



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WINNIPEG

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

Manitoba College 1871 | Wesley College 1888 | United College 1938

1967-2007

## MEDIA ADVISORY

**June 1, 2007**

**For Immediate Release**

### **Students & Seniors Create Synergy in Downtown Winnipeg**

WINNIPEG—The University of Winnipeg responded today to concerns raised in media reports about the pending move of residents at Lions Manor to make way for more student housing in the facility this Fall.

The University has had a long-standing, successful and mutually-beneficial relationship with Lions Manor at Sherbrook Street & Portage Avenue. For the past five years, the University has leased three floors at the Lions Manor for student housing providing 63 residence spaces for its students. These floors—constructed in a rooming-house style with shared kitchens and communal washrooms—have become less desirable to seniors over the years. At the same time, the University has experienced a growing demand for housing near its downtown campus, particularly from students from rural and Northern Manitoba, as well as for out-of-province and International students.

UWinnipeg has explored additional student housing options in the vicinity of its campus, and has a developed an innovative model with Lions Manor where students and seniors would share space -- a model that has worked well for the past five years.

“The synergy created between the University and Lions Manor that resulted in an agreement five years ago still stands today,” said Bill Balan, Vice-President (Finance & Administration.) “The University of Winnipeg continues to have needs for additional student housing and Lions Manor continues to hold housing options that are no longer desirable or in demand by seniors. Lions Manor indicated that it had available room for students that reflected their excess inventory. The relationship with Lions Manor meets the needs of students and helps provide financial stability for Lions.”

This positive relationship reflects an opportunity to meet the needs of both organizations: the bachelor suites and rooming- house style accommodations popular a few decades ago are no longer desirable among seniors and are difficult to rent out; but these types of suites are compatible with UWinnipeg student housing needs. The University anticipates there will be a new agreement with Lions Manor that will see three additional floors with 42 new student housing spaces leased to UWinnipeg effective this Fall.

However, Balan emphasized that The University of Winnipeg has not, nor would it ever contemplate, requiring seniors to leave their homes.

“It is our understanding, consistent with the letter sent by Lions Manor to its residents, that the residents would be relocated in other Lions Manor suites or properties,” he said.

*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 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)*

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Ilana Simon, Acting Director of Communications & Marketing  
The University of Winnipeg  
C: 204.782.3279