



UNIVERSITY REPORT CARD

Manitoba's performance on post-secondary education, as graded by the professors, instructors, and librarians of the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA)

Grade Scale

- A+** Expectations exceeded!
- A** Expectations met
- B** Positive improvement

- C** Modest improvement, work needed!
- D** Low performance
- F** Moving Backwards!

Ensure universities have stable, predictable funding

Grade: F – Moving Backwards!

Unlike the previous government, the Pallister government only gives funding year by year, threatens to reduce funding at every turn, and has made our universities more dependent on student tuition fees. This is unfair to both academic workers and students.

Allow universities to manage their operating grants in accord with Academic Freedom

Grade: F – moving backwards!

By legislation, universities are autonomous entities. Governments have significant say through appointees to Universities' Boards of Governors, and their power should end there. This government makes threats and ultimatums, and interferes with collective bargaining. In 2016 this contributed to UMFA walking the picket lines for three weeks: secret directives from the government derailed negotiations at the last minute.

Universities should be financed by the public treasury

Grade: F – moving backwards!

Manitoba, along with other provinces, is rushing headlong away from this goal. A 0.9% cut to provincial funding for universities this year has meant big tuition increases for students. Also, Research Manitoba, which funds research at Manitoba's universities, was cut by \$2 million in 2017 and by another \$3 Million in 2018.

Child care services that meet the needs of post-secondary students and staff

Grade: C – Modest Improvement, work needed!

7 out of 10 parents on our campuses are students, and 1 in 3 faculty members require child care. Despite the high quality of child care in Manitoba, accessing one of the spaces is virtually impossible. There are currently over 10,000 children waiting for childcare in Manitoba, a ratio of 3:1 children waiting for every space. At the University of Manitoba child care centres the ratio is even higher at 7:1. While the current facilities are being expanded at the UM, this still won't come close to what's needed.

Accessible post-secondary education for Indigenous students

Grade: C – modest improvement, work needed!

In 2015, post-secondary institutions in Manitoba committed to the *Indigenous Education Blueprint*, making excellence in Indigenous education a priority. Since then, Indigenous student enrolment and graduation rates have increased by about 5%. The number of Indigenous students on waiting lists to attend post-secondary institutions is growing quickly and increased support is needed. Also, Access programs were cut by 11% this provincial budget and tuition can now be raised by 5% and more each year, making a university education less accessible.

Full-time, stable work for post-secondary education workers

Grade: F – moving backwards!

Academic workers continue to be under threat of casualization, and that threat only looms larger with the Pallister government's pattern of budget cuts and government interference in collective bargaining. Many courses are taught by temporary contract workers that have no job security and a much lower rate of compensation than full time academics. According to salary data provided by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), academic contract staff in Manitoba are paid almost \$1,000 below the national average per course.

Affordable student housing

Grade: D – low performance

There are approximately 1,350 residence beds available to the student population of over 29,000 at the University of Manitoba. Many students cannot afford the \$7,512 - \$12,761 for two semesters of room and board charged in 2017-2018, in addition to their rising tuition. As a result some students struggle to find safe affordable housing in the tight private market where there is a vacancy rate of less than 3%. Some are forced to rent rooms in unsafe, illegal rooming houses.

Interest-free student loans

Grade: A – expectations met! ...in Manitoba, at least

The previous government made Manitoba student loans interest-free in 2015. However, the Pallister-mandated KPMG audit recommends that this be scrapped. So far, the Manitoba portion of student loans still don't accrue interest.

Provide reduced-cost public transportation for students

Grade: B – positive improvement

The University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg offer reduced rate "U-Pass" transit passes, which save students \$306.00 annually over regular student rates for a monthly pass. Other post-secondary students can purchase a Post-Secondary Pass for 20% below full fare.

Reduce the disparity in tuition between professional programs and non-professional programs

Grade: D – Low performance

Tuition at the University of Manitoba still varies enormously between programs like Arts and Science (around \$4,000 - \$5,000 per year), Law (\$10,000), Medicine (\$9,000) and Dentistry (\$21,000). Unfortunately this is on par with the spread at other universities like the University of Calgary and the University of Saskatchewan.

Unite against austerity!

Walking the picket lines?
Organizing a rally?
Contact the UMFA Solidarity
Committee for support!
Email gflemming@umfa.ca or call
204.474.8272

