



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## M E D I A   R E L E A S E

**June 14, 2007**

**For Immediate Release**

### **New, Dynamic Degree Program at UWinnipeg: Focus on Urban, Aboriginal & Inner-City Issues**

WINNIPEG —University of Winnipeg Politics Chair Jim Silver and Institute of Urban Studies Director Jino Distasio today launched an innovative new Bachelor of Arts Degree Program in Urban and Inner-City Studies that begins this Fall. This degree program is unique in that it combines a traditional urban studies focus with inner-city issues, and the experiences of Aboriginals, immigrants and new Canadians—themes that resonate with the current state of our modern Canadian cities.

The University of Winnipeg is a leader in Aboriginal education, last month convening a roundtable with 20 other university presidents to examine critical issues of access, retention and university success for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and develop a strategy to move forward together.

“The Urban and Inner-City Studies Program is another avenue for Aboriginal and inner-city students to feel welcome at The University of Winnipeg,” says President and Vice-Chancellor Lloyd Axworthy. “As a downtown university, we are committed to urban renewal and to opening the doors to students who are part of our learning precinct and provide them with the tools for success.”

Urban and Inner-City Studies is an interdisciplinary major concerned with the examination of the city as a dynamic environment. “Our new Urban and Inner-City Studies program is uniquely crafted to reflect the changing realities of Western Canadian urban centres such as Winnipeg,” explains Silver. “Ideally we hope to attract ‘non-traditional’ students into the University and offer them the kinds of supports that will enable them to graduate with degrees.”

Housed in the Politics Department, the Urban and Inner-City Studies program has other participating departments and programs creating a synergy that strengthens the program. Included are Aboriginal Governance, Administrative Studies, Conflict Resolution Studies, Criminal Justice Studies, Economics, Geography, History, International Development Studies, Sociology and Women and Gender Studies. The program also draws upon the resources and expertise of the Institute of Urban Studies, which since 1969 has gained national prominence for its research on urban issues.

“An important part of the program is that students will be engaged within the inner-city community. They will have first hand experience in inner-city issues,” says Distasio. “It will give them immediate context to what it is they are studying.”

UWinnipeg offers a variety of resources to its students such as the Transition-Year program and the Aboriginal Student Services Centre that help support success among non-traditional students.

*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 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. Find out why. Visit [www.uwinnipeg.ca](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca)*

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