David T. Barnard, President and Vice Chancellor
Leadership Winnipeg Tour
March 13, 2015  9:00 – 9:15 a.m. (leave right at 9:15 for airport)
1 Research Road

Other speakers:
- Tyler MacAfee, Director of Government and Community Engagement will introduce you.

Suggested Speaking Notes:
- Good morning. Welcome.

- It is always our pleasure to host Leadership Winnipeg.

- You believe in this province and its people, as do we, and you recognize the incredible opportunities that our future holds.

- Today we will demonstrate the immeasurable role our university plays in creating that future – not only for our province, but for our nation and our world.

- We can see the impact locally when we consider the revitalization our province has experienced in recent years.

- Manitoba’s population is increasing at a rate we have not seen for more than two decades.
• This growth is supported by:
  o the attraction of the first national museum outside of Ottawa.
  o the rebirth of one of our most popular family parks, and
  o investments in an international-calibre airport.

• The National Hockey League has returned to Manitoba.

• One of the most impressive stadiums in the Canadian Football League was recently built on our Fort Garry campus.

• And our province has been established as a destination for world-class culture and sporting events.

• So, what does this have to do with our university? How do we contribute to the growth and overall success of our province?

• We:
  o educate the professional work force,
  o provide valuable community services, and
  o offer expertise and support in areas such as:
    ▪ flood mitigation,
    ▪ infrastructure renewal,
    ▪ health and wellness,
    ▪ urban planning, and
    ▪ arts and culture.
• The university is a key economic driver, and it creates direct and indirect employment for more than 17,000 people in Winnipeg.

• We generate at least $1.8 billion in economic activity and attract nearly $160 million annually in sponsored research income per year.

• Every $1 the U of M spends generates $1.85 for the Manitoba economy.

• We are truly proud of this measureable impact.

• However, our greatest contributions are immeasurable.

• They are the ones made by alumni who have been instrumental in virtually every advancement in Manitoba.

• More than 80 per cent of UM graduates remain in the province after graduation, contributing to our health and well-being.

• They are the business leaders, community builders, and volunteers who define our social, cultural, and economic fabric.

• In fact, it’s hard to find a Manitoba success story without a U of M connection.
• Our people are at the heart of Manitoba’s resurgence, and their accomplishments are telling a new story about Manitoba to the rest of the world.

• From gold medal winners to Nobel Peace Prize recipients, global philanthropists to members of the United Nations, our graduates prove that from here, you can go anywhere.

• At UM, our story is built on the strength of people, and we take great pride in that.

• Today, you’re going to meet with some of our trailblazers and visionaries who have challenged the status quo to make this university a national leader.

• John Kearsey, Vice-President (External), will share with you the vision behind Front and Centre, the campaign for UM. And introduce you to students who give meaning to what we do.

• You will see that we have structured our institutional priorities to respond to our province’s greatest needs, and to be responsive to some of the world’s most pressing issues.
• Dr. Digvir Jayas, Vice-President (Research and International), will demonstrate that from here, we develop today's cures and tomorrow's technology.

• We are home to 41 Canada Research Chairs — the country’s top experts in their fields — including the only Canada Excellence Research Chair in Arctic Geomicrobiology and Climate Change.

• Dr. Jayas will also share with you our recently launched Transformational Partnerships initiative.

• This unique approach connects researchers and industry with the ultimate goal of bringing Manitoba-made products to market.

• You will see practical examples of this collaborative approach when you tour the Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals.

• I am pleased to see that you will have also have time today with Deborah Young, Executive Lead, Indigenous Achievement and Ry Moran, Director of National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

• UM has also taken our place as a national leader in Indigenous achievement. We have long acknowledged the harmful effects of racism.
• In 2011, we became the first Canadian university to issue a Statement of Apology and Reconciliation for failing to recognize or challenge the forced assimilation of Aboriginal Peoples.

• More than 140 of our researchers study issues related to Indigenous Peoples and cultures.

• And we have one of the highest Indigenous student populations in the country, graduating more than 250 Indigenous students per year.

• Our strategic plan further entrenches our commitment to create pathways to Indigenous success, and this priority is supported in a number of tangible ways.

• This is crucial to addressing disparity and to reaching our potential as a province and nation, a challenge that the U of M is uniquely positioned to address.

• Finally, Tyler MacAfee, our director of Government and Community Engagement, will explain how UM connects with communities here and around the globe.

• Our faculty, students and staff are deeply committed to community engagement.
• They have partnered with others to make our city and our province better places to live, work and play.

• And they are working to create a safer and more equitable world.

• As one example, the U of M participates in close to 200 initiatives focused on Winnipeg's inner city, partnering with community members and organizations to improve the lives of the families who live there.

• And that is just the beginning.

• The lab tours you will take this afternoon will further demonstrate our commitment to address our community’s greatest needs.

• Together, we are advancing our province, building national partnerships, sparking innovation, inspiring discovery and creating opportunities now, and for generations to come.

• Thank you for your interest in the work we do.

• I trust you will leave here today inspired by and proud of Manitoba’s largest university.

• We look forward to working with you to make Manitoba the best that it can be.