



Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Newsletter

Message from the PVPA

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As we work through a time of transition, I would like to share some positive highlights from the past few weeks:

- **Future Student Night:** On November 25, UWinnipeg held a Future Student Night, organized by our amazing faculty, student, and staff community, welcoming over 1,000 prospective students, parents, and supporters. I would like to extend my thanks to all the faculty, students, and staff who contributed to this wonderful event.
- **Indspire Awards:** On November 17, we welcomed Indspire President and CEO, Dr. Mike DeGagné, and his team to celebrate the Indspire Awards Recipients, Cameron Adams, a UWinnipeg Alumnus (BA in Indigenous Languages/UW; BEd History/UW; MA in Indigenous Language Revitalization/McGill University), and Ruby Bruce, a UWinnipeg student pursuing a BA in Indigenous Studies. Congratulations to Cameron Adams and Ruby Bruce for their inspiring achievements!

I look forward to bringing further updates to Faculty Council meetings in the new year.

In respect and relationship,

Pavlina Radia
Provost and Vice-President, Academic

Updates on Strategic Initiatives

Pillar 1 Supporting Plan

Following the launch of *Meeting the Moment: Strategic Plan 2025-2030* in October, the University will embark on developing pillar plans to support each of the Strategic Plan's five pillars. The PVPA Office is responsible for the **Pillar 1 Supporting Plan: Fostering a Thriving Academic Community of Excellence**.

We look forward to engaging with the UWinnipeg community on the overall process and development of this important part of the Strategic Plan, as well as through the [Supporting Plans Consultation Session](#) on December 8.

Tenure and Promotion Information Session

This year's Tenure and Promotion Information Session was held on **December 5, 2025**. Coordinated by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, with support from the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, this annual session supports faculty by offering clarity on dossier expectations, process requirements, and upcoming timelines.

The session included an overview of the tenure and promotion process, a panel discussion with academic leadership, and breakout groups on specific topics of interest. This year's panel featured Deans and UWFA leadership, who spoke to common questions, recurring challenges, and effective practices from recent cycles.

BIPOC and 2SLGBTQ+ Mentorship Network Events

On October 29, BIPOC Mentorship Network hosted *Introduction to University Governance*, led by network member Sanoji Wijenayake. Participants explored experiences with governance—time commitments, benefits, and challenges—and received practical advice for BIPOC faculty interested in committee service and leadership. The network also welcomed new members this fall and continued planning year-round programming, including writing retreats, research workshops, and community gatherings.

On October 16, 2SLGBTQ+ Mentorship Network held its second informal gathering, offering a relaxed space for members to connect and share experiences. The network also welcomed new members this fall and began planning a series of mixers, lightning talks, and seasonal community events.

Join us: If you would like to join or invite others to join either network, please email a.ding@uwinnipeg.ca.

Strategic Enrolment Management

Over the spring and summer, the SEM initiative engaged a wide cross-section of the UWinnipeg community through surveys and dialogue:

- An **SEM Information Session** was held in Convocation Hall on May 13, followed by two **SEM Engagement Sessions** on May 20 (in person) and May 27 (online). These events drew participation from over 155 faculty, staff, and students.
- On June 13, five distinct **SEM surveys** were distributed to the UWinnipeg community:
 - Faculty
 - Undergraduate students
 - Student advising staff
 - Student recruitment staff
 - All other staff

These surveys gathered feedback from over 1,000 individuals on priorities related to **recruitment, retention, academic programming, and teaching and learning**.

The Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) initiative advanced into its final stages this fall:

- September 8: We held a final SEM consultation session with faculty and staff (online and in person) to share survey findings, discuss the latest SEM Plan draft, and gather questions and feedback. Thank you to everyone who participated.
- September 16: The revised SEM Plan was approved by the **Senate Academic Planning Committee**.

Next Steps:

The SEM Plan was presented to Senate on October 30, 2025. Many thanks to the Senators for their feedback. The Senate's input will be brought back to the SEM Steering Committee for discussion, feedback, and for further revisions. The SEM

Plan will then be submitted to the Senate Academic Planning Committee and presented to Senate in early 2026.

Many thanks to the SEM Steering Committee, Sub-Committees, and the faculty, staff, and students whose input shaped a strategic path for enrolment, retention, academic programming, and student success at UWinnipeg.

Calls for Participation

Foundations Program Working Group and AI Working Group

Thank you to the faculty and staff who have expressed interest in joining our Foundations Program Working Group and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Working Group. We appreciate your enthusiasm and will be following up soon with next steps.

The **Foundations Program Working Group**, established as part of the Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) initiative, will guide the development of a first-year Foundations Program focused on student transition, academic readiness, and clear pathways into degree programs.

The **AI Working Group** will explore the role of Generative AI in teaching, learning, research, services, and operations. This group will support the development of an institutional roadmap for AI literacy, effective practice, and ethical use.

If you have not yet expressed interest and would like to participate, please email provost@uwinnipeg.ca.

Upcoming Events



Supporting Plans Consultation

*Dec. 8 | 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Convocation Hall*

All members of the UWinnipeg community are invited to a consultation session to help guide the creation of the supporting plans for the new Strategic Plan's five pillars. [Register](#).

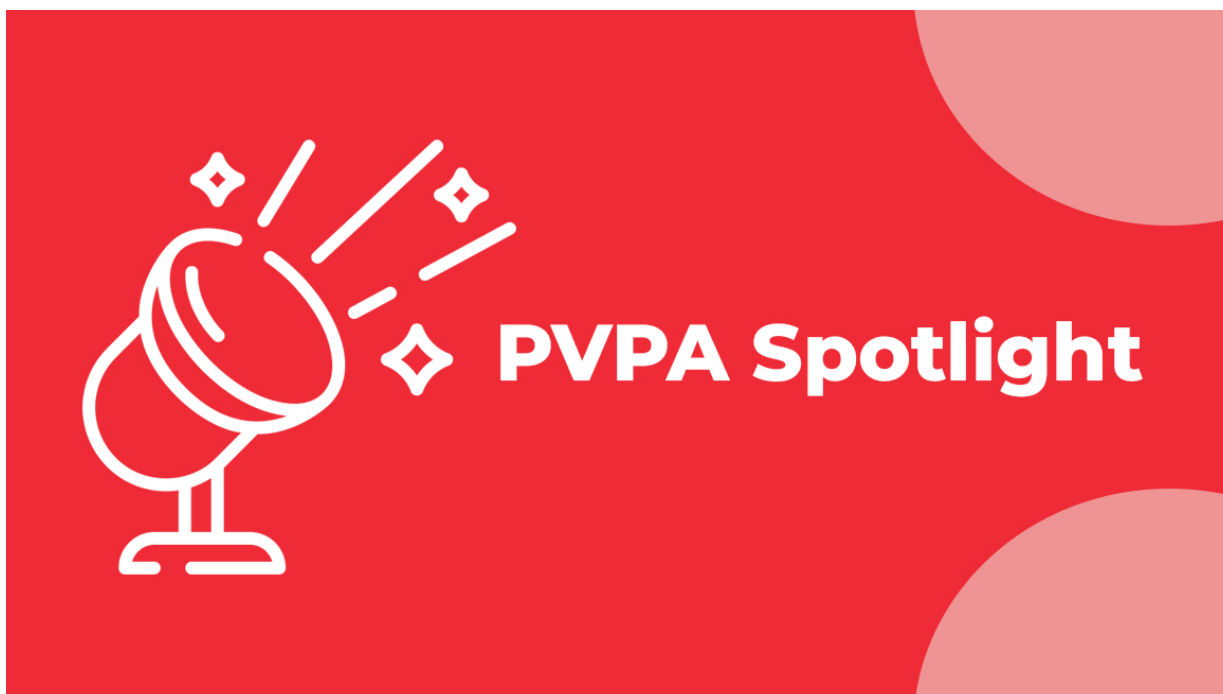


Holiday Reception

Dec. 11 | 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Riddell Hall

Join your faculty and staff community for this year's UWinnipeg Holiday Reception. The theme for this year's reception is "Coffee and Cocoa," so bring your favourite mug and enjoy sipping on a hot beverage.



UWinnipeg Hosts the 57th Algonquian Conference

The University of Winnipeg proudly hosted the **57th Algonquian Conference**, *Bridging Knowledges, Building Trust*, from **October 17–19, 2025**. Scholars, Elders, and community members from across North America gathered on campus to share research and stories centred on Indigenous languages, history, and cultural revitalization.

The three-day event featured more than a hundred presentations, roundtables, and performances exploring the richness and vitality of Algonquian languages. Participants highlighted ongoing work in language preservation, education, and community-led research.

Feedback from participants has been hugely positive, including the opening of doors to new funding and collaborations for community-based researchers. One leading scholar

in Algonquian linguistics commented:

"I've been attending the Algonquian Conference fairly regularly since 2007, and in my view this was hands-down the best one yet. It was the first time that the conference felt actually 'Algonquian,' from the amazing program with such great representation of community-relevant work, to the catering and vendors, the smudging room, and even things like Heather reminding us to let Elders eat first. Thank you for showing us the way these things should be done. And, of course, for all the work that you put into making it happen."

A heartfelt thanks to the organizers Heather Souter, Jacqueline Dormer, Britney Champagne, Aandeg Muldrew, Cameron Adams, Shelley Tulloch, Julie Pelletier, and Ivan Roksandic, as well as all of the speakers, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and volunteers who made the conference such a success!



Indigenous Language Immersion in Anishinaabemowin Program Funding

The University of Winnipeg has secured substantial new funding to expand Indigenous language programming, reinforcing the University's role as a leader in language revitalization and cultural transmission. The Government of Manitoba will provide approximately **\$2.3 million** to establish a new **Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Language Immersion in Anishinaabemowin**.

The program is in development under the leadership of Aandeg Muldrew, Dr. Shelley Tulloch, Dr. Julie Pelletier, and the newly formed Anishinaabemowin Guiding Council, which includes faculty and staff members from UWinnipeg, a current student and graduate from the Indigenous Languages program, representatives of Indigenous organizations that teach Anishinaabemowin, and members of Anishinaabe communities. [Learn more.](#)



Inside a Thousand Eyes: The Work and Impact of Sharron Proulx-Turner

On October 22, in honour of 2SLGBTQ+ History Month, UWinnipeg hosted "Inside a Thousand Eyes: The Work and Impact of Sharron Proulx-Turner," an event celebrating the life, writing, and influence of the acclaimed Two-Spirit Anishinaabe–Métis poet, storyteller, and community knowledge-keeper. Through readings, reflections, and conversation, family and friends highlighted Proulx-Turner's contributions to literature, Indigenous resurgence, and community healing, as well as the enduring relevance of their work to students, writers, and scholars today.

This event also celebrated her family's donation of material items to the UWinnipeg [Two-Spirit Archives](#).

Thanks to organizers Danielle Marie Bitz and Sharanpal Ruprai!



TOYBOX x UWSA Daycare: Launch of Monthly Play-Based Learning Days

On November 20, 2025, the UWSA Daycare hosted its first monthly **TOYBOX Fun Day**, marking a new phase in the growing partnership between the **TOYBOX Initiative** and the UWSA childcare community.

Building on earlier collaborations—including the TOYBOX team’s Training Day for Early Childhood Educators in October—this event brought play-based numeracy, literacy, and social-emotional learning into the daily rhythm of the centre. Children explored Manitoban animals through hands-on activities and met *Nume*, the TOYBOX numeracy mascot, while educators were recognized with personalized certificates and professional-learning books. Families received a take-home “play invitation” to extend learning beyond the classroom, and Developmental Studies students gained meaningful practical experience.

Led by Dr. Sheri-Lynn Skwarchuk and supported by UWSA Daycare Director Ioulia Berdnikova and her team, this initiative reinforces UWinnipeg’s commitment to research-informed early learning and strengthens the connections among children, families, educators, and the broader university community.



Wesmen Updates

Sidelined: The Colour of the Game

Thank you to everyone who attended the November 26 screening of *Sidelined: The Colour of the Game*. Hosted by Wesmen Athletics, this documentary explores the systemic barriers faced by First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Black, Racialized, and Religious Minority participants in Canadian sport. We are grateful to our colleagues and community partners who helped lead an important conversation on equity and inclusion in sport.

Wesmen Classic – December 28–30

Wesmen Athletics will host the 2025 Wesmen Classic (Women's Volleyball) from December 28–30. Full schedules and game details are available at wesmen.ca.
Honouring Wesmen Alumni

Congratulations to Wesmen alumni JP Perron and Josh Gandier, who were recognized for their community leadership at the Distinguished Alumni Awards on October 23. We are proud to celebrate their contributions and continued impact.

Agoojin Volleyball Partnership

Wesmen Athletics has partnered with [Agoojin Volleyball](#), founded by Wesmen alum and Métis coach Jayme Menzies, to support holistic coaching practices rooted in Indigenous knowledge and aligned with TRC Calls to Action 87–91. This collaboration will offer student-athletes new opportunities to learn, reflect, and connect meaningfully with the Agoojin community.

Nisga'a Nation Visit

Wesmen Women's Basketball recently visited the Nisga'a Nation for the Clash of Clans tournament—an experience that included community programming, cultural learning, and participation in a closing feast. We extend our appreciation to the Nisga'a Nation for their generous welcome.



New Searches

Canada Research Chairs

The Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, and the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, have initiated the internal process for selecting nominations for a new **Tier 1 SSHRC Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Histories, Languages, and Cultures** and a new **Tier 2 CIHR Canada Research Chair in Health Equity and Data Analytics**. More news to follow.

In Memoriam Dr. Ida Bear



The University community mourns the loss of honorary doctorate recipient **Dr. Ida Bear**. A dedicated, committed, and beloved Cree language teacher, she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by UWinnipeg in 2019 for her outstanding contributions to revitalization of the Cree language.

Originally from Norway House Cree Nation, she was an inspirational teacher and Indigenous language advocate with decades of experience teaching Indigenous languages to students of all levels: from preschool to university. She had a positive impact on many students through her teaching at UWinnipeg, UManitoba, and RRC Polytechnic. [Read more.](#)

In Memoriam Dr. Geoff Scott



We are saddened by the passing of **Dr. Geoff Scott**, who served as Principal of Global College from 2007–2008 and played a significant role in shaping its early direction.

During his tenure, Dr. Scott helped strengthen the Summer Institute, establish the first student advisory group, support community-engaged initiatives, and contribute to the development of the **Human Rights and Global Studies degree**—now a cornerstone of the University's academic landscape. His leadership and generosity continue to be remembered across the UWinnipeg community. [Read](#)

[more.](#)

Faculty, Staff, and Student Supports

We wanted to remind faculty, staff, and students to take time to care for their mental health and well-being. Please know that resources and supports are available for those who may need them.

Faculty and staff can access:

- Klinik Crisis Line: 204-786-8686
- Mobile Crisis Service: 204-940-1781
- [Employee & Family Assistance Program](#)

Students can access:

- Klinik Crisis Line: 204-786-8686
- Counsellors at the [Wellness Centre](#)
- [Indigenous Student Services](#) staff
- [International Student Services](#) staff

Feedback and contact information

If you have any questions or comments about the contents of this newsletter, feel free to contact the Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, at provost@uwinnipeg.ca.

[Contact page](#)



You are receiving this email because you are faculty member or a staff member in a unit that is part of the Office of the Provost portfolio.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email communications@uwinnipeg.ca.

[Learn more.](#)

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