



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## N E W S R E L E A S E

Monday, November 07, 2005

### **The University of Winnipeg: 11<sup>th</sup> Nationally and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Western Canada (*Maclean's* magazine)**

WINNIPEG – The *Annual Maclean's Ranking of Canadian Universities* shows The University of Winnipeg in 11<sup>th</sup> position overall out of 21 undergraduate universities and second in Western Canada.

UWinnipeg also ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally for scholarships and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country for its investments in resources devoted to services for students. The ongoing support of The University of Winnipeg's 30,000+ member Alumni Association helped the University to secure 4<sup>th</sup> in the Alumni Support category. The largest gain came in the area of Research, placing The University of Winnipeg in 5<sup>th</sup> position (up from 12<sup>th</sup> in 2004) in the country for Social Sciences and Humanities grants. The University of Winnipeg continues to rank in the top ten when it comes to overall reputation, according to the 2005 *Maclean's* magazine ranking of Canadian undergraduate universities.

"The *Maclean's* rankings bear witness to the University's success in achieving the goals and objectives of our Strategic and Academic plans," said Lloyd Axworthy, President of The University of Winnipeg. "In the past two years, we have increased the complement of faculty by 21 tenure-track positions, faculty-researchers have significantly increased the number of successful research applications, and we have strengthened our student awards program and increased services for students."

"Surveys like *Maclean's* and the *Globe & Mail Report Card* (which in 2005 rated UWinnipeg among Canada's best in the area of Education), underscore the fact that UWinnipeg is on the right track," said Axworthy. "However, these surveys also highlight the areas over which the University has little sway—deferred maintenance and other long-term impacts of the province's five-year tuition freeze. Turning the tide will require significant investments—lifting the tuition freeze or increasing government contributions to post-secondary education in this province."

A number of improvements have been or are being put in place this year to address shortfalls to student services and programs, which may positively influence next year's rating and which will improve the overall student experience:

- ▶ Student Central, a one-stop-shop for a variety of streamlined student services, ensuring reducing wait times and simplifying access to information
- ▶ a new Student Information System, expected to be online Fall 2006, will facilitate online registration, online fee payment, and access to grades online
- ▶ expanded student health services with Klinik-on-Campus
- ▶ improved access to technology through a student lap top program and a wireless corridor

Funds for these new initiatives came from a one-time grant of \$3 Million from the provincial government. Security initiatives like the University's Campus Community Ambassador program, additional security camera and telephones, and improved lighting were also a part of the grant.

The *Maclean's* magazine survey does not include access programs like student bursaries, however, a recent modest increase in student ancillary fees (an average additional \$25 per full course equivalent) has resulted in an additional \$180,000 in awards and financial aid. Also not included in the survey was a recent \$1Million donation by Jim MacDonald, Collegiate Class of '65, to the student bursary program at the University's Collegiate high school.

The most meaningful surveys reflect the perspective of the consumer. In last week's *Globe & Mail's 2005 Report Card*, students rated UWinnipeg among Canada's best in the area of education, reflecting that what happens in the classroom between student and teacher demonstrates the true character of The University of Winnipeg. While *Maclean's* no longer includes its survey of recent graduates in their rankings, UWinnipeg alumni made their message clear when, in last year's *Maclean's* grad survey, our alumni pushed their alma mater to 6<sup>th</sup> place nationally—with an endorsement of 84% when asked how many would recommend the institution to a relative or friend.

Since becoming President over a year and a half ago, Lloyd Axworthy has led The University of Winnipeg in new and innovative directions, while maintaining its rich tradition of academic excellence, including taking a lead role in Aboriginal education in an urban setting and the revitalization of Spence Street as a pedestrian mall for the entire community.

The creation of the University's Global College with its recent announcement of a \$500,000 gift from alumnus Douglas W. Leatherdale to create the Global Citizen Internships, and the OmniTRAX/Broe QUEST series of highly successful public conferences, the relocation of the headquarters for the World Council for Gifted & Talented Children, as well as the Centre for Sustainable Transportation, and the imminent opening of the Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre, are but a few examples of the University's successful outreach into the local, national, and global communities. Plans are underway to make education even more accessible, including Saturday courses, more evening offerings, a timetable that reflects students' study/work patterns, and the potential expansion of daycare hours.

“Achievements aside, the impact of increased enrolment—the main way for Manitoba universities to increase revenue in the face of a continued tuition freeze—continues to take its toll with larger class sizes, the number of faculty with PhDs, and an operating budget that is 18<sup>th</sup> out of 21,” said Axworthy. “A fully supported knowledge-based economy can lead to a stronger more vital life for our province's citizenry. While UWinnipeg increases its efficiency and continues to be a forward-thinking institution committed to quality education and access, government must play a larger role in supporting universities or students will choose to attend better funded schools outside Manitoba.”

*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 8,900 full- and part-time students.*

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For more information, please contact:

Katherine Unruh, Director of Communications, The University of Winnipeg  
T: 204.786.9872 or 789.1449 [k.unruh@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:k.unruh@uwinnipeg.ca)