

IN THE NEWS

STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Message from your 2015/16 Executive Team

Welcome back and a happy new year from your UWSA executive team. We're excited for another year filled with progress, optimism, learning, and growth.

The last few months have seen students leading the way in changing our campus and society for the better. Whether it's spearheading efforts that resulted in the provincial government passing legislation to prevent sexual violence at universities, or an Indigenous Credit Requirement, or continuing to demand that the University show environmental leadership by divesting from fossil fuels, we've once again demonstrated that when students are united, we can have a tremendous impact.

With a provincial election only three months away, we have a golden opportunity to make our politicians sit up and take notice of students' priorities. Of all levels of government, it's the province that has the most direct control over how much tuition you pay, and how much funding Universities receive. Leading up to the election, we'll be engaging as many students as possible on how to vote, where the parties stand on key issues, and what you can do to help make sure that student debt, food insecurity, financial aid, housing, childcare, and other pressing concerns are not overlooked by political candidates.

As we find ourselves at the halfway mark of the fall/winter academic year, now is the perfect time to seize opportunities for involvement in your students' association. From hanging out at Snowed In, to attending our Special General Meeting on January 13, to volunteering on a campaign or at the UWSA Foodbank, there's always a way to get involved. The only way we can keep building an inclusive and supportive University, the only way we can successfully carry on the struggle for a fairer community, the only way we can eliminate barriers preventing so many from accessing higher education, is by working together.

In solidarity,

Peyton Veitch – President
Kevin Settee – VP External Affairs
Emily Epp – VP Internal Affairs
Jesse Blackman – VP Student Affairs

THE UWSA PRESENTS
Snowed In
FRIDAY, JANUARY 8th

POP TART PARTY + DRAG SHOW

w/ DJs J JACKSON,
ANDY_2_K & ELLE-EGANTÉ

at THE GOOD WILL SOCIAL CLUB
Doors: 9PM | Show: 10PM
18+ ID Required | Free w/ UW Student ID

SNOWED IN 2016

Snowed In is our annual kick-off celebration for University of Winnipeg students in the Winter Term. This year Snowed In is January 6-8th, with the Cabin Series at the UWSA Hive, ending with POP TART PARTY + Drag Show at the Good Will Social Club on Friday night.

The Cabin Series at The Hive will make you feel like you're escaping to the cabin, with board games, hockey, knitting, free winter-inspired fancy drinks, free soup and stew from Neechi Commons, and Snow Jams vinyl spins by CKUW and Stylus.

POP TART PARTY + Drag Show at the Good Will on Friday, January 8th is free for UW students (with student ID). Come warm your toes with the POP TART CREW, DJs J. JACKSON, ANDY_2_K, and ELLE-EGANTÉ and local Winnipeg drag kings and queens.

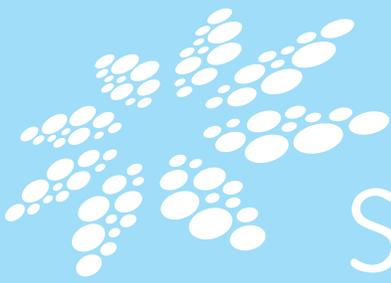
Check theuwsa.ca for a full schedule or follow @theuwsa for updates!

STUDENT GROUPS

Do you find attending UWinnipeg to be a fulfilling experience? Are you learning about your passions and making friends along the way? Joining a student group or two can be a great way of enhancing your time here as a student. Whether you're interested in religion,

social justice, business, philosophy, improv, science, or hoola-hooping there's a group for you. If you love your faculty or want to improve your grades, consider your department's student group – almost every department has one, and many have a lounge. One of the best parts about joining a student group is that you can help enrich life on campus,

from putting on events, like trivia nights or socials, to making lasting connections with folks who you might not have otherwise met. Heck, let's face it, if you graduate, but leave with no fond memories of being a student, would your time here be worth it?



JOIN THE STUDENT MOVEMENT

UWSA DAY CARE EXPANSION

With 10% of UW undergraduates identifying as student parents, access to affordable childcare on campus is essential. In order to meet this need, the UWSA operates a 96-space daycare centre for students, faculty, and community members. In light of an already long waitlist, and the number of student parents likely to increase in the coming years, it's clear that additional childcare spaces are needed to meet current and future demand. The more spaces we can provide, the more accessible pursuing an education at the University of Winnipeg becomes.

To address this, we're working to pursue a \$1 million, 32-space expansion of our UWSA Day Care. As infant spaces are in highest demand, twenty of these spaces will be reserved for infants. With the UWSA providing \$450,000 and the University pledging \$150,000 in support of the project, we are waiting to hear whether or not the provincial government will provide a \$400,000 grant that will allow construction to proceed. Assuming the funding is received, we're hopeful that the expansion will be complete by Spring 2017.

CONSENT CULTURE ON CAMPUS:

Interested in ending sexual violence on campus, in sharing your experiences, or in being an ally? Join the UW Consent Culture Committee or attend the provincial Consent Culture Forum!

The Committee works to create a campus free from sexual violence and to foster a culture of consent through hosting events and advocating for institutional changes. All students are welcome to join! Please contact Kelby at womens@theuwsa.ca for more information or check out the UW Consent Culture Committee Facebook group.

Stayed tuned to the UWSA for information regarding the provincial Consent Culture Forum taking place February 6-7, 2016 at the University of Winnipeg.

INDIGENOUS CREDIT REQUIREMENT

The Indigenous Credit Requirement (ICR) will require all students completing an undergraduate degree at the University of Winnipeg to include a 3 credit-hour course in which the greater part of the content is local Indigenous material. The ICR was approved by the University of Winnipeg Senate on Friday November 20, 2015 and will be implemented in Fall 2016. Students registered prior to the 2016-2017 academic year will not be affected.

Moving forward, we see an opportunity for the University of Winnipeg to act as a leader challenging our community and reaffirming the social obligation of those who work and study here on Treaty 1 territory.

We also do not presume to have answers to some of the difficult questions that we will face as we move forward.

We believe that this initiative will add value to the education offered by the University, but we encourage all voices to join the conversation, especially those who feel alternative paths forward must be taken instead.

The advice of the Indigenous Advisory Circle, as well as Indigenous academics and thought leaders, will guide all our actions as we move forward. We commit to being partners with Indigenous communities, walking together towards a peaceful future.

As the representative body of students on campus, we begin this process in recognition of the role that we must play in creating a learning environment that is accepting and welcoming for all our members. We begin the process of embracing an active role in Indigenizing our institution's learning environment that we wish to study and work within.

For more information, please visit theuwsa.ca/icr

ADVOCACY

Have a problem? We do advocacy. Whether it's an unfair grade, a bad interaction with an instructor or students, or a housing incident, and whatever the issue, the UWSA can help by providing advocacy and insight into university policies and procedures.

The thing about advocacy is that students often don't know they have available resources to support them or how to access these resources.

If you find yourself needing advocacy, contacting the UWSA is a great place to start. As a student, you are a member of the Students' Association and are entitled to many benefits. One of the benefits is advocacy. The VP Student Affairs deals specifically with University related advocacy, and the UWSA is positioned to support you in two key ways: 1) we are included through University processes on most committees that affect student appeals; 2) our function is to represent your interests, and we can use our position to influence processes and decisions.

A few examples of advocacy we have dealt with this year include arranging a meeting between a student, instructor, and the Department Chair regarding a conflict in the classroom allowing everyone to come to a mutual understanding and set of expectations. We have sent emails on behalf of students relaying concerns about instructors' grades and conduct to the appropriate Deans and Chairs.

As an organization, we are in a position to argue for the approval of Retroactive Withdrawals, Deferred Exams, Incompletes, and other appeals through academic advising.

When something goes awry, the UWSA is here to work to help find a better solution and ensure the University follows policy and procedures appropriately leading to outcomes that are consistent and fair.

JOB OPPORTUNITY



Enumerators wanted to collect names for the voters list.

- Responsible community residents
- Available part-time for two weeks
- Visit door-to-door
- Paid positions

APPLY ONLINE

electionsmanitoba.ca

or call **204-945-3225**

Toll-free: 1-866-628-6837