



University  
of Manitoba  
**STUDENTS'  
UNION**

**TO:** UMSU Board of Directors  
**FROM:** VP Advocacy, Victoria Romero  
**DATE:** April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**RE:** Report to the Board, April 2023

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### **Naloxone at the Service Centre**

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 distribution location so students could more easily access the lifesaving drug.

As of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the University of Manitoba Students' Union Service Centre is now an official free take-home naloxone distribution location. Students will be able to receive up to two (2) free naloxone kits at a time from the UMSU Service Centre upon request.

The UMSU Service Centre can be found listed as a free naloxone site on the Manitoba Provincial Government Naloxone Finder tool: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/naloxone-finder.html>

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-gBhC1ARIsAQQdKY3ZWMEhRgao4NP-ICMAVxwh8KD3BFGfzd7WZNRZ6p2MiCszIIF-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-gBhC1ARIsAQQdKY3ZWMEhRgao4NP-ICMAVxwh8KD3BFGfzd7WZNRZ6p2MiCszIIF-OlgaAqMtEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds)

Naloxone has been ordered, currently awaiting correspondence & delivery. The Take-Home Naloxone program will be managed by the UMSU Vice-President Advocacy, with assistance from designated UMSU full time staff.

If you would like to learn more about the Manitoba Take-Home Naloxone Program:

<https://www.manitoba.ca/health/publichealth/naloxone.html>

### **Position Statement Book amendments and updates**

I am currently conducting a review of the UMSU position Statement Book. The book has not been updated since February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, meaning it is quite outdated in terms of language and sensitivity.

I have proposed several amendments to the Position Statement Book, as well as the introduction of a new position: Harm Reduction, to the UMSU Governance Committee as well as the UMSU Executive Committee. I have also worked on creating these amendments with the UMSU Governance Chair Ivan as well as the UMSU Research and Strategy Advisor.

Hopefully, we will be able to approve and vote on these changes so that they can be introduced before the year end. It is alarming that no one has updated them since 2019, and now that we can, we should!



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## **Continuing updates**

### **Food Insecurity**

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! Survey can be found at this link:**

**<https://forms.gle/PwqmJTjwXekBKBna8>**

(all students can take the survey! undergraduate/graduate - Masters/PhD)

The survey will close on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023. After this, we will undertake a review of the data collected and present it to the University of Manitoba Administration and the Provincial Government of Manitoba, alongside workable policy solutions, for consideration.

### **Sexual Violence Awareness Campaign & Rally**

Tabled in University Centre for the week of April 4-8<sup>th</sup> 2023 to provide sexual violence resources and other harm reduction resources

Tabled with the Sexual Violence resource Centre, Safer Social Event Team, and REES

Rally has been postponed, new date TBD

### **Transit, Taxi and 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.



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- You can sign up for the focus group here!  
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uTBWRTdlgEi0cHu0SJi8A6ihLEWmJdhHoF8N2dXMIZIUODczNjE4S0gwTDFXWEdXMDDRRMIM1UkYyWi4u>
- ***Everyone who registers for the focus group will be entered to win 1 of 2 \$25 UMSU gift cards***  
(can be used at any UMSU business – Degree's, GPA's, IQ's, VW Social Club, or UMCycle)
- 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 – women / women identifying people, especially Indigenous women and girls, have seen elevated rates of harassment, assault and abduction on transit, 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.

#### **External meetings and events attended**

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Advancing Open Access subcommittee meeting

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023- Federal budget CASA debrief

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023- Student Senate Caucus