



**TO:** UMSU Board of Directors  
**FROM:** VP Advocacy, Victoria Romero  
**DATE:** January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**RE:** **Report to the Board, January 2023**

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## New Updates

### Abortion is safe and normal:

In regards to anti-choice protesters on campus: everyone has the right to their own opinion and freedom of expression. However, I understand that the anti-choice protestors can be upsetting, distressing and frustrating for many students, particularly with the use of graphic imagery. While the UM may allow these protestors the right to freedom of expression, they can be doing more to protect students and community members from the graphic, and often unsettling, material. The sandwich boards warning of graphic imagery are a good start, but we must continue to educate and prevent the spread of harmful disinformation about abortion.

Your body, your choice. The decision to get an abortion or to not get an abortion never has to be justified!

Here are some resources about abortion if you are interested/ or if you would like to share these amongst your council/association/club:

- Free and confidential pregnancy testing is available at Klinik (a pro-choice clinic), you can call 204-784-4001 for an appointment
- If you are pregnant, and would like a pro-choice space to discuss your pregnancy options, call the Women's Health Clinic to speak with a Birth Control and Pregnancy Counsellor at 204-947-1517
- To learn more about abortion, how the procedure is performed, please visit: [Abortion | Women's Health Clinic \(womenshealthclinic.org\)](#)
- To find out where you can get an abortion in Manitoba: **If you live in Winnipeg**, please call **204-477-1887**. **If you live outside of Winnipeg**: please call toll-free at **1-866-947-1517**  
**You can also fill out the WHC Online Form:**
- **confidential intake form online.**
- **Live abortion intake line: You can call 204-947-2422 ext. 207 during Abortion Intake Line hours and speak directly to an intake worker. Abortion Intake Line hours are:**
  - Monday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. **OR** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.\*
  - Tuesday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. **OR** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.\*
  - Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
  - Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
  - Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- \*Monday and Tuesday hours alternate weekly
- Forms for abortion at WHC: [Forms | Women's Health Clinic \(womenshealthclinic.org\)](#)



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### **Menstrual Equity on Campus**

Advocacy for greater menstrual equity throughout our UM campuses is well underway! Currently working to have menstrual product disposal bins installed in all washrooms inside the men's changeroom at the ALC. This is incredibly important as the assumption that only people using the female washroom will need these disposal bins is discriminatory in many ways. The ALC staff has let us know that the bins have been ordered and will be installed in the coming weeks once they arrive.

### **Continuing Updates**

#### **International student healthcare**

Correspondence with Shared Health CEO has been made, and they are willing and eager to discuss international student healthcare coverage with us. However, we have been told that they are waiting on the office of Minister Jon Reyes to schedule the meeting between us – a meeting that the Minister promised to arrange back in September 2022.

#### **Harm Reduction**

Currently in the process of organizing various naloxone training dates for BOD members and associations/clubs. If you, or your Association/Club would like to receive naloxone training + free kits, please send me an email [vpa@umsu.ca](mailto:vpa@umsu.ca) and we can work to arrange a date that best fits your schedule.

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

MAPSS will be visiting our member campuses during the first 2 weeks of February. We will be tabling on-site at the University of Manitoba on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Please join MAPSS in calling on the Manitoba provincial government to appropriately & adequately fund the operating grants (of public post-secondary institutions), in order to stop tuition increases, at our FUND OUR FUTURES Rally for Accessible Education on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023! More details to follow, stay tuned!

#### **MMIWG2S & working to address systemic racism and oppression:**

On Dec.1, 2022, the Winnipeg Police Service announced that the homicides of Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, Rebecca Contois and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe, or Buffalo Woman were connected to the same perpetrator.

Since the announcement of the homicides being connected was made, many groups have called on all levels of government to do something about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls & Two-Spirited people epidemic that is ongoing in Canada.



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UMSU has sent letters calling on the municipal government to cease operations at both Prairie Green and Brady Landfills, and search immediately for the remains of those who are still missing.

We have also sent letters calling on the provincial government to urge the City of Winnipeg and the Winnipeg Police to search these sites and, further, for them to urge the federal government to declare a national state of emergency.

In addition to advocacy towards the municipal and provincial governments, we have sent letters calling on the federal government of Canada to declare a national emergency surrounding MMIWG2S.

These letters sent out to all levels of government were created/written by UMSU Indigenous Representative Ishkode Catcheway, UMISA Co-President Raven Morrisseau and myself.

You can find and use these letter templates, written in collaboration with the University of Manitoba Indigenous Students' Association, on the umsu website ([Call to Action – UMSU](#)). You can use these templates to send a letter to the politicians listed.

UMSU Indigenous Representative Ishkode Catcheway, UMISA Co-President Raven Morrisseau and I, have been in contact with Deputy-Mayor & Chair of the Winnipeg Police Service Board Markus Chambers. Deputy-Mayor Chambers has stated that he wishes to continue to listen to the community and support community led efforts that improve safety for Indigenous people in Winnipeg. We are currently working on arranging a meeting where we will present recommendations to Deputy-Mayor Chambers for him to bring back to not only the city council but also the WPS. These recommendations will hopefully help to inform these systems on how meaningful reconciliation that is truly anti-colonial & community-led can be achieved in the future.

#### **External Events & Meetings Attended**

- January 12<sup>th</sup> 2023: MAPSS Meeting
- January 12<sup>th</sup> 2023: UMSU BOD Meeting
- January 13<sup>th</sup> 2023: Meeting with PSA
- January 13<sup>th</sup> 2023: Residence welcome event
- January 14<sup>th</sup> 2023: EAT YER HAT!!!! FASO social
- January 14<sup>th</sup> 2023: SOFASA New Year New Me social
- January 17<sup>th</sup> 2023: CASA Operating procedures consultation
- January 17<sup>th</sup> 2023: Karaoke
- January 18<sup>th</sup> 2023: Senate Executive Committee Meeting
- January 18<sup>th</sup> 2023: Meeting with UMSU Indigenous Representative Ishkode Catcheway & UMISA Co-President Raven Morrisseau
- January 19<sup>th</sup> 2023: Meeting with PSA
- January 19<sup>th</sup> 2023: Talking Radical Sexual Health Rights Week podcast interview
- January 19<sup>th</sup> 2023: Meeting with Vice-Provost Students Laurie Schnarr
- January 20<sup>th</sup> 2023: Meeting with MP Terry Duguid
- January 20<sup>th</sup> 2023: Headphone Disco social



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- January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023: Meeting with organizers from Can't Buy My Silence campaign to end the misuse of NDA's
- January 24<sup>th</sup> 2023: CASA Federal Policy Consultation
- January 24<sup>th</sup> 2023: MAPSS Meeting
- January 25<sup>th</sup> 2023: Internal Anti-oppression training
- January 26<sup>th</sup> 2023: CFS Closing Plenary (virtual)
- January 26<sup>th</sup> 2023: UMSU BOD Meeting