

**FAST FACTS: An UMFA News
Bulletin**

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July 4, 2017

Hi everyone,

Please find below the July 4, 2017 edition of the UMFA Fast Facts. Click the links below to jump to the topics that are relevant, or of interest, to you. If you have information or an event that you'd like to share in an upcoming issue, please email it to umfa-communications@umfa.ca for consideration.

General Information:

- [Public Sector Unions File for Injunction Against Bill 28](#)
- [OP ED: "Universities need more funds for research"](#)
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Public Sector Unions File for Injunction Against Bill 28

On July 4, 2017, the Partnership to Defend Public Services, which UMFA is a part of, filed an injunction against the Public Services Sustainability Act. More information on what this means, including a copy of the actual statement of claim, is on our website: <http://www.umfa.ca/news/71-public-sector-unions-file-for-injunction-against-heavy-handed-new-labour-law>.

OP ED: "Universities need more funds for research"

UMFA Members Ian Hudson and Robert Chernomas recently published an opinion piece in the Winnipeg Free Press on how Canada falls short in investment in research and development (R&D). To read the article, click here: <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/opinion/analysis/universities-need-more-funds-for-research-426919821.html>.

UMFA Bargaining Survey Most Successful one to Date

Thank you to everyone who completed the UMFA Bargaining Priorities Survey. It had our highest response rate to date! More information on the next steps following results analysis can be found here: <http://www.umfa.ca/news/72-umfa-bargaining-survey-most-successful-to-date>.

Welcome to new UMFA staff member, Andrew Maclsaac



UMFA recently welcomed a new staff member to the office. Andrew MacIsaac started at the end of June as In-House Legal Counsel, replacing Barb Yapps, who retired on June 30.

Andrew graduated with an LLB from Robson Hall in 2009. He was called to the Bar in Ontario in 2010. He then practiced labour law in Toronto for 2.5 years before practicing as in-house counsel to the United Steelworkers (Canadian National Office) for 3.5 years. He then worked as Staff Representative for the Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union (MGEU) for the past year.

Andrew will be working alongside UMFA Legal Counsel Jason Gisser in bargaining and in representing UMFA Members.

If you're by the UMFA office, come in and say hello and welcome to Andrew.

Report: INVESTING IN CANADA'S FUTURE
Strengthening the Foundations of Canadian Research

The link below contains the report of the Advisory Panel on Federal Support for Fundamental Science. This panel has recommended a course of action the Government of Canada should follow to strengthen the foundations of Canadian research.

From the abstract:

Canadian accomplishments in science and scholarly inquiry have long been a source of national pride. However, by various measures, Canada's research competitiveness has eroded in recent years when compared with international peers. The change coincided with a period of flat-lining of federal spending through the four core funding agencies that support researchers in universities, colleges, institutes, and research hospitals. In those years funds were also directed preferentially to priority-driven and partnership-oriented research, reducing available support for independent, investigator-led research by frontline scientists and scholars.

The proportion of federally derived funding for research has also declined. Canada ranks well globally in higher education expenditures on research and development as a percentage of GDP, but is an outlier in that funding from federal government sources accounts for less than 25 per cent of that total, while institutions now underwrite 50 per cent of these costs with adverse effects on both research and education. (To read more:

[http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/vwapj/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf/\\$file/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf](http://www.sciencereview.ca/eic/site/059.nsf/vwapj/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf/$file/ScienceReview_April2017-rv.pdf)).

If you have information or an event you think would be of interest to UMFA Members in a future issue of Fast Facts, please email umfa-communications@umfa.ca.