

IN THE NEWS

STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

FALL READING WEEK

Starting in 2016/17, UWinnipeg will become the first university in Manitoba to have a Fall Reading Week. For months, your students' association has worked alongside faculty and admin to turn this proposal into a reality. Coinciding with the Thanksgiving Day weekend, students will enjoy a full week off of classes to catch up on work, prepare for midterms, spend time with friends and family, or just relax. We're committed to promoting positive mental health and wellness on campus, and a week to recharge and decompress during a hectic time of year is an important aspect of this.

NEW RETAIL SPACE

In Fall 2015, UWSA will be opening a new retail space in the old Bodhi Café location in Lockhart Hall, next to The Hive. The new space, "index", will house the former Petrified Sole used bookstore, serve coffee, and offer the cheapest printing and photocopying on campus. We are looking forward to seeing increased accessibility of services for students, and are very excited to see this new space opening.

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR 2015/2016 EXECUTIVE TEAM

From your new UWSA executive team, we hope you're having an excellent spring term and for those of you who are about to graduate, our warm congratulations. For those who will be returning in the fall, we look forward to meeting you in the months ahead.

Why should you care about your students' association? Yes, we provide important services like the UWSA Health Plan, Info Booth, Bike Lab, and Foodbank. Yes, we strive to hold dynamic events like OWeek and SnoWeek. All of this is important, but we're also a vehicle for empowerment and transformation.

The past year has been an exciting one for our movement. Too often, people doubt what we are able to accomplish when we work together. Our victories show that when students are united, there is little we cannot achieve.

From the elimination of interest rates on Manitoba Student Loans, to the approval of a U-Pass program and Fall Reading Week for 2016, to the improvement of counselling services on campus,

and making our University sweatshop-free, we've made a lasting impact that will benefit current and future generations of students.

If this is what we were able to accomplish in the course of one year, imagine what sort of change we can drive by maintaining our momentum in the years to come. As long as there are students struggling to balance a minimum wage job with their studies, as long as international students are paying four times what a domestic student pays for the same education, as long as students face racism, discrimination or sexism, our work remains unfinished.

You are the UWSA: To keep driving toward progress, we rely on your talents, creativity and voices. Without your support, we'll never be able to build the kind of University and society that leaves no one behind.

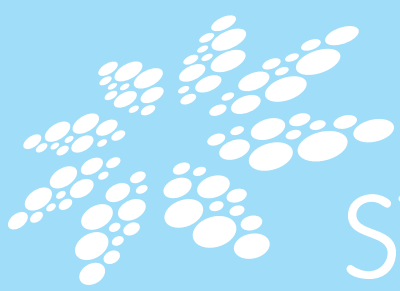
Let's build it together.

In solidarity,

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

COUNSELLING ON CAMPUS

We're thrilled to announce that this summer, the University of Winnipeg will be hiring three full-time, in-house, general counsellors. Previously, only one general counsellor was employed by the University. They'll provide a huge boost to quality mental health services on campus, allowing students to access the support they need and reducing wait times. By making calls to administrators, petitioning and presenting to the Board of Regents, hundreds of students made this victory possible. In the coming year, we'll continue our efforts to make mental health a priority by working with the University community to develop a campus-wide mental health strategy.



JOIN THE STUDENT MOVEMENT

YOUR IDEAS, OUR MISSION. LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN TOGETHER.

#DIVESTUW

The campaign for fossil fuel divestment continues to gather momentum. On Monday, March 30, students blew bubbles and wore black at a Board of Regents meeting to illustrate the "carbon bubble" and encourage the University of Winnipeg to take action on the issue. At the meeting, UW President Dr. Trimbee committed to undertaking a risk assessment of divestment, with a report to follow in the next few months.

The goal of divestment is to convince the University of Winnipeg Foundation to freeze any new investments and begin a process of moving away from existing investments in fossil fuel companies. By supporting this campaign, the UWSA is part of a Canada-wide and global movement. Learn more about Divestment here: www.gofossilfree.ca



Students rally for #DivestUW at the Board of Regents

HEALTH PLAN UPDATE

In April, the UWSA discovered a discrepancy in the health plan fees students paid and the actual health plan costs between the 2008/09 and 2014/15 academic years. We greatly regret this error and are taking the steps required to make sure this mistake is never repeated. The accumulated surplus will be used to waive the health plan levy for three years and to cover health plans for students in need.

Please click the link below for more information.

theuwsa.ca/2015/05/health-plan-notice/

LIVING WAGE

A good job can be hard to find. Here in Manitoba, it now takes a student working a minimum wage job twice as long to pay for their education as it did in the 70s. That's why we're joining a growing number of organizations that are setting a new standard for work. This year, we're moving towards a starting wage of at least \$14.10 per hour for all UWSA staff, a living wage that reflects the true cost of living in our community. We don't just advocate for fair employment, we're proud to provide it too.

Check out our website at theuwsa.ca under the job opportunities tab throughout the year for employment with us.

SWEATSHOP FREE CAMPUS

After a successful referendum and months of lobbying by your students' association, the University of Winnipeg has become the first post-secondary institution in Manitoba to affiliate with the Workers' Rights Consortium (WRC). The WRC is an independent labor rights monitoring organization that conducts investigations of working conditions in factories around the globe. A code of conduct will be developed to make sure that all official UWinnipeg or Wesmen branded merchandise, including sports team uniforms, headgear, towels and backpacks are sweatshop-free.