

## University of Manitoba Faculty Association reaches impasse in negotiations Strike set to begin Tuesday, November 2nd

**Winnipeg-** The University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) has reached an impasse with the University's administration after mediation failed to produce an agreement that prioritized faculty recruitment and retention. UMFA tabled a final offer that prioritized recruitment and retention and would have avoided a strike, which was rejected by the university of administration. The over 1,200 members of UMFA begin their strike on November 2nd, and faculty will continue to push for a fair deal that ensures quality education in Manitoba.

"The University of Manitoba administration has chosen not to invest in the future of our faculty and our university, leaving us no choice except to strike," said Orvie Dingwall, UMFA President. "Students know that faculty working conditions are student learning conditions. It is disappointing that the University administration did not want to exercise its independence from the provincial government and provide stability for students by accepting our offer and avoiding a strike."

The University has the ability to fairly compensate UMFA members, but has chosen to allow the provincial government to continue interfering in negotiations. UMFA reiterated its call for the new Premier, Heather Stefanson, to immediately pull the wage mandate.

"While we are dismayed that the University's President Michael Bennaroch refused to protect the independence of the university, we are equally disappointed that the provincial government continues to interfere in our negotiations by imposing their wage mandate," said Dingwall. "New Premier Heather Stefanson has an opportunity to distance herself from the legacy of Brian Pallister by walking away from this wage mandate. We need our new premier to focus on governing the province, and not meddle with the operations of the University of Manitoba."

UMFA is pleased to have the support of the University of Manitoba Students Union (UMSU) and several student groups on campus as UMFA members fight for a fair deal that invests in both students and faculty. More information will be made available to UMFA members, students and supporters in the coming days. UMFA represents over 1,200 professors, instructors and librarians at the University of Manitoba.