

University of Manitoba Faculty Association calls on Premier Stefanson to stop interfering in bargaining, respect university independence as part of Throne Speech

UMFA members will hold a rally outside of the Legislature at 12:30pm

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Winnipeg - The University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) is calling on Premier Heather Stefanson to use her Speech from the Throne to announce an end to her government's interference in collective bargaining at Manitoba's universities. Continuing government interference has resulted in faculty recruitment and retention issues and prolonged the current faculty strike.

"Due to this government's interference in UMFA's bargaining, both in 2016 and this year, we've struggled to recruit and retain top talent who drive innovation and will educate Manitoba's future leaders. This government needs to stop interfering in bargaining so that we can get students back to their classes," said Orvie Dingwall, UMFA President. "Our premier needs to respect the independence of the University of Manitoba and let our faculty members do what they do best - educate students, research, and drive innovation that will keep the University of Manitoba competitive."

Members of UMFA will hold a rally at 12:30pm outside of the Manitoba Legislative Building. UMFA members from the Faculty of Health Sciences, Lynda Balneaves and Sachin Kaytal, will speak on how government interference continues to cause issues for faculty retention and recruitment.

"We're seeing the long term consequences of this interference, not only at the University of Manitoba, but across the province, especially in our healthcare system," said Dingwall. "This government has an opportunity to close the door on the failed policies of Brian Pallister, and to signal a new era for post-secondary education."

UMFA represents over 1,200 professors, instructors and librarians at the University of Manitoba.