



UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA

# HANSARD

Report from the Government and  
Community Engagement Office  
December 1st, 2011

## HEADLINES

### Image matters in international competition for students

[The Chronicle of Higher Education's](#) article posits that successful foreign student recruitment hinges on the ability of a country and its institutions to react swiftly to anything from media coverage of tuition fee increases or student-visa restrictions to changes in government policy. Perceptions, even when flawed, can quickly affect reality, and for leading destination nations, that can result in lost revenue. While countries like Australia and the U.K. have encountered issues with perception, others have seized new opportunities presented. At the federal and provincial level, Canada has moved to enhance marketing overseas, streamline recruitment efforts, and facilitating the application process. The changes are paying off -- Canadian universities have seen an 11% increase in international enrolment over last year.

### First "meta university" coming to India

India plans to create a "[meta university](#)" allowing students to simultaneously enroll in programs at multiple PSE institutions. The new model will use the National Knowledge Network, which connects a large number of central and state universities and PSE institutions through a high-speed, fibre-based broadband network. The new model has been approved by the Indian Government and is expected to roll out in the 2012-13 academic year.

### Canada welcomes its 10,000<sup>th</sup> permanent resident through the Canadian Experience Class immigration stream

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> [the federal government announced](#) Canada has welcomed its 10,000th permanent resident through the Canadian Experience Class (CEC) immigration stream, created in 2008 to offer a pathway to permanent residency for international students and skilled and highly skilled temporary foreign workers. The CEC aims to ensure Canada retains talented and motivated individuals who have demonstrated a strong work ethic, have an ability to contribute to the economy, and will easily integrate into Canadian life.

### New initiative to attract and retain international PhD students

A [new initiative was announced](#) on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept up to 1,000 international PhD students per year as permanent residents through the Federal Skilled Worker Program. Recognizing the unique role doctoral graduates play in Canada's economy the new effort will provide Canadian universities with one more competitive edge in attracting and retaining top international talent to pursue their doctoral studies in Canada. International students account for about one-quarter of the students enrolled in Canadian PhD programs.

### Report identifies gender gaps in PSE around the world

According to the World Economic Forum's latest [Global Gender Gap Report](#), the female-to-male PSE enrolment ratio in Canada is 1.36 to one. This places Canada 42nd on the list, well behind the leaders Qatar (6.31 to one) and the Bahamas (2.70 to one). At the other end of the scale are Chad (0.17 to one), Gambia (0.23 to one), and Benin (0.25 to one).



## Ottawa launches new College-University Idea to Innovation Grants

[The federal government has launched the new College-University Idea to Innovation \(CU-I2I\) Grants](#). Managed by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the grants will support collaboration and strengthen research connections between Canadian colleges, universities, and businesses to advance the development of promising technologies and promote their commercialization in Canada. The CU-I2I grants feature \$12 million over 5 years in funding for successful college-university-business partnerships. Awards will be up to \$250,000 annually for both college and university applicants, with business partners matching this contribution in cash and/or in kind. An overview of the new grants and information on how to apply can be found [at the NSERC website](#).

## Granting agencies now require Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information

[The federal granting agencies announced](#) they will now require researchers applying for funding to provide a Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information, allowing them in instances of a serious breach of agency policy to publicly release the researcher's name, the nature of the breach, the name of the institution where the researcher was employed at the time of the breach, and the name of the institution where the researcher is currently employed.

## Ontario to move ahead with 30% tuition fee reduction

[As promised in its election campaign](#), the governing Ontario Liberal Party is moving forward with a 30% tuition fee grant that will save 5 out of 6 Ontario families \$1,600 per student in university and \$730 per student in college annually. The grant will apply to families with incomes below \$160,000 and be available for up to 4 years of a full-time undergraduate program. The Liberals have clarified that students in professional programs, part-time learners, and students independent of their parents will be ineligible for the grant, which narrows eligibility to just one-third of all students and potentially excludes students most in need.

## Provincial Government Back to Business

With the [October 4th Provincial Election](#) out of the way it was back to business at the Manitoba Legislature as the house resumed with a [Provincial Speech from the Throne](#). Based largely on the commitments made in the election campaign the speech had a number of PSE highlights including a commitment to provide stable funding for universities and low tuition for students, legislation coming to freeze tuition increases to the rate of inflation, a commitment to set interest rates on student loans at prime and a promise to amend student aid rules to ensure youth can graduate with less financial burden. The University will be working with the Province as these commitments start to unfold.

## More US institutions using Facebook to recruit students, survey finds

[In a recent US survey](#) of college admissions and marketing staff, 79% of the institutions reported using Facebook for admissions purposes this year, up from 66% in 2010. 53% of respondents said they considered the site to be a "very important" admissions tool, rating it above YouTube, blogs, Twitter, and other online social networks. Nearly two-thirds of the institutions described Facebook as an integral part of their marketing strategy, and more than half reported that it had a significant impact on student recruitment.



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## EVENTS

### Open Doors showcased all KIP projects

Government and Community Engagement led the planning and organization of the *Open Doors, Open Knowledge* event on November 9 to showcase the completion of the seven U of M Knowledge Infrastructure Projects (KIP). An event took place at the Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library with remarks from the Honourable Vic Toews, the Honourable Erin Selby, Rod Bruinooge MP and Paul Davidson, President of AUCC. [A video](#) was prepared and shown at the event which highlighted all of the seven KIP projects.

Open House events were organized for four of the seven projects. Paul Davidson also toured three of the KIP projects on the Fort Garry Campus. [The Knowledge Infrastructure Program](#), part of the federal government's Economic Action Plan, was a \$2 billion program provided to Canadian universities to build new and renovate existing facilities. The University of Manitoba received \$32 million in KIP funding.

### RInC Event—December 9th

On December 9, the University of Manitoba will celebrate recent upgrades to the Frank Kennedy Centre, made possible by funding from the federal government's [Recreational Infrastructure Canada \(RinC\)](#) program through Western Economic Diversification Canada. President Barnard and Rod Bruinooge, MP, Winnipeg South will take part in the event.

### Visionary Conversations

The University of Manitoba has launched a new speaker series hosted by President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. David T. Barnard. At the next event, *'Oh the Weather Outside is Frightful': Our Changing Climate*, join our expert panel in a discussion about the changes our climate, our growing population and need for resources is forcing us to address today. Climate change is not about the planet, but about people, their habitat, and the economic, social and political adaptations needed in order to respond to the impacts of climate change. More information on the December 14th session is available from [the website](#) and you can rsvp at [government\\_community@umanitoba.ca](mailto:government_community@umanitoba.ca). And save the date for these upcoming sessions:

February 15 – Managing Our Water Resources for the Future

April 11 – Human Rights and Gender Issues

June 13 – The Food We Eat

And you can catch past conversations *Apocalypse or Utopia?* and *Livable Cities* on the [U of M YouTube channel](#).