



## The University of Winnipeg Faculty Association

13 October 2021

The Honourable Wayne Ewasko  
Minister of Advanced Education, Immigration and Skills  
156 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Ewasko;

I am writing to you today as President of the University of Winnipeg Faculty Association to express my deep concern with the government's interference in ongoing collective bargaining between the University of Manitoba Faculty Association and the Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba. Per legislation, the University of Manitoba is autonomous, and the ability to freely and without interference reach an agreement with the Faculty Association is a key element of that autonomy (as expressed in, among other places, The Advanced Education Administration Act, C.C.S.M. c. A6.3 s. 2(1)). By continuing to enforce the provisions of Bill 28 – called “draconian” by Justice Joan McKelvey – the government is making it impossible for Universities in Manitoba to operate freely, to attract and retain faculty, to promote research and scholarship, and to pursue the mission of the University of Manitoba as provided in The University of Manitoba Act, C.C.S. M. c. U60. The government has the right to set funding amounts and to inform the Board of Governors of these amounts, but they do not have the right to intervene by setting wage mandates for individual institutions. President Benarroch has indicated that he has received such a mandate, and to date and to my knowledge, you and your office have not denied that such mandates exist, even when asked in the Legislature.

As the President of a Faculty Association, I call on you to rescind these mandates and respect free and open collective bargaining. On my election to my current position, I received a letter of congratulations from you that acknowledged the critical leadership role of a Faculty Association President and the specific and important circumstances during which I have taken on this role. I took this letter as a sign of your willingness to respect the autonomy of Universities, to work with Universities and Faculty Associations to create the best possible teaching and research conditions in Manitoba, and to pursue a new and cooperative working relationship with workers at Universities. The first step in that relationship is a commitment to respect our constitutionally-guaranteed right to collective bargaining, and to respect the autonomy and independence of Manitoba Universities under provincial law.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter J. Miller, PhD  
President, University of Manitoba Faculty Association

cc: University of Manitoba Faculty Association