



March 18, 2021

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Sign the petition! Defeat Bill 33 (changes to tuition and student fees)

The Provincial government is again interfering with University autonomy, this time by proposing changes to the Advanced Education Administration Act that will increase Ministerial powers over tuition and student fees. This could also cut funding, or altogether eliminate, services that students rely on. The Canadian Federation of Students' Manitoba chapter is circulating a petition against Bill 33. For more info and to sign the petition, click [here](#).

Sign this letter! Call on the Federal Government to restore funding that provides accessible reading materials

Please sign a letter of support urging the federal government to immediately restore full funding to the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS).

Both CELA and NNELS are crucial in providing accessible reading materials and services for those with print disabilities including those with vision loss, learning disabilities and physical disabilities.

To read and sign the letter, click [here](#).

Reminder: UM Spring virtual retirement sessions

In conjunction with campus labour unions, the UM will be conducting virtual retirement information sessions this spring. Registration opened March 9th. Dates and times of the sessions are below.

- **May 27 (9am-1:30pm)**; VIRTUAL Retirement Session (maximum 20 registrants)
- **May 31 (9am-1:30pm)**; VIRTUAL Retirement Session (maximum 20 registrants)
- **June 1 (5-9:30pm)**; VIRTUAL Retirement Session (maximum 20 registrants)

Deadline to register: April 27, 2021

- **June 2 (10:30am-1:00pm)**; Additional Session - Are you Thinking Ahead of your Retirement Planning? (maximum 90 registrants)

Deadline to register: May 20, 2021

Questions about these sessions can be directed to Sharmaine Gagnon, Governance Administrator, Pension Office at Sharmaine.gagnon@umanitoba.ca.

UMFA elections for President and Vice-President March 23-25

Elections for the Executive positions of UMFA President and Vice-President will take place March 23-25. All regular Members of the Association (**those who have signed a blue card**) are entitled to vote in the election. Ballots will be distributed and cast in the same manner as were the strike and ratification votes conducted last year: a personalized e-ballot link will be sent to your email inbox in the evening of March 22 or the morning of March 23, and you will have until 10pm on March 25 to cast your ballot.

Candidate statements were released on March 3 and again on March 16 .

Results will be announced on Friday, March 26, and made official at the AGM (May 18, 2021).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Greg Flemming at gflemming@umfa.ca.

UMFA gets social! - Virtual social events coming this spring

The last year has been unquestionably hard, especially on mental health. Members have expressed a desire to get together with colleagues to talk and be social as that critical piece of daily working life has been missing. UMFA will be arranging virtual gatherings later this spring, including a session specifically for new members to the Association. Keep a look out for details on these events in the coming weeks.

Call for nominations for MOFA Committees

The Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations (MOFA) is seeking members to join new committees as work begins on the implementation and design of the Higher Education Works campaign. The committees will be responsible for working with and directing the MOFA campaign director in their work.

The committees are:

- **Finance and Operations Committee**
- **Political Action, Solidarity and Community Outreach Committee**
- **Membership Outreach Committee**

For committee descriptions, please click [here](#). Please contact gflemming@umfa.ca with any questions.

If you have information or an event that you'd like to share in an upcoming issue, please email the item to umfa-communications@umfa.ca for consideration.

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Faculty Association

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