

Negotiation deadline nears, UMFA continues to push for a fair deal for students and faculty
Students support UMFA in a deal that prioritizes the future of public education

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Winnipeg- Students and faculty are united as the University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) continues to push for a fair deal that prioritizes the future of public education in Manitoba. Students are pushing for fair compensation for faculty, to address retention and recruitment issues at the University of Manitoba and ensure that the university can remain a top institution in Canada. UMFA is working with the university's administration to reach a fair agreement, but negotiations continue to be disrupted by the provincial government, pushing UMFA members closer to a strike.

"We support UMFA because they are fighting for the future of our university," said Moira Kennedy, a University of Manitoba student. "Faculty working conditions are also student learning conditions, and we all benefit when we can retain and recruit the best faculty for students in Manitoba. This simply isn't possible when this government needlessly inserts themselves into the bargaining process."

Continued interference from the provincial government is jeopardizing the future of public education in Manitoba, and negotiations are unable to progress when the provincial government imposes a below-inflation wage mandate. UMFA is calling on the new Premier Heather Stefanson to reject the failed legacy of Brian Pallister and stop interfering so that UMFA and the university's administration can bargain in good faith.

"Government interference results in unnecessary strikes and lengthy legal challenges when our focus should be on providing the best education for our students. We need the new Premier to focus on running the province, not interfering with an independent university," said Orvie Dingwall, UMFA President. "We have a recruitment and retention problem at the University of Manitoba and as a result of this interference, we're being forced to strike instead of being able to provide a positive learning environment for our students."

UMFA has set a bargaining deadline of 11:59pm on Sunday evening and continues to bargain with the university administration throughout the weekend. If there is a strike, it would begin the morning of Tuesday, November 2nd. UMFA represents over 1,200 professors, instructors, and librarians at the University of Manitoba.