



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WINNIPEG

**40** Years as a University  
136 Years of Excellence

1967-2007

Manitoba College 1871 | Wesley College 1888 | United College 1938

M E D I A   R E L E A S E

# UNIVERSITY TO IMPLEMENT NEW SECURITY INITIATIVES

*New measures part of UWinnipeg's on-going commitment to student, faculty & staff safety*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JULY 23, 2007**

**WINNIPEG, MB** – The University of Winnipeg today announced a series of new initiatives that reflect the institution's pro-active approach to campus safety and to advancements in its security system development.

The plans include the creation of the University's own **security force**, the installation of a cutting-edge **electronic access control system** and the establishment of an **Emergency Preparedness Coordinator** position. As well, the University has submitted a proposal for an **extensive video security system** that will expand its present video patrolling efforts.

"At The University of Winnipeg, security is a priority," said **Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, University President & Vice-Chancellor**. "Students, staff and downtown residents need to know that the University is a safe place. With all the growth and change on campus, we need to take a responsible and effective stand when it comes to safety in our community."

These new moves are part of The University of Winnipeg's on-going commitment to student safety and to being a leader in downtown area. The following is an outline of the new security initiatives:

## **University of Winnipeg Security Force**

The University has begun the process of developing an in-house security force. Recruited, trained and employed by UWinnipeg, members of this group will be highly skilled in the areas of security and campus awareness.

Presently, the University contracts a third-party company to provide a security presence on campus. People working in this capacity are licensed and are pre-screened with criminal and child-abuse background checks. UWinnipeg's new security force will meet and exceed those requirements with additional instruction, such as venue-specific training.

"We will go beyond the standard requirements because we want the best people possible on the job," said **David Mauro, Director of Security** for the University. "The move to our own security team marks a very significant but necessary transition in our approach to meeting student safety needs."

The security force will be as large as 30 people. The University wishes the group to represent the diversity of the population living in the area.

## **Electronic Access Control System**

The University of Winnipeg is the first post-secondary institution in Canada and among the first in North America to implement the Salto Access Control System on its campus. To be phased in over the next few years, the infrastructure is a state-of-the-art electronic locking system that offers flexible programming and functional access control. The system operates in a wireless environment and can provide detailed tracking information for administrators.

“The Salto Access Control System is our standard for access control,” Mauro said. “We are incorporating the system into all of our new buildings and renovations. I am proud that the University of Winnipeg is the first university in Canada to install this system.”

### **Emergency Preparedness Coordinator**

In the near future the University will hire an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to enhance its capacity in addressing security concerns that relate to fire, threat or natural disasters. The University is already in the process of updating its evacuation and emergency response plans – items that will be overseen by the person in this new position.

**Video Security System Proposal** – The University is developing a proposal to enhance its video patrol capabilities. The proposal seeks funding for additional cameras on campus in the neighborhood. The extra equipment would assist the University in developing a full monitoring system to meet its needs of supporting the ever-growing campus area.

The new initiatives support several existing activities that increase safety and promote awareness, including:

**Safe Ride Program** – Provided by security staff, the Safe Ride program operates in conjunction with the security patrol to give students transportation during hours of darkness.

**Safe Walk Program** – Operated by The University of Winnipeg Students’ Association in partnership with the Security & the volunteer Community Ambassador Services Program, the Safe Walk program gives students a trusted escort during evening hours.

**Community Ambassador Services Program** – Forty students, mostly from the University’s Criminal Justice Studies program, augment campus security by being active and visible patrols in the neighborhood. These students will also provide extra support on occasion for campus and community events. In turn, the students receive practical hands-on training that prepares them for their future careers.

**Safety Presentations at Campus Orientation Sessions** – Mauro and members of his staff make presentations to students at every orientation session, providing safety tips and highlighting all the security elements on campus.

**Safety Talks on Parents’ Night** – Similar to the student orientation sessions, these presentations highlight campus safety efforts and security information.

**Comprehensive Security Information/Communication** – Posters, personal safety guides, contact information, business cards and even informative bookmarks are all part of the University’s comprehensive communication efforts to students about security.

– 30 –

*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” (Macleans’ Graduate Survey, June 2006). The Globe & Mail 2006 Report Card gives The University of Winnipeg an overall ‘A’ grade in the areas of quality of education, teaching quality, class sizes, faculty-student interaction, and the availability of faculty outside classroom hours. Find out why. Visit [www.uwinnipeg.ca](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca)*

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](mailto:i.simon@uwinnipeg.ca)