



**TO:** UMSU Board of Directors  
**FROM:** VP Advocacy, Victoria Romero  
**DATE:** March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**RE:** Report to the Board, March 2023

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New Updates:

### **Food Insecurity Survey**

- Throughout the year we have been meeting with UMGSA to discuss the issue of food insecurity, and how we can take steps to address this on our campuses.
- Food insecurity has been on the rise throughout Canada, and has only been exacerbated by rising cost of living & inflation.
- There has been a survey created by UMGSA (for all UM students) to gather more data on how food insecurity is impacting UM students
- A similar survey conducted in 2015/2016 at the UM uncovered that over 35% of students were struggling with food insecurity
- If you would like to fill out the survey, please do! Your input is valuable and will be used to create workable solutions to be presented to the University as well as the Provincial Government of Manitoba.

Survey can be found at this link: <https://forms.gle/PwqmJTjwXekBKBna8>  
(all students can take the survey! undergraduate/graduate - Masters/PhD)

### **Manitoba Provincial Budget**

- On March 7th, 2023, Budget 2023 was outlined in the annual Budget Speech by (Finance Minister Hon. Cliff Cullen) the Provincial Government of Manitoba.
- There were some considerable highlights in the realm of Advanced Education, namely the announcement of an increase in funding across the board:
  - I. An increase of \$65.5M for operating grants to provincial post-secondary institutions
  - II. Maximum tuition fee increase limit has been lowered to 2.75% (from 3.75%)
  - III. increase of \$9.3M to Manitoba Student Aid to support costs of administering the program
  - IIII. \$2.9M in grant assistance to support the expansion of 289 nursing seats at six MB PSI's in 2023/2024.
- On April 11th, we will be meeting with the Minister of Advanced Education and Training, Hon. Minister Guillemard.

### **Mental Health Week:**

In lieu of UMSU's Mental Health Week, I would like to highlight some mental health supports available to students.

- ***If you are experiencing high levels of stress or in crisis, please call the 24/7 Clinic Crisis Line at 204-786-8686***



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- **Student Counselling Centre:** professional counselling services, group sessions and workshops, one-on-one appointments. 204-474-8592 , [www.umanitoba.ca/student/counselling](http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/counselling) , Room 474 University Centre
- **University Health Service (UHS) Fort Garry**  
Students can receive in-person or remote services. Appointments need to be booked in advance. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.\*

100 UMSU University Centre  
204-474-8411

- **UM Health & Wellness - Health and Wellness Educator**

Bryanna Barker is a Registered Psychiatric Nurse and the health and wellness educator at the University of Manitoba. Bryanna is available to provide health and wellness information and guidance to students individually or to interested groups on campus. For any questions, concerns or health and wellness needs please contact:

Email [healthandwellness@umanitoba.ca](mailto:healthandwellness@umanitoba.ca) or phone 204-295-9032

- **Canada Suicide Hotline:** 1-833-456-4566
- **Sexual Assault Crisis Line:** 1-888-292-7565
- **Velma's House - Ka Ni Kanichihk:**

"A Safe Space for adult women, and members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community who identify as female who are unsheltered, experiencing violence or sexual exploitation. A place without judgment or assumptions, where people are welcomed and valued just as they are.

An initiative led by Ka Ni Kanichihk, in collaboration with the 24/7 Safe Space Planning Committee, which consists of: Manitoba MMIWG2S+ Coalition of Families, the Lived Experience Advisory Committee, Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre, End Homelessness Winnipeg, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre and the West Central Women's Resource Centre.

Women can access Velma's House on a drop-in basis at 566 Bannatyne Ave. There is no need to book an appointment or call ahead."

- **Human Trafficking hotline: Toll-free 1-844-333-2211**



University  
of Manitoba  
**STUDENTS'  
UNION**

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Continuing updates

**SWSA Menstrual Product Donation Drive:**

- The Social Work Students' Association is collecting menstrual products to help combat period poverty.
- According to a survey by Plan Canada, released May 25th 2022, 1 in 5 women-identifying people struggle to afford menstrual products for themselves.
- Pads, tampons, liners, menstrual cups, new underwear (any size) & monetary donations are being accepted until March 31st.
- Donation bins are located at :
  - Social Work Student Lounge - 508 Tier
  - Faculty of Arts Student lounge - 200 Fletcher Argue
  - University 1 Student Lounge - 1st floor Tier
  - Women's Centre - 190 Helen Glass
  - Elizabeth Dafoe Library - 25 Chancellors Circle