



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

UWinnipeg Rates High in Globe & Mail National Survey on Universities: Strong reviews for Quality of Education & Undergraduate Studies

WINNIPEG—Today's *Globe & Mail 2006 Report Card* once again rated The University of Winnipeg high among Canada's small-to-medium-sized universities. UWinnipeg performed strongest in the areas of class sizes and quality of education when compared to other institutions with student populations between 4,000 and 12,000:

Class Sizes: A+ (Tied for 1st)

Quality of Education: A (Tied for 1st)

Faculty Availability Outside Classroom Hours: A (Tied for 2nd)

Faculty Members' Knowledge of Subjects: A (Tied for 2nd)

Teaching Quality: A- (Tied for 2nd)

Faculty-Student Interaction: A- (Tied for 3rd)

"Faculty members at The University of Winnipeg have once again demonstrated their excellence by offering our students a positive learning environment and providing them with a strong foundation for their future careers and life," said UWinnipeg President Lloyd Axworthy. "Our professors and instructors should be commended for their hard work in the classroom and for being available to support our students."

Canada's undergraduate students also signaled their support for the University's commitment to access and excellence by giving UWinnipeg an 'A-' grade for 'reputation for undergraduate studies' —tying it for 2nd in the 'small-medium' category. UWinnipeg also received 'A-' grades for 'satisfaction with university experience,' 'overall university atmosphere' and 'tolerance of diverse opinions/ideas.' UWinnipeg's Library services also received positive reviews: a 'B+' overall with 'A-' grades for both hours of operation and online resources, and 'B+' for 'availability of journals/articles/periodicals.'

With a positive ranking of 'B+' in the 'academic reputation of university' category, The University of Winnipeg has been making a name for itself through new initiatives particularly on the international scene and with the Aboriginal community. Through UWinnipeg's Global College, students are participating in seminars with leading experts in the fields of human rights, war-affected children and emerging democracies from around the world. UWinnipeg students are also traveling abroad on international missions including as election observers in Peru's presidential election last Spring. Supported by the Organization of American States, it was the first time ever where university students have participated in a mission of this kind.

Students gave UWinnipeg a positive score of 'B+' for 'sense of personal safety and security' – an improvement over last year – reflecting benefits from the Campus Community Ambassador program and other enhancements to safety and security. The University continues to be committed to ensuring a safe

and secure learning environment for its students, faculty, staff and the downtown community.

While receiving satisfactory scores for ‘reputation for conducting leading edge research’ in this year’s survey, The University of Winnipeg is making significant enhancements to its research capacity. A recent survey by Research Infosource, Inc. ranked UWinnipeg in the top 50 of Canadian universities for research funding, with an increase this year of 13.4 per cent. The recent announcement of a \$3.5 million donation to create the Richardson College for the Environment will result in major new investments in scientific and environmental research and learning opportunities for students. This includes specialization in urban ecology, water stewardship, climate change and the North, as well as exploring the relationships between indigenous values and Western scientific research, supported in part by UWinnipeg’s most recent Canada Research Chair, Dr. Dawn Sutherland.

With increased support from the provincial government and a modest increase in student ancillary fees (\$100 paid by every student), UWinnipeg has been able to provide increased support to services that directly impact the student experience. These include: hiring 21 new faculty members; securing much-needed resources for the Library and laboratories; continuing with key initiatives such as on-campus health services, access to wireless and information services, enhanced safety and security features; as well as increased support for scholarships and bursaries. In addition, a successful fundraising campaign among faculty, staff, and retirees saw more than \$1 million raised for scholarship and bursaries for students.

‘Ease of registration’ at The University of Winnipeg continues to be aggressively addressed with the procurement of a new Student Information System (SIS). The new SIS will facilitate online registration, online fee payment, and access to grades online. With the new Student Central Info Centre, the University is working to streamline services by reducing wait times, simplifying access to information and locating services centrally.

“UWinnipeg faculty and staff are committed to providing our students with a top quality education and a positive university experience,” said UWinnipeg Registrar Colin Russell. “We take measurements of student satisfaction seriously so that we may strive to make The University of Winnipeg experience exceptional on all fronts from faculty/student interaction to services for students to housing.”

The Globe & Mail 2006 Report Card is based on results from responses to more than 80 questions from 32,700 undergraduate students, all current full- or part-time. The survey was conducted by Strategic Counsel and the Educational Policy Institute.

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 9,200 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, June 2006). The Globe & Mail 2006 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. Find out why. Visit www.uwinnipeg.ca

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For more information, please contact:
Ilana Simon, Communications Officer
The University of Winnipeg
T: 204.786.9930 C: 204.782.3279 i.simon@uwinnipeg.ca