



March 2, 2021

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Reply to Government Appeal of PSSA – “The Arc Bends Increasingly Towards Workplace Justice”

The Partnership to Defend Public Services (PDPS – of which UMFA is a member) has filed a reply to the Government’s appeal of the PSSA decision. You may remember that the court of Queen’s Bench declared the PSSA not only unlawful, but “draconian”.

In the reply to the appeal, counsel for the PDPS asserts that the Court of Queen’s bench arrived at the correct decision based on the findings of the Labour Board in regard to UMFA’s 2016 unfair labour practice complaint.

Read more [here](#).

In case you missed it - Message from MOFA

The Manitoba Skills, Talent and Knowledge Report on Higher Education: Are the objectives and actions on the same path?

The Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations (MOFA) has reviewed the Manitoba Skills, Talent and Knowledge Strategy report and is delighted that it acknowledges the key role that post-secondary education plays in Manitoba. We certainly support objectives such as improving participation in post-secondary education in Manitoba that currently ranks near the bottom of the country. We would also support measures that increase the participation of historically disadvantaged groups, though we await details on how this will be achieved. And we note that there is a sharp disconnect between these laudable aspirations and the actions of the current government that have exactly the opposite effect. For example, if we want to increase participation in higher education, it is not obvious how funding cuts to universities, past, present and future, will achieve that goal. Read more [here](#).

UM Spring virtual retirement sessions

The UM will be conducting virtual retirement information sessions this spring. Registration will open on March 9th. More information will appear in UM Today on March 10. 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.

CCPA-MB: Brad Wall Hydro Report Brings Privatization Failures to Manitoba

The Pallister government commissioned former Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall to conduct an economic review of the Bipole III and Keeyask projects. In his report, Wall recommends the privatization of Manitoba Hydro; something that Manitobans are staunchly opposed to, and something which Brian Pallister has stated numerous times that his government would not do. Read what CCPA Manitoba has to say about the Wall report [here](#).

Nominations close this Friday for UMFA awards

This Friday at 4:00 p.m. is the deadline for nominations for the following awards:

ROY VOGT MEMORIAL AWARD

The Roy Vogt Memorial Award is to be presented to an Association member or past member in recognition of outstanding service to the Association. The award will be a certificate, as well as a contribution to the charity chosen by the award winner.

PAUL FORTIER PRIZE FOR STUDENT ACTIVISM

The \$500 Paul Fortier Prize for Student Activism is presented to a current University of Manitoba student who demonstrates an active involvement in union related activities and/or community activism and/or activities aimed towards improving student life and/or working conditions of student employees, including markers, research assistants and sessional lecturers.

CAUT DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

The CAUT Dedicated Service Award was established to recognize exceptional service provided by individuals at the local or provincial level. This award is granted by CAUT upon receipt of a recommendation from a local, provincial or federated association.

For details see <http://www.umfa.ca/news/118-2021-awards-nominations>.

Claim your benefits! Health Care Spending Account year ends March 31

A reminder that all Healthcare Spending Account claims must be incurred by March 31. Check your Health Care Spending Allowance account at [Great West Life](#) to make sure you have used up your entire \$825 balance.

If you did not use all the HCSA benefits in the benefit year of April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, the Canada Revenue Agency has authorized adding those unused benefits to your current year account (ending March 31, 2021). The amount you did not spend will appear in your HCSA around Friday, February 20. You only have until March 31, 2021 to incur those expenses. The email from administration was sent out on February 8 with more complete information – check your inbox.

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.