



University  
of Manitoba  
**STUDENTS'  
UNION**

**TO:** UMSU Board of Directors  
**FROM:** VP Advocacy, Emily Kalo  
**DATE:** April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**RE:** **Report to the Board, April 2022**

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## **New Updates:**

### **Campus Advocacy Update**

#### **2022-2023 UMSU Executive Transition**

Over the past couple of weeks Victoria, Vice-President Advocacy elect, and I met began and completed transition into the role. We discussed the role of the VPA on an institutional, provincial, and federal level. We also held a joint meeting with the President Elect in order to provide both executives with transition on research and advocacy. I have also engaged in discussion with a plethora of my stakeholders to prepare them for this transition, and introduce them to Victoria electronically (e-introductions). All board and subcommittee materials have been compiled and are available for Victoria's review. Transition has now been successfully completed. I am confident Victoria will fulfill her role adequately in the coming term!

### **Provincial Advocacy Update**

Please see continuing updates.

### **Federal Advocacy Update**

#### **Federal Budget Announcement**

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Federal Government unveiled the annual budget for 2022/2023. MAPSS has been awaiting the release of this budget as it signals where the federal government stands on post-secondary education, and whether student lobbying efforts are paying off. While MAPSS cannot confidently say that post-secondary institutions are being given the support they need or deserve, the budget makes meaningful concessions to students, and we're happy to see that Canada's post-secondary student body was considered in the Federal fiscal plan.

Key takeaways from the announcement made Thursday afternoon include:

- Canadian Student Loans Interest will be waived until March 2023. Additionally, repayment assistance is going to be enhanced to ensure that no person making \$40,000 or less will need to make payments on their federal student loans going forward
- Canada Student Grants will remain doubled until July 2023, meaning that full-time students in need will have access to up to \$6,000 per year in non-repayable aid.
- To help graduate students and researchers take their work to market, Science and Economic Development Canada will receive \$47.8 Million over five years, and \$20.1 Million ongoing to innovation, to launch a new national laboratory-to-market platform.

There are also Specific efforts outlined to better support the fiscal and social wellbeing of Canada's marginalized students, they include:



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- International students on the path to permanent residency will, in certain circumstance, be exempt from restrictions which prohibit certain entities and people from acquiring non-recreational residential property in Canada for a period of two years – For example, foreign commercial enterprises, people who are not Canadian citizens, and people who are not permanent residences are included in those prohibited.
- Action to support Canadians living in rural communities was made by earmarking a \$26.2 million increase to the forgivable amount of student loans for doctors and nurses who practice in remote
- Federal granting councils – whose mandate is to strengthen the research infrastructure at Canadian post-secondary institutions – will be provided \$40.9 million over five years and \$9.7 million on ongoing to support promising black student researchers via targeted scholarships and fellowships.
- The government will issue open work permits to Ukrainian visitors, workers and students who are currently in Canada and cannot safely return home.
- An additional investment of \$310.6 million over 5 years will be utilized to support better student outcomes through a Regional Education Agreement with the First Nations Educational Council.

The Press Release in its entirety can be found at <https://mapsstudents.ca/?p=349>

### **Continuing Updates**

#### **Accessibility Audit Steering Committee**

Level Playing Field (LPF) visited both of the University of Manitoba Campuses between April 18<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>, of 2022. Level Playing Field is an accessibility consulting agency which provides a wide range of consultation services to architects, designers, engineers, builders, managers, and implement universal principles and accessible best practices. The LPF consultants were accompanied by members of UM administration, faculty, and study body while participating in their tours and have begun compiling their matrix review.

#### **Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS)**

##### **Provincial Budget Announcement**

On April 12th, The Government of Manitoba announced its Provincial budget for the 2022 fiscal year. MAPSS was pleased to see some meaningful concessions; however, we are deeply disappointed to see a complete lack of initiative regarding post-secondary institutions and student well-being. After two years of education being sidelined by the pandemic, where students have been very outspoken about their struggles and the unresponsiveness to their voices, this is yet again a confirmation that the student voice is not considered an important stakeholder.



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Manitoban students are the future of our province, and the lack of prioritization or responsiveness to the future generation is plainly frightening. As it pertains to post-secondary institutions and students, these are the main takeaways:

- Investing over \$11 million to increase nursing enrolment in Manitoba's post-secondary institutions
- In line with the Manitoba Skills, Talent and Knowledge Strategy, the Provincial government has made a commitment to the following in 2022:
  - partnering with post-secondary institutes to create 400 new nursing seats to meet labour market need
  - developing a new post-secondary accountability framework
  - reviewing Manitoba's immigration pathways and streamlining systems

MAPSS will continue to demand that Manitoban students are heard and valued as an important stakeholder. It is wholly unfair and disrespectful that students work hard to put on campaigns, engage with politicians, and rally support to not only have their asks completely ignored, but for post-secondary education to not even be given a meaningful place in this year's budget

The Press Release in its entirety can be found at <https://mapsstudents.ca/?p=353>

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Meeting with MLA Lamoureux

- The Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students had the privilege to meet with Cindy Lamoureux, MLA for Tyndall Park and Independent Liberal on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- The meeting was used as an opportunity to debrief the #HealthHasNoBorders Campaign, as well as advocate for the priorities of Manitoban post-secondary students such as tuition increases, cost of living, and differential fees.
- MLA Lamoureux committed to a strong working relationship with MAPSS
- During question period on the 13<sup>th</sup>, referred to her discussion with us and directly addressed the Ministers lack of willingness to consult his stakeholders up until that date.

#### Meeting with Jon Reyes, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration, and Shared Health

- Meeting arranged to discuss the #HealthHasNoBorders campaign
- Verbal report to be given

#### Other updates:

- Membership Expansion



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- Brandon University Students Union (BUSU) has committed to joining MAPSS and will be holding a referendum with their general membership in the coming term.
- Shared Perspectives Publication
  - For a fifth year, student advocacy organizations across Canada have collaborated to release *Shared Perspectives*, a joint publication providing region-specific analysis on an important student issue.
  - This year's publication focuses on the changing landscape of student financial aid and highlights the disparities among various jurisdictional programs that consequently make post-secondary education increasingly unaffordable and inaccessible.
  - The publication in its entirety can be found at [https://assets.nationbuilder.com/ousa/pages/2151/attachments/original/1650410209/Shared\\_Perspectives\\_EN\\_2022\\_document\\_English.pdf?1650410209](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/ousa/pages/2151/attachments/original/1650410209/Shared_Perspectives_EN_2022_document_English.pdf?1650410209)

### **Additional Comments**

As I write my final board report as UMSU Vice President Advocacy, I would like to take the time to thank each of you for your time, dedication, and passion for the Board of Directors for the past year. You approached every issue critically and acted as true representatives for the broader student body.

Thank you for putting your trust in me. Our role as student's leaders over the past year has been unpredictable. While there were challenges, there were also shows of great resilience. I hope you can all be proud of the work you have done.

### **Events and Meetings Attended:**

\*Please note: This excludes all meetings internal to the organization.

April 11<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Laurie Schnarr, Vice-Provost Students

April 11<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with the Manitoba Alliance of Post-Secondary Students (MAPSS)

April 12<sup>th</sup> – Provincial Budget Announcement

April 12<sup>th</sup> – Board of Governors Small Group Meeting

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Cindy Lamoureux, MLA Tyndall Park, MAPSS

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Taylor Macleod, UMSU Indigenous Students Community Representative, and students

April 18<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Lisa O'Hara, University Librarian

April 19<sup>th</sup> – Advancing Open Access Subcommittee

April 19<sup>th</sup> – Board of Governor Executive Meeting

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Pet Therapy, Healthy UManitoba



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April 25<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Student, Re: UDC Hearing

April 25<sup>th</sup> – University Disciplinary Committee Meeting

April 25<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Laurie Schnarr, Vice-Provost Students, Mark Torchia, Vice Provost Teaching and Learning, and Greg Smith, Vice Provost Academic Planning

April 25<sup>th</sup> – Annual General Meeting

April 25<sup>th</sup> – Ramadan Iftar

April 27<sup>th</sup> – Sexual Violence Communications Subcommittee

April 27<sup>th</sup> – UM OER Working Group Monthly Meeting

April 27<sup>th</sup> - Meeting with Taylor Macleod, UMSU Indigenous Students Community Representative, and students

April 28<sup>th</sup> – Meeting with Jon Reyes, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration, and Shared Health, re: HealthHasNoBorders Campaign