



2023 Junior Youth Observer to the Board (YOB) Election: Meet the Candidates!

Brief Bios

Lea Bomford-Moore

My name is Lea, I'm a grade 11 (17 year old) student in Richmond BC. A lifetime UU, I have always loved the youth community we have, my first con being CanUUdle 2019 in Calgary. I'm a massive nerd, I'm actively running a complex homebrew campaign in DnD with a massive lore file containing over 10k words (very proud of that). Other things I'm into include theatre as well as being out doors (I'm super pumped for a camp counsellor position I'll be filling this summer).

Jackie Murray

Hi! My name is Jackie (she/her) and I'm in grade 11 this year. I love music and I play the fiddle, guitar, and drums, and I am also in fact a devoted and passionate horse girl. I go to the Unitarian Church of Vancouver and have attended the past 2 CanUUdles, which have been some of the best experiences of my life.

What experience do you have in Canadian Youth Ministry?

Lea Bomford-Moore

After attending coming of age, I started attending youth group at UCV in 2018, which I actively participated in (my youth group attendance has admittedly fallen off, but I still have a very close connection with all of UCV's youth). I am Chaplain certified and have staffed 3/4 of the cons I have attended, helping to facilitate a small reconciliation con, and taking on the roll of youth chaplain for CanUUdle and Magic the GathUUring 2022. I am also this years dean for CanUUdle! I have other miscellaneous experiences, one of which being DMing for UCV's youth Dungeons and Dragons group 2021-2022.

Jackie Murray

I've been a part of my youth group for a few years, hanging out with people during and after the services as well as participating in OWL and the occasional Messy Church, though my activity has dwindled recently after covid, when I began working a new job on Sundays. Though I haven't been as active in youth group this past while, I plan on going much more often next year after my amazing experiences at CanUUdle. I went to the Con last year in Vancouver and this year in Ottawa and met so many amazing people during both. Going to CanUUdle really makes me love the Unitarian community in Canada because of how supportive and encouraging everyone is.

How will these skills and experiences prepare you for being successful in the role of the YOB?

Lea Bomford-Moore

I believe that my close relationship to youth across Canada is invaluable as a YOB, as well as my dynamic relationship with Unitarian Universalism as a whole. My experience as a chaplain will definitely be useful in the case of one on one interactions as well as conflict resolution should it be necessary for whatever reason, building off of this I feel that a strong sense of empathy is important in any leadership roll which is a skill well developed by my chaplaincy experiences. As far as the organization and communication skillset goes my roll as CanUUdle's Dean has been very helpful in its development, as well as my position as student director for my theatre company's most recent production. I am a very sociable and capable person, as proven and developed by each of my roles in some way or another.

Jackie Murray

I'm very active on discord and can guarantee I will spend time helping to plan and host events in the MyceliUUm discord server (Gartic Phone 🙄?). I'm also really passionate and have experience regarding CanUUdle and would love to help plan the next one. I want to bring back old CanUUdle activities and make them a constant yearly tradition (eg. the one in 2022 where we got to write something on a piece of paper and then burn it. I found that really freeing and I want to make it a CanUUdle tradition)

What do you anticipate being the hardest part of the YOB position for you? Why?

Lea Bomford-Moore

Punctuality and time management is a big struggle for me. I have a bad habit of procrastination and over scheduling, which is why this form has been so late to submit. I was not sure how my next year was going to look and therefore hesitant about over scheduling. The reason I am applying now is that it's become more clear that I will be available, plus it is an important role the needs to filled, preferably before AGM. It should be said that I will be going into this under the preface of most likely not being able to attend the meetings in July or August due to my position at a camp I will be working at full time over the summer.

Jackie Murray

The hardest thing for me may be initially adjusting to how YOB functions, and other than that, I think the hardest part might be learning everyone's names (I am really horrible at names- but im working on it!)

Have you participated in any anti-racism or anti-oppression training? Describe this or other relevant experience.

Lea Bomford-Moore

I have participated in and facilitated a working con based on CBC's 8th fire series. It was very small but educational and insightful, providing very valuable perspective on Indigenous issues, culture, and life. Around a similar time I attended a two day anti-racism workshop at UCV ran by Dr. Wilburn Hayden and Rev. Patricia Trudeau which focused on dismantling racism in Canada. In addition to these very in depth experiences I have attended many discussion and meetings surrounding the 8th principle and am taking a Social Justice course through my highschool which has aligned with many anti-racism workshops ran through UCV.

Jackie Murray

I haven't participated in anti-racism and anti-oppression training, but I'm eager to have the opportunity to do that through YOB. I've always wanted to take action on these topics, and I believe that this is hopefully going to be one of the best ways I can make a difference.

What do you hope to work on and accomplish during your term as YOB?

Lea Bomford-Moore

It is my understanding that this year the board is focusing on strategic planning for the CUC, aiming to find the direction we intend to follow in upcoming years. This is a very exciting process which I would love to participate in and bring youth insight on. While I'm sure I may be sounding like a broken record in comparison to past years of YOB applications, I see great potential in MyceliUUm and would be willing to dedicate a large portion of my time to it. I feel that a cross national online network of youth would be amazing and we just need something to jumpstart it.

Jackie Murray

I hope to work on making the MyceliUUm network a more active community with more members to do events with. I want to potentially involve art contests, more game nights, video games, and polls. I also hope to be able to create easy communication between youth and YOB through that server where people can suggest their main concerns and YOB can bring those concerns into action. I hope to be able to actively speak for the youth of Canada and promote initiative and change through the Unitarian community and the monthly meetings. I will leave my social medias open for anyone to freely dm me anytime they want. This way, I can be the voice for the youth and will speak up about anything they feel needs more attention. p.s. u can dm me about anything during the voting, (though I may be out watching the new spider man movie and won't reply immediately lol)

Now it's Time to Vote!

It's a Two-Step Process:

1) Register to vote at
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/youth-observer-to-the-board-elections-2023-tickets-696316349947>

2) Cast your vote between August 15 - Sept 12
(the link will be sent to you once you register)