

University of Manitoba Faculty Association calls on the PC Government to stop interfering in collective bargaining

UMFA members and their four-legged leashed supporters will be marching at the Legislature from 5pm until 6pm

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Winnipeg- The University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) is calling on the provincial government to cut the leash that is preventing the University of Manitoba from bargaining in good faith. As UMFA members fight for a fair deal, the government continues to interfere in bargaining, inhibiting the ability to reach a fair deal. UMFA has organized a dog walk action, at 5 pm at the Manitoba Legislative Building to call on the government to take the leash off of University of Manitoba President Michael Benarroch. UMFA encourages their members and supporters to bring their dogs as part of this walk, as they call on the government to unleash the university from continued interference.

“As our bargaining deadline draws closer, the government continues to interfere and prevent fair bargaining between UMFA and the University of Manitoba,” said Orvie Dingwall, UMFA President. “We know that we can reach a positive resolution in bargaining, but we need this government to remove itself from our negotiations and help prevent a strike.”

Today’s action comes as the PC Party of Manitoba prepares to elect their new leader and the Premier of Manitoba this weekend. UMFA will be calling on the new leadership to distance themselves from the abrasive and obstructive leadership style of Brian Pallister, whose interference pushed the union to strike in 2016.

“We need the next premier to act in the best interests of students by stopping their interference in bargaining which can help avert a strike,” said Dingwall. “We need to be able to negotiate with our employer without interference so that we can reach a deal that puts students and faculty first”.

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