to a resolution by

consensus or vote, builds leadership skills, people skills. It fosters the kind of confidence young people need to make a difference in their lives, community and our country.

The MUNA Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee was supported by two Rotary Club Advisors, Jerry Storie and Anugo Okudo and Cristal Hildebrandt, a teacher from the Lord Selkirk School Division.



Back row, L-R: AK Azzam, Umer Hashim, Marc Pelletier, Ravnoor Kochhar, Rajvinder Dhaliwal, Asees Bhullar, Adria Alam, Celina Casiano, Sheheryar Mouzam, Viraj Banthia, Anugo Okudo

Front row, L-R: Jayden Villanueva, Emily Mann, Jerry Storie, Akbar Imran, Sophie Jaxa Debicka, Bisman Randhawa
(Not in the picture, Sifa Kagodu, LSSD Teacher, Cristel Hildebrandt)

The Organizing Committee would also like to thank the many Rotary Clubs from across District 5055. Without the support of the Rotary Club of Winnipeg and the many clubs that sponsor students, this event would not be possible. Rotarians make a difference. The MUNA Organizing Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make MUNA 2026 a very successful event.

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 **Praise Olowoyeye and Tsion Abera** from Beaver Brae Secondary School in Kenora, Ontario. The 2026 **Rais Khan Award** was won by **Emma Wheatley and Kahyne MacDonald** from Shaftesbury High School in Winnipeg.

Special Thanks

The Organizing Committee would also offer a special thank you to Marc Pelletier. Marc has volunteered his time to MUNA faithfully for more than two decades. Along with tech knowledge and his unflappable nature and sense of humour, he is a key ingredient in MUNA's success. He also organizes the Cadet support group who act as pages during the session.

And thanks to the Rotary Clubs across the District for helping to get local high school students to MUNA in 2026.

Submitted on behalf of the MUNA Organizing Committee

Akbar Imran, MUNA 2026 Chair

Anugo Okudo, Youth Advisor

Jerry Storie, Winnipeg Rotary Club