



**TO:** UMSU Board of Directors  
**FROM:** VP Advocacy, Victoria Romero  
**DATE:** March 30, 2023  
**RE:** **AGM Report Winter 2023**

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#### **Individual case work:**

- One large component of the Vice-President Advocacy portfolio is serving as an advocate for student-specific case work. Upon request, I can serve as an advocate for any undergraduate student looking for assistance with university-related concerns.
- Throughout the year, I have worked with many students on individual advocacy cases and concerns. Students can request a meeting to discuss what they are going through and request help to sort things out. As UMSU Vice-president Advocacy, I can aid students in a variety of areas at the UM. The work involved can be as simple as answering a set of questions, providing advice, or connecting students with various resources at the UM and larger community. Student advocacy cases can also involve the student requesting that I be their official advocate in an academic/non-academic disciplinary case, Authorized Withdrawal (AW) appeal, grade appeal, admissions appeal, case for special consideration, or any other situation related to the university they may need assistance with. The student advocacy case work process ensures that the **only** the student determines my level of involvement in their case, and I personally ensure that the student has full autonomy and control over the action we take. Usually, I assist students in writing appeal letters, offering informed advice and resources, assist in communication with the UM/other bodies and act as an advocate for students in meetings and hearings.
- Over the duration of my term, I have worked on 15+ student advocacy cases.

#### **Policy Work:**

- I am currently working with the UMSU Governance Chair to complete a review of the UMSU Position Statement Book to update language, and to create more all-engulfing, equity focused position points for UMSU as a whole.
- I am specifically looking to expand in the areas of Diversity, Equity and inclusion, as well as safety & harm reduction.

#### **University / Internal Advocacy:**

- **Menstrual Products**
  - o This past year, I created and successfully advocated for the implementation of the Menstrual Product Pilot Program. This pilot program was developed over the year and was presented to the Manitoba Provincial Government (in fall 2022) as well as the University of Manitoba (in fall 2022).
  - o I worked alongside the UMSU Womens' Representative to develop the project.
  - o This collaboration between the UM Vice-Provost (Students), the UM Associate Vice-President (Administration), and UMSU will place free pads and tampons in:
    - Eight bathrooms in the UMSU University Center building (Fort Garry campus)
    - One bathroom on the Bannatyne campus
    - One bathroom on the William Norrie campus



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- It is our hope to advocate for the expansion of the program throughout UM campuses in the coming years.
- Menstrual products will be first placed in the gender neutral and female washrooms, and we hope to expand to have products placed in male washrooms as well. The free menstrual products will be available to all, regardless of gender affiliation or identity, providing much-needed support to students, especially during this time of rising costs due to inflation.
- Period poverty and stigma surrounding menstruation are very real issues impacting people around the world and in our province. Menstruation is a part of human existence, and no person should have to sacrifice their education because of it. We are hopeful that this initiative will aid in reducing the stigma and is a step in the right direction towards accessibility.
- This year, I have also worked to advocate for the installation of menstrual product disposal bins in male washrooms on campus. The assumption that only people using the female washroom will need these disposal bins is discriminatory in many ways.
- **Open Educational Resources (OER)**
  - Worked in tandem with UM Libraries to gather data and advocate for funding and implementation of Open Education Resources (OER)
  - Collaborated closely with UM VP Libraries Lisa O'Hara to collect and raise on-the-ground perspectives, concerns and suggestions
  - **Course Packs:**
    - UMSU has been a vocal advocate and supporter of a recent initiative between the University of Manitoba Libraries, and the UM Bookstore.
    - **Non-textbook materials were previously available in “course packs” sold by the Book Store, or through UM Learn in Reading Lists, or course reserves at the libraries. As of this (2023) winter, the new collaboration between the Libraries and the Book Store will have (almost) all non-textbook course materials in UM Learn in Reading Lists, at no cost to students.**
    - If a student wishes to have a paper copy of the course pack, they will still have to pay a fee to print the materials. However, printing the course pack from Reading Lists still represents a cost savings for students in comparison to paying for a course pack from the Book Store, due to the extra costs associated with having them in the bookstore (licensing, printing, etc)
    - With the change in course pack / learning material delivery, there has been attention to ensuring this change is accessible. There are accessible measures in place for students who require them.
    - For example, course packs will be delivered via Reading Lists in UM learn. Reading Lists in UM Learn was developed in accordance with the requirements of the US American Disabilities Act 1990, the US Disability Discrimination Act including Part III, and in line with the Web Accessibility Initiative guidelines. The



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application is compliant by applying a high-contrast level of display, by adjusting the luminosity level of the display, and by applying alternatives to non-accessible methods. The application is compatible with screen readers for the visually impaired and the materials within Reading Lists are added as accessible PDFs.

- Included a recommendation to the UM to increase funding for OER & OER support in the UMSU 2023/2024 pre-budget submission.
- Met with former UM Libraries OER Librarian Janice Winkler to share textbook/learning material affordability concerns. Janice was a participant in the SPARC Open Education Leadership Program, where she submitted a report partially informed by our work together. The report identified the following:
  - **Benefits of OER as defined by stakeholders:** Reduction in cost to students, more opportunity for student engagement in learning, teaching community, use outside of formal learning context
  - **Barriers to OER as defined by stakeholders:** time, lack of financial support, technological barriers, information - the UM does not current gather data on OER use, copyright/fair dealing
- **UM 2023/2024 Budget**
  - UMSU submitted student-informed recommendations to the University of Manitoba Administration, ahead of the 2023/2024 UM Budget
  - **Recommendation #1:** Budget \$450,000 towards the adoption and implementation of Open Educational Resources (OER) to make education more accessible and affordable.
    - \$110,000 to reinstate the full-time OER Librarian position.
    - \$120,000 to hire support staff to assist the OER Librarian in research, advocacy, and outreach.
    - \$85,000 for the creation of an OER fund in order to properly compensate faculty members who undertake textbook adaptations.
    - \$35,000 for OER-related projects, such as tracking statistics, OE week activities, and updating the discipline guide.
    - \$100,000 allocated for free printing for students.
  - **Recommendation #2:** Continue to provide financial support to the Student Counselling Centre (SCC) to hire additional counsellors in an effort to provide students access to life-saving mental health supports.
  - **Recommendation #3:** Provide an increase of \$100,000 towards the on-campus Food Bank to assist students who are struggling with food insecurity.
  - **Recommendation #4:** Earmark an additional \$220,000 to Waste Management to hire additional staff to assist with campus upkeep and sustainability efforts.
- **University of Manitoba Board of Governors**



- Throughout the year, I have worked alongside UMSU President, as well as student board representatives, to ensure a strong student voice on the University of Manitoba Board of Governors
  - Supported several key policy developments regarding academics, infrastructure development, sustainability, DEI, course planning
- **Food Insecurity**
  - I have been working in tandem with the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association to address the issue of food insecurity on our campuses.
  - We have created a survey to gather information on food insecurity as it pertains to food availability on campus.
  - With this information we will be creating workable policy recommendations and solutions that will be presented to UM Administration.
  - UMSU is hosting a food insecurity campaign in April where we will highlight rising food insecurity, on campus resources, and action items moving forward.
- **MAHN Program**
  - Worked alongside UMSU President to advocate to provincial government to approve the creation of the Master of Applied Human Nutrition Dietetic Practicum program.
  - In March 2022, the UM Senate approved the creation of this program, however, by December 2022 it had still not been approved for creation by the Province of Manitoba
  - We created a letter template and sent it to President Michael Benarroch, so he could voice student concerns directly to the Minister of Advanced Education, and the province as a whole.
  - We also sent a letter requesting the approval of the program to the Manitoba Minister of Advanced Education.
  - The MAHN program was approved by the province on February 9<sup>th</sup> 2023.
- **Student Accessibility Services**
  - I am currently working on a submission to UM admin to highlight the need for continued and increased financial support to student resources, such as Student Accessibility Services.
  - Many of the individual student advocacy cases I have worked on this year involved student advocacy. It is clear, and to no fault of SAS themselves, that there is an urgent need for increased funding to aid in the facilitation of SAS supports.

### **Provincial Advocacy:**

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

- Throughout the past year, MAPSS has met with representatives of all provincial political parties with members sitting in the house (Manitoba PC, Manitoba NDP, Manitoba Liberal)
- Brandon University Students' Union (BUSU) is now an official MAPSS Member!



- **Performance Based Funding:**

- Over the past year, MAPSS has been a strong advocate against the implementation of performance-based funding.
- Performance-based funding (PBF) looks to evaluate university, college and polytechnic operating budgets based on certain metrics that are determined by the government. Performance metrics that are tied to funding will negatively impact education in many ways, but mostly through rendering higher education inaccessible to marginalized communities, or those with increased accessibility support needs. Performance-Based Funding hurts all students but is especially damaging to BIPOC and neurodivergent learners.
- MAPSS has expressed out discontent and aversion to PBF to all parties of provincial government, and it was included in our Lobby week meetings & 2023/2024 policy recommendations
- Full MAPSS statement on PBF can be found at this link: <https://mapsstudents.ca/?p=376>

- **International Student Healthcare:**

- MAPSS has been strongly advocating for the re-instatement of free international student healthcare coverage in Manitoba.
- We created the MAPSS International Student Healthcare proposal, calling on the government of Manitoba to make this change. The proposal can be found at this link: <https://mapsstudents.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/intl-healthcare-proposal-2022.pdf>
- Hosted the #HealthHasNoBorders Campaign to raise awareness of and call on the government of Manitoba to re-instate free healthcare coverage for international students. This campaign lasted around 2 weeks and included various action items.
  - Hosted a town hall to raise awareness on the issue. The event featured student speakers, and representatives from provincial government opposition.
  - Gathered over 1000 signatures for our petition calling on government to re-instate free healthcare coverage for international students
  - Held the #HealthHasNoBorders rally on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (opening day of the MB legislature). Many students from across the province participated. Manitoba NDP and Manitoba Liberal elected representatives attended and spoke at the rally.
- **Manitoba Immigration Advisory Council (IAC):**
  - Created in February 2022, the Manitoba Immigration Advisory Council serves as an expert panel to recommend improvements to current immigration policies and programs.
  - The IAC is Co-Chaired by the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration.
  - In December 2022, MAPSS submitted the International Student Healthcare Proposal to the IAC for consideration.



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- On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the final report of the Manitoba Immigration Advisory Council was received by the government. The report of the council made many recommendations on how to improve life for newcomers in Manitoba, and how as a province we can remain an attractive destination for migrants.
  - Within the report, the following was stated “The council would like Manitoba to revisit the contingencies in place for international student health care coverage”.
  - It is incredible to see that the IAC has recognized the need to revisit how Manitoba is treating its international student population in terms of healthcare coverage.
  - The report can be found at this link: [https://immigratemanitoba.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/immigration-council-report\\_en.pdf](https://immigratemanitoba.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/immigration-council-report_en.pdf)
- **Lobby Week, November 2022:**
- MAPSS Lobby week was held during the last week of November 2022. We met with representatives of the Manitoba Progressive Conservatives, as well as the Manitoba Liberal Party.
  - We sent our policy recommendations to provincial government leaders.
  - **Policy Recommendation #1:** Protect equitable and accessible education by strongly opposing the Post-Secondary Accountability Framework (and/or any other performance-based funding model) while still also ensuring that when created, the Post-Secondary Accountability Framework excludes any performance metrics that are tied to the funding of post-secondary institutions.
  - **Policy Recommendation #2:** Commit to supporting the wellbeing of students through robust consultation with post-secondary students in Manitoba about mental health and expanding “*A Pathway to Mental Health and Community Wellness: A Roadmap for Manitoba*” to include a plan to address post-secondary student mental health concerns.
  - **Policy Recommendation #3:** Preserve Manitoba’s status as a desirable foreign study destination, and follow goals outlined in the Skills, Talent and Knowledge Report, by reinstating provincial healthcare coverage for international students at \$0 cost.
  - **Policy Recommendation #4:** Commit to supporting a robust expansion and improvement of online learning within post-secondary education, including enhanced support for open educational resources (OER) and implementation of an online credit transfer database.

#### **Federal Advocacy:**

#### **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)**

- UMSU became an official member of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) in 2021; this was the first full year (full UMSU Executive term) that UMSU was a member. We had the opportunity to collaborate and participate in many federal advocacy projects highlighting



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student issues. Through CASA, we also had the opportunity to present these projects and policies that we developed directly to the Federal government. CASA Student delegates, including myself, participated in over 300 lobby meetings with Federal government in November 2022.

- CASA: attended 4 conferences:
  - **CASA Foundations conference in Ottawa, June 2022**
  - **CASA Policy & Strategy conference in Calgary, August 2022**
  - **CASA Advocacy Week 2022 in Ottawa, November 2022:**
    - I attended 6 lobby meetings with Federal Members of Parliament (MP's)
    - In lobby meetings, I participated entirely in French
    - **Policy recommendations #1:** Lower interest rates on student loans by 1% each year through the government's existing mandate with the final goal of eliminating any interest paid on Canada Student Loans.
    - **Policy recommendation #2:** Maintain current funding levels to Canada Student Grants past the 2022-23 school year, permanently doubling grant maximums for eligible students from \$3,000 to \$6,000 per academic year.
    - **Policy recommendation #3:** Increase the value of graduate scholarships awarded by the Tri-Agencies by 48%, at a cost of \$155.4 million ongoing, and double the number of awards given to students at a cost of \$190 million ongoing, to ensure awards are internationally competitive and increase with the cost of living.
    - **Policy recommendation #4:** Increase the number of Canada Apprenticeship Grants to 40,000 per year to address the urgent need for apprentices and skilled trades across Canada.
    - **Policy recommendation #5:** Create an up-front, non-repayable Canada Student Grant for graduate students with high financial need, at an estimated cost of \$381.5 million per year.
    - **Policy recommendation #6:** Create a new fund of \$500 million over 4 years for the hiring of student mental health professionals on post-secondary campuses.
    - **Full CASA 2023 Pre-Budget Submission policy document can be found here:**  
[https://assets.nationbuilder.com/casaacae/pages/3475/attachments/original/1666026131/EDITED\\_Pre\\_Budget\\_Submission\\_2023\\_%28No\\_Exec\\_Summary%29.pdf?1666026131](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/casaacae/pages/3475/attachments/original/1666026131/EDITED_Pre_Budget_Submission_2023_%28No_Exec_Summary%29.pdf?1666026131)
  - **CASA AGM in Halifax, March 2022**
- **#HalfYourGSG Campaign**
  - In July 2023, the investment of the federal government to double Canada Student Grants Program is set to expire, meaning many students will be left without financial aid in times of rising cost-of-living and inflation.
  - In 2021, the Canadian government doubled Canada Student Grants to offset the costs and stress of the COVID-19 Pandemic.



- CASA launched the #HalfYourCSG campaign in late February 2023, to urge the Canadian government to reinvest in Canada Student Grants and urgently support current students.
- The #HalfYourCSG campaign aims to collect and showcase the stories of students relying on Canada Student Grants across the country, to demonstrate the impact that Canada Student Grant maximums dropping from \$6000 to \$3000 will have on students. These students' testimonials will be used in support of CASA's ask to have the federal government re-invest back into CSGs.
- You can submit your story, and how cuts to Canada Student Grants would impact you at this link: <https://www.casa-acae.com/halfyourcsg>

#### **Municipal Advocacy & Involvement:**

- The municipal government plays a key role in some very important UMSU services – most importantly, the UPASS. The UPASS is an agreement between UMSU and The City of Winnipeg – Winnipeg Transit.
- This year, we sought to create stronger bonds with the municipal government of Winnipeg.
- We have met with Deputy-Mayor Markus Chambers on various occasions and will be meeting with Mayor Scott Gillingham in mid-April 2023.
- **Mayoral Election Environment Forum**
  - In October 2022, I alongside a coalition of environment activist organizations in Manitoba, facilitated a forum for the mayoral candidates of the upcoming City of Winnipeg municipal election
  - All mayoral candidates were present (except for Kelvin Klein).
  - The forum was focused on the environment. Candidates were given the opportunity to answer 4 pre-selected / pre-written questions on sustainability, conservation and environmental & climate change awareness. I assisted in the creation of the questions.
    - **Question 1:** The City of Winnipeg's Community Energy Investment Roadmap (CEIR) calls for an investment of \$23 billion over the next 30 years to achieve zero emissions by 2050. Do you support this goal?
    - **Question 2:** The CEIR report calls for the full electrification of road vehicles, including Winnipeg Transit, and increasing the share of trips made by transit or active transportation. Do you support these goals?
    - **Question 3:** The OurWinnipeg 2045 Development Plan calls for more greenspace and natural areas in the City of Winnipeg to protect and enhance the natural environment and mitigate climate change impacts. Do you support these goals?
    - **Question 4:** The OurWinnipeg 2045 Development Plan calls for more greenspace and natural areas in the City of Winnipeg to protect and enhance





the natural environment and mitigate climate change impacts. Do you support these goals?

- **Question 5:** The CEIR report calls for strategies designed to address inequality and energy poverty. Will you adopt a social and environmental justice lens in the work you do on City of Winnipeg Council to represent the many perspectives and needs of your constituents?
- The Mayoral Forum on the Environment was also recorded and can be viewed at this link: <https://umsu.ca/municipal-election/> timestamps and questions are also provided on the page so you can follow along!
- **Calling for support to end the MMIWG2S crisis**
  - 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.
  - 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) <https://umsu.ca/call-to-action/> . You can use these templates to send a letter to the politicians listed.
  - On February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, UMISA Co-President Raven Morrisseau and I met with Deputy-Mayor & Chair of the Winnipeg Police Service Board Markus Chambers. Deputy-Mayor Chambers had previously stated in a letter response that he wishes to continue to listen to the community and support community led efforts that improve safety for Indigenous people in Winnipeg.
  - We presented recommendations to Deputy-Mayor Chambers for him to bring back to not only the city council but also the WPS. They were based on the 231 Calls for Justice



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outlined in “Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls”. 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.

- Our meeting led to some productive dialogue on the topic, however not much more. We will be submitting our written recommendations to the City of Winnipeg Human Rights Committee of Council, as we were told that is the most effective place to have them considered and possibly implemented.
- **Transit & rideshare safety**
  - Transit, Taxi and Rideshare focus groups will be happening in April 2023.
  - The focus groups will bring together students to share their experiences with public transit and rideshare companies in Winnipeg.
  - You can sign up for the focus group here!  
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uTBWRTdlgEi0cHu0SJi8A6ihLEWmJdhHoF8N2dXMIZIUODczNjE4S0gwTDFXWEdXMDRRMIM1UkYyWi4u>
  - The purpose of these focus groups with students is to gather data in order to create policy recommendations that will be presented to the (City of Winnipeg) Human Rights Committee of Council.
  - The goal of these UMSU focus groups is to provide recommendations to the council in the hopes of increasing safety and comfortability in transportation in the city of Winnipeg; in particular, how we can work to improve safety for Indigenous, Black, Racialized, women + woman identifying, gender diverse & 2SLGBTQIA\* identifying [individuals] on transit.
  - During our meeting with Deputy-Mayor Markus Chambers, we spoke about safety on transit and rideshares in Winnipeg. Using transit or rideshare in Winnipeg has not been known for being a particularly safe mode of travel – females, especially Indigenous women and girls, have seen elevated rates of harassment, assault and abduction by taxi drivers in particular.
  - We want to do what we can to help all students feel safer getting to-and-from campus; our first step is to collect data so we can create meaningful policy, and work alongside the City of Winnipeg to implement it.

#### **Projects:**

- **Harm Reduction Education Campaign:**
  - In December 2022, I created and lead a harm reduction education campaign via the UMSU social media. The campaign lasted from December 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with extenuating activities throughout the month.
  - This campaign featured educational content on safer use of and what to do in the case of overdose of various substances. UMSU does not endorse or promote using



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- substances, however we must recognize that students are using them, and we should do what we can to help keep students safe.
- A different substance, and how to use it properly, was highlighted every day of the campaign.
    - Day 1: What is Harm Reduction?  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/ClzHlISpCqP/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_button\\_share\\_sheet](https://www.instagram.com/p/ClzHlISpCqP/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet)
    - Day 2: Safer Cannabis Consumption  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl19hGEJhHr/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_button\\_share\\_sheet](https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl19hGEJhHr/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet)
    - Day 3: All About Naloxone!  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl6UkC3L77V/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_button\\_share\\_sheet](https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl6UkC3L77V/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet)
    - Day 4: Alcohol Awareness  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl69x3dv2FB/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_button\\_share\\_sheet](https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl69x3dv2FB/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet)
    - Day 5: Stimulant & Depressant Drugs  
[https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl9GzU4PenP/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_button\\_share\\_sheet](https://www.instagram.com/p/Cl9GzU4PenP/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet)
  - I also created and set up a walk-in, interactive harm reduction exhibit, inside the flex-space in University Centre. This exhibit featured information on what harm reduction is, information on the current overdose crisis, safer substance use tips, and a memorial wall for all Canadians who have passed away since 2016 due to the toxic drug supply (35,000+ lives lost since 2016).
  - During the Harm Reduction campaign was occurring, I also was tabling in University Centre throughout the week. I handed out overdose-awareness cards (how to recognize signs of opioid overdose & what to do if suspected), safer-snorting kits, condoms, lube, dental dams, and other various information and resources.
  - I collaborated with the Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC) to have them come to campus for a day of tabling in University Centre. SERC representatives were present to answer SRH (Sexual and Reproductive Health) & substance questions, and hand out resources such as condoms, lube, dental dams, safer-fisting kits, naloxone, safer injection kits, safer-snorting kits, safer-meth use kits, safer-crack smoking kits, safer-GHB dosing kits, benzodiazepine and fentanyl test-strips
  - Harm reduction is one of my biggest passions and throughout the year, I have tried to raise awareness on the topic, and inform students on how to use substances safely.
  - I have also organized various naloxone training sessions for members of the UMSU Board of Directors, faculty associations and club members.
  - If you would like to learn how to use naloxone, how to respond to a suspected overdose, you can attend this free virtual naloxone training hosted by St Johns



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Ambulance. Registration link: <https://calendly.com/oprt/opioid-poisoning-response-training-1?month=2023-04>

- **Manitoba Take-Home Naloxone Program:**

- This year, I applied to have the UMSU Service Centre designated as an official Manitoba Take-Home Naloxone program distribution location
- I sought to have UMSU become a free naloxone location so students could more easily access the lifesaving drug.
- Naloxone is used to rapidly reverse opioid overdoses. It is a fast-acting drug that can restore breathing within 2 to 5 minutes. When you take an opioid, it affects certain receptors in your brain. Naloxone works by kicking opioids off the receptors in your brain and binding to those receptors instead. This reverses or blocks the effects of opioids on your body. [https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/opioids/naloxone.html?utm\\_campaign=hc-sc-opioid-mit-22-23&utm\\_medium=sem&utm\\_source=ggl&utm\\_content=ad-text-en&utm\\_term=what%20is%20naloxone&adv=2223-384750&id\\_campaign=19713084212&id\\_source=147111903838&id\\_content=648736172101&gclid=Cj0KCQjw2v-gBhC1ARIsAOQdKY3ZWMEhRgao4NP-ICMAVxwh8KD3BFGfzd7WZNRZ6p2MiCszlIF-OlgaAqMtEALw\\_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/opioids/naloxone.html?utm_campaign=hc-sc-opioid-mit-22-23&utm_medium=sem&utm_source=ggl&utm_content=ad-text-en&utm_term=what%20is%20naloxone&adv=2223-384750&id_campaign=19713084212&id_source=147111903838&id_content=648736172101&gclid=Cj0KCQjw2v-gBhC1ARIsAOQdKY3ZWMEhRgao4NP-ICMAVxwh8KD3BFGfzd7WZNRZ6p2MiCszlIF-OlgaAqMtEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds)
- Application was accepted on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Naloxone has since been ordered, awaiting correspondence & delivery.
- If you would like to learn more about the Manitoba Take-Home Naloxone Program: <https://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/naloxone.html>

- **Sexual Violence Awareness:**

- I am currently planning a rally in support of survivors, happening April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to raise awareness about sexual violence.
- The rally will take place outside of UC, at 12:30pm on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Please be there!
- The goal of the rally is to support survivors and stand united as a community against sexual violence.
- UMSU will also be tabling in University Centre on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to hand out sexual violence resources, invite people to the rally, and again to raise awareness about sexual violence as well as promote consent culture.
- These activities will be a part of the UMSU Sexual Violence Awareness Campaign, coordinated with the UMSU VPSL.