



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

MEDIA RELEASE

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Candidates Debate Electoral Reform at The University of Winnipeg

WINNIPEG—Today's young people often feel they can't make a difference through the mainstream political process and are reluctant to engage in a political system that doesn't reflect them or their views.

The Uniter, UWinnipeg's student newspaper, and The University of Winnipeg are co-sponsoring a provocative candidates' debate on **electoral reform** to address the challenge of youth uninspired by the current federal election campaign. The debate will feature Liberal M.P. **Hon. Ray Simard** (St. Boniface), Conservative M.P. **Hon. Steven Fletcher** (Charleswood-St.James-Assiniboia), NDP M.P. **Hon. Pat Martin** (Winnipeg Centre), and Green Party candidate **Vere Scott** (Winnipeg South.) UWinnipeg Politics Professor **Joan Grace** will serve as moderator.

"Many students feel left out of the current political process but they are interested in reforming the system and discussing these ideas with their elected representatives," said Daniel Blaikie, *The Uniter* Comments Editor.

***The Uniter*/UWinnipeg Candidates' Debate on Electoral Reform**
Friday, January 13, 2006
12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall (3rd Floor, Centennial)
University of Winnipeg

"Young people feel disenfranchised with politics in general because they don't hear our leaders speaking directly to them about *their* issues," added Chris Minaker, *The Uniter* event co-organizer. "Electoral reform is an emerging youth issue as young people want to know how they can make a difference."

Associate Vice-President Academic (Student Services) Rob Bend said, "We encourage our students to become engaged in the world around them. It's gratifying to support healthy debate on youth involvement in the political process."

Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Home to more than 8,900 full- and part-time students, UWinnipeg has been ranked by our graduates in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their "Entire Educational Experience" (Maclean's Graduate Survey, November 2004). The Globe & Mail 2005 Report Card gives The University of Winnipeg an overall 'A' grade in the areas of teaching quality, class sizes,

faculty-student interaction, and the availability of faculty outside classroom hours. Visit www.uwinnipeg.ca

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