

SPEAKING POINTS

- **Good evening. My name is Janice Ristock and I am the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) at the University of Manitoba.**
- **We are Manitoba's only research-intensive university and a major economic driver contributing at least \$1.8 billion in economic impact within the province.**
- **With a student body of nearly 30,000, we are training the future leaders of this province in areas such as social work, medicine, education, engineering, business and law.**
- **I think it is also interesting to point out that about 40% of MLAs are graduates of the University of Manitoba.**
- **We understand and appreciate the fiscal challenges that are being faced by the provincial government and the interest in seeking efficiencies.**
- **In that regard, we believe that predictable, sustainable funding for the post-secondary sector will enable us to better prepare our budget forecasts.**

- **Our programs – and our commitments to our students – are multi-year, meaning sustainable funding would enable us to provide a top quality teaching and learning environment for our students and protect education: a critical front-line service.**
- **We are also working diligently to find internal efficiencies at the U of M.**
- **With our Budget Model Redesign Initiative, we are moving towards a new budget model to better align planning with resource allocation.**
- **In terms of promoting economic growth by changing specific regulations, the PSE sector is not best positioned to speak to this.**
- **However, I propose a robust commitment to ensure Manitoba's Indigenous population is given opportunities to succeed and contribute fully to the economy.**
- **By 2026, Indigenous peoples will make up an estimated 18 per cent of Manitoba's population.**

- **Given the demographics of our province, support for Indigenous education must be a priority when we are talking about growth in our province.**
- **Indigenous youth are an opportunity.**
- **The U of M is home to one of the highest Indigenous student populations in the country, with over 2,200 self-declared First Nation, Métis and Inuit students.**
- **Through our Strategic Plan, the U of M is committed to advancing Indigenous research and scholarship.**
- **Recently, we allocated targeted funds to support the recruitment of six new Indigenous scholars.**
- **The Indigenous Initiatives fund will seed projects that will advance the Indigenous achievement goals outlined in our Strategic Plan.**
- **These are both small incentives with tremendous impact on advancing Indigenous success and Manitoba's economy.**

- **The U of M has a wealth of experience in K-12 and post-secondary education programs to ensure Indigenous success.**
- **For example, ENGAP – the Engineering Access Program – offers Indigenous students access to university studies and individualized supports that lead to graduation with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering.**
- **ENGAP recently celebrated its 35th anniversary and its 109th graduate.**
- **In terms of encouraging greater economic growth and to position our province to compete better in the long-term, a critical piece of the puzzle is support for research, for instance, through Research Manitoba, and through university-industry partnerships.**
- **\$1 of provincial research funding leverages \$3.73 from out of province.**
- **This is a strong return on investment in an area that has a positive impact on our lives.**

- **The U of M's Smartpark creates high-tech clusters, facilitates university-industry research collaboration, and innovation.**
- **This works to keep highly skilled students and researchers here in Winnipeg, thereby contributing to our economy.**
- **We have over 200 research and development collaborations with 125 industry sponsors and manage an IP estate of 531 patents covering 346 technologies.**
- **Research and innovation are the backbone to a thriving and flourishing economy and we can do more.**
- **Recognizing that investment in the spaces where research happens isn't necessarily a low-cost opportunity up-front, provincial support for infrastructure allows universities to leverage additional investments that help grow the economy in the long-term.**

- **We would strongly encourage the provincial government to be active partners in funding university infrastructure, especially when federal dollars are available in programs like the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund.**
- **The KIP-funded lab for our Regenerative Medicine Program helped the U of M attract and retain researchers from across Canada specializing in stem cell research and technologies.**
- **This group made a major breakthrough in explaining the causes of ALS and further study is underway on treatments to slow the disease's progress.**
- **In response to the final question, Manitoba's North has been hit hard recently and we appreciate the government's commitment to address the current economic challenges.**
- **The U of M is very active in the North and is having a significant impact on the Northern economy through research: Arctic Systems Science is one of our signature research areas.**

- **The planned construction of the Churchill Marine Observatory (CMO) in Churchill, Manitoba should provide a much needed injection to our northern communities.**
- **CMO will be a multidisciplinary research facility which positions Canada as a global leader in the detection, impact, and mitigation of oil spills in sea ice.**
- **It will increase economic opportunities in the North for private companies, while ensuring environmental sustainability.**
- **In closing, there is an inextricable link between the success of our university and the success of our province.**
- **Funding universities is most accurately viewed as an investment in our province's future.**
- **We are committed to working collaboratively with the provincial government to move forward on priorities that are important to Manitobans. Thank you!**