



SOCIETY *of*  
UNITED PROFESSIONALS  
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

The Young Professionals Network has been an active committee of the Society of United Professionals since 2017 and is a voluntary body composed of members that are 35 years of age and under. Over the reporting period, the Young Professionals Network Steering Committee met eleven times to address issues affecting young professionals, enhance the representation of youth issues within the labour movement, and plan events/engagement activities to enhance the inclusion of young professionals in union activities.

### *COMMITTEE PURPOSE:*

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- For the Society of United Professionals to have meaningful representation on youth issues within the labour movement.
- To increase young professional engagement in the union and union activities.
- To increase the inclusion of young professional issues with the union and union activities.

### *MEMBERS OF THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE:*

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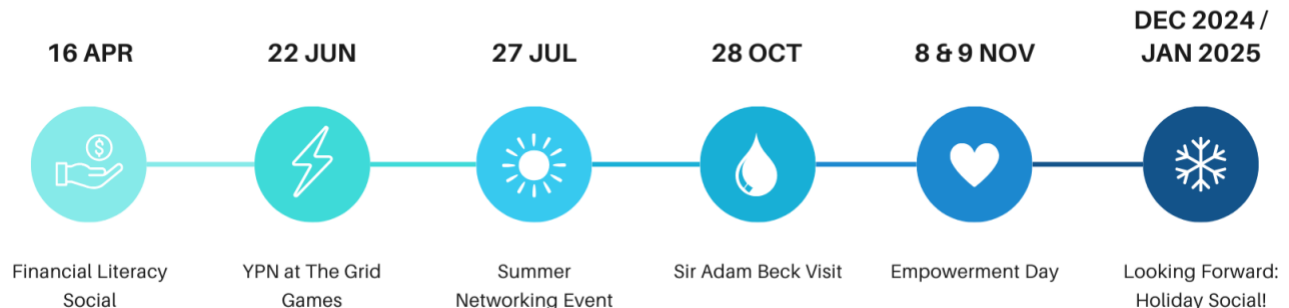
Aaron Joseph (OPG)  
Amanda LaBorde (Legal Aid)  
Bradley Tighe (Hydro One, Co-Chair)  
Daniel Lam (Hydro One, Mentor)  
Elton Nazareth (OPG, Co-Chair)  
Farhan Rehman (Kinetrics)  
Haoheng Mai (Hydro One)  
Hasan Mokaddes (Hydro One)  
Jessica Graham (OPG)

Jia Ruiying (IESO)  
Karen Miller (Hydro One)  
Marcel Cummings (OPG)  
Nishayan Ghosh (Hydro One)  
Pavithra Ravi (OPG)  
Thomas Huang (Hydro One)  
Vyshnavi Vemuri (Hydro One)  
Rui (Jennifer) Xu (Hydro One)



## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### YPN EVENTS 2024



#### 16 APRIL 2024 - SPRING HYBRID SOCIAL & FINANCIAL SEMINAR (BY MERDIAN CREDIT UNION)

On the evening of Tuesday April 16th, 2024, the YPN invited Meridian Credit Union Senior Financial Planner, Farhan Siddiqui, MBA PFP, RIS, to come talk to YPN members about all thing's money and investments. This was a hybrid event with a social networking session at the Society Toronto office and an educational seminar part that was also offered online, so that members from all over the province could attend. The event had around 35 in-person attendees and another 15 individuals joining online. Farhan provided much insight into the world of RRSP (Registered Retirement Savings Plan), RDSP (Registered Disability Savings Plan), TFSA (Tax Free Savings Account), FHSA (First Home Savings Account), RESF (Registered Education Savings Fund), LLP (Lifelong Learning Plan, and much more!

Chris Graham, Executive Vice President of the Society of United Professionals, and Laurie Reid, Secretary-Treasurer, attended and met many of the YPN members. At the start of the session, Chris took the opportunity to provide an overview of the Society's mandate and invited attendees to further engage with the YPN and the Society.

Feedback from attendees was positive and many indicated a desire to attend future YPN events or another financial literacy seminar focusing on different topics. There was also an increase in members to the steering committee as a result of this event.

#### **Event Objectives:**

- Increase basic financial literacy for young professionals who may not have been exposed to these concepts in an educational setting, but is important in making informed decisions about spending, saving, and investing.
- Promote awareness of the YPN and members of the YPN Steering Committee.
- Create a stronger link between Society of United Professionals members across workplaces.





## 22 JUNE 2024 - YPN AT THE GRID GAMES

Hydro One organized the 2024 Grid games which attracted a record breaking 2,000 attendees from across the province. Employees came in droves with their friends and families for a one-of-a kind chance to learn and experience what so many groups in Hydro One do - and how they do it well!

The Society sponsored a booth during these events which was managed by the YPN members Marcel Cummings (OPG), Vaishnavi Vemuri (Hydro One), Karen Miller (Hydro One), Kirti Godbole (Hydro One), Thomas Huang (Hydro One), Elton Nazareth (Co-Chair YPN, OPG) and Daniel Lam, Unit Director, Hydro One. The society booth interacted with a lot of attendees and distributed society branded swags (notebooks, tags, mouse pads, caps and so on).

### **Event Objectives:**

- Promote awareness of Society of United Professionals, YPN, and members of the YPN Steering Committee.
- Increase engagement opportunities for YPN members, especially members outside of the Greater Toronto Area.







## 27 JULY 2024 - SUMMER NETWORKING EVENT

The YPN took advantage of the warm summer weather to host a social at Firkin on Harbour in downtown Toronto. This was a group effort from several steering committee members, including Elton Nazareth, Bradley Tighe (co-chair), Karen Miller, Rui (Jennifer) Xu, and Daniel Lam.

Afterwards, there was an open invite to a Toronto Blue Jays game with the OPG new grads; interested attendees were invited to reach out to Leon Simeon (OPG Unit Director) to join.

There were over 35 attendees, with several people staying later into the event to socialize and provide input for future YPN activities. Feedback from attendees was positive and there was express interest in additional social events such as karaoke or table tennis.

### **Event Objectives:**

- Provide a casual networking environment to meet members across different workplaces.
- Promote awareness of YPN and the steering committee, and their social events.





## 29 OCTOBER 2024 - SIR ADAM BECK VISIT (YPN x NAYGN)

On Tuesday October 29th, 20 members of the Society's Young Professionals Network (YPN) and the North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NAYGN) toured the Sir Adam Beck (SAB) Hydroelectric Generating Station located in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The tour was attended by members of several companies such as Ontario Power Generation, Hydro One, Ontario Energy Board and Kinetrics.

The tour started at a mural of the generating station and the Niagara River system, where the group received a brief overview of the SAB complex. The group then proceeded to the Hall of Memories which was full of the history of the utility industry. The attendees visited the SAB control room, where Ontario Power Generation operators work 24/7 to ensure the safe and reliable of operation of the generating station. Outside of the control room, tour members got a breath of fresh air on a balcony that overlooks the Niagara River and the tailrace of the complex, where generators expel water after power has been generated.

SAB complex is split into Beck 1 and Beck 2. Beck 1 has a generation capacity of ~437 MW, whereas Beck 2 has a generation capacity of ~1377 MW. The YPN and NAYGN had the great fortune of visiting both Beck 1 and Beck 2. The tour finished with a networking session with delicious food from local restaurant, Zappi's Pizza & Pasta. The tour was organized by Joel Barton (Unit Director), Ryan Gillespi (OPG), Jennifer Grossi (OPG), Jonathan Jeyarajah (OPG, NAYGN), Elton Nazareth (OPG, YPN Co-chair), Karen Miller (Hydro One), Marcel Cummings (OPG) and Spring Fu (OPG).

### **Event Objectives**

- Provide a “behind-the-scenes” look into the Sir Adam Beck station.
- Increase engagement opportunities for YPN members, especially members outside of the Greater Toronto Area.





## LOOKING FORWARD

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### 8 & 9 NOVEMBER 2024 - STEERING COMMITTEE MEET AND EMPOWERMENT DAY

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, as a pre-empowerment day social, the steering committee is meeting at the SPIN, Toronto for a round a ping-pong and discuss on the details and finalize on some of the aspects with respect to the presentation and talk as a part of the time dedicated for the YPN.



The YPN will be presenting for 30 minutes during Empowerment Day, alongside with an ice breaker session from the new grads of OPG headed by Unit Director Leon of OPG. This will be attended by Elton Nazareth, Bradley Tighe, Daniel Lam, and Rui (Jennifer) Xu, who will be doing a YPN presentation with trivia questions about the Society of United Professionals. YPN has invited CJ Calvert, motivational speaker, author, and life coach to speak at Empowerment Day. He will be providing insight into balance, burnout, change, and goal setting; all topics that affect young professionals as they navigate the working world.

### **Event Objectives:**

- Promote awareness of YPN's objectives and prior events.
- Contribute to the Society's equity committees – teach and learn about equity, how to be an ally, and how to get involved.

### **DECEMBER 2024 / JANUARY 2025 - HOLIDAY SOCIAL**

There is a Holiday Social slated for December 2024 or January 2025 to round out the year for YPN (maybe karaoke given the interest from the summer social)! Do check your inbox for an interesting email from the YPN.

### **Event Objectives:**

- Provide a casual networking environment to meet members across different workplaces.
- Keep the YPN at top-of-mind and brainstorm on some interesting session and activities for the next year!

### **GROWING YPN EMAIL LIST**

The YPN email list has been created by voluntary addition (e.g., members providing contact information when attending in-person activities / events). During this reporting period, the YPN Steering Committee continued to explore options for ensuring the mailing list captures all young members of the Society of United Professionals and remains up to date. Currently, there are over 2000 members on the YPN email distribution list.

*The YPN intends on organizing many such events in the coming months such as visiting power plants or state of the art manufacturing plants, sessions that benefit the young generation and socials. Our events connect a lot of young professionals and make sure you benefit from this. If you are interested in being a part of the steering committee for the YPN, do send us an email at [ypn@thesociety.ca](mailto:ypn@thesociety.ca)*