



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

University of Winnipeg Celebrates Canada Day with Neighbours, Records Another Successful Year

WINNIPEG—Just one day shy of the nation's 138th birthday, The University of Winnipeg joined with its neighbours to celebrate its second annual Canada Day gathering and another successful year of operations. The University reported a small operating surplus of \$758,000 based on revenues of \$78.5 million, increased enrolment by almost 5% to achieve a student complement of 9,000 (full- and part-time students, including The Collegiate and Division of Continuing Education), and graduated a record 1,082 students.

The Canada Day celebrations were held in Riddell Hall. Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, President of The University of Winnipeg, congratulated and thanked the academic and administrative staff for their hard work and sound fiscal management. He also provided a brief overview of accomplishments over the past year and plans for the future, including:

- ✓ A \$3M investment from the Province of Manitoba to upgrade services available to students at The University of Winnipeg, including a new student information and technology system (which should be up and running by this time next year), improved safety and security initiatives, and conversion to a wireless campus;
- ✓ Improved counseling, health, and information services for students; as well as bursary program for students in need, funded through a modest increase in student ancillary fees;
- ✓ In the *Maclean's* magazine graduate survey, The University of Winnipeg is ranked in the top ten of all Canadian universities for entire educational experience;
- ✓ Strong cooperation from the City of Winnipeg and extensive community consultations to develop plans for the Spence Street Pedestrian Mall;
- ✓ Attracting major affiliates to UWinnipeg such as the Centre for Sustainable Transportation, the Historica Teachers' Institute, and the international headquarters of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children;
- ✓ The establishment of the Wii Chii Waa Ka Nak Learning Centre in partnership with the South East Resource Development Council and with the support of the private sector and the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement's Urban Aboriginal Strategy;
- ✓ Securing funding through The University of Winnipeg Foundation for many new initiatives, including a new Aboriginal Student Services Centre, the Global College, Wii Chii Waa Ka Nak, and additional scholarship and bursary support;
- ✓ Margaret Sweatman named as first Carol Shields Writer-in-Residence;
- ✓ The OmniTRAX/Broe Quest series;

- ✓ A new Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Peoples in an Urban and Regional Context;
- ✓ A commitment to become Kyoto compliant through the development of an Environmental Management System;
- ✓ A pilot project to establish a downtown wireless corridor in partnership with Red River College and the Centre for Aboriginal and Human Resources Development; and,
- ✓ The creation of Community Renewal Corporation to lead The University of Winnipeg development projects.

Investments over the past year in some of the critical long-standing equipment, academic, and infrastructure needs such as:

- Financial investment in The University of Winnipeg pension fund;
- Upgrades to academic and scientific equipment and building renovations;
- Increases in internal research grants; and,
- The recruitment of over 20 faculty and administrative staff.

“Universities remain in a precarious budget situation,” said Dr. Axworthy, adding that “a drop in enrolment of 200 students can literally mean the difference between a budget surplus and a budget deficit.” He credited the recently announced funding agreement with the Province of Manitoba as a pivotal investment and noted the financial situation of post-secondary educational institutions requires a concerted effort and long-term strategy.

A critical element of this strategy, and a key focus for The University of Winnipeg in the next year, is to galvanize support from all levels of government, working in partnership with the Aboriginal and business communities, to develop a tri-level agreement focused on urban Aboriginal education.

Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Ranked by our graduates in Maclean's magazine University Graduate Survey (November 15, 2004) in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their “Entire Educational Experience.” UWinnipeg is home to more than 8,700 full- and part-time students.

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