

Hansard Newsletter

External Relations - Government and Community Engagement

June 2012

Manitoba Introduces Legislation to Limit Tuition Increases

Following through on its Throne Speech commitment, the Provincial Government introduced [Bill 2: The Protecting Affordability for University Students Act \(Council on Post-Secondary Education Act Amended\)](#) in May. The bill proposes a number of significant changes for universities.

Bill 2 commits to provide universities with three year funding forecasts. The bill also allows small tuition increases based on a rolling consumer price index average and permits the adjustment of fees for designated professional degree programs and only if a number of criteria are met as laid out in the legislation.

International student fees are exempted in the legislation.

Bill 2 is currently awaiting third reading and will likely be passed before the Legislature adjourns for the summer.

DFO Cuts to Impact Manitoba

Federal government cuts to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) will result in [400 positions being eliminated across Canada](#). 27 scientists and 13 support staff at DFO's Freshwater Institute located at the U of M will see their positions eliminated as part of the cuts. The federal government is also proposing to cut Winnipeg-based research related to the federal Species-at-Risk Act and the effect of pesticides on fish. These cuts follow the cuts to the Cereals Research Centre and National Research Council detailed in the [May Hansard](#).

The federal government is also ending research and closing facilities at the Experimental Lakes Area near Kenora by March 2013. The 58 small lakes located in Northern Ontario are a natural outdoor laboratory used to study how fish and lake ecosystems respond to human and natural disturbances. The research done in the 44 year history of the program has been instrumental in leading to changes in hydro development, the ban on phosphorous in dish soap and action on acid rain, among many others.

[A coalition has formed](#) to raise awareness of the importance of the Experimental Lakes Area and sent [an open letter to the Prime Minister](#) in an attempt to have the government reconsider its decision.

SSHRC distributes more than \$70 million in grants

[The federal government has also announced](#) new investments to support social sciences and humanities research at Canadian post-secondary institutions. More than \$70 million is being awarded over a period of 7 years to support 92 research teams across Canada through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Partnership Grants and Partnership Development Grants. University of Manitoba researchers were lead applicants for 2 successful Development Grants and 1 successful Partnership Grant, and co-applicants and collaborators on a number of others.

New Innovation Partnerships Announced

The federal government recently [announced that 60 innovative partnerships](#) between colleges and businesses will receive more than \$36 million over a period of up to five years through the College and Community Innovation (CCI) Program. The CCI Program is managed by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada in collaboration with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

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NSERC distributes more than \$410 million in grants and scholarships

[The federal government recently announced](#) more than 3,750 new investments in research programs and scholarships totaling over \$410 million for scientists, engineers, and students at universities across Canada over the next five years. These awards consist of the 2012 competition results for NSERC's [Discovery Grants](#), [Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships](#), [NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships](#), and [Postdoctoral Fellowships](#).

70 U of M researchers received new and renewed funding from the NSERC Discovery Grants program totaling over \$9 million. Three of those researchers will receive an extra \$120,000 each through the Discovery Accelerator Supplements program and 35 additional researchers at the graduate, doctoral, and post-doctoral level will receive a combined \$521,500 in scholarships.

Education a focus in Senate report on strengthening Canada-Brazil relations

Brazil remained in the post-secondary news again this month, this time with the release of [a new Senate committee report](#) entitled *Intensifying Strategic Partnerships with the New Brazil*. The report recommends the federal government apply the necessary resources and support to sustain education as the key driving force in intensifying Canada-Brazil relations. The report points to the recent [university presidents' mission to Brazil](#) and the federal government's commitment to approximately 12,000 Brazilian students and scholars under [Brazil's "Science without Borders" scholarship program](#) as examples to build on and recommends government encourage the Canadian private sector to explore avenues for offering internships to Brazilian students under the program.

Manitoba suspends Grade 12 math exam as part of curriculum revision

The [Provincial Government brought together stakeholders](#) from K-12 education, post-secondary institutions and industry last month for the Manitoba Education Math Summit to discuss how to improve math education in K-12 schools. The Province is postponing the introduction of a new math curriculum designed by Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba in order to strengthen and balance the new curriculum. [The Minister indicated that high school math courses](#) will equip students with the math skills required for post-secondary education and the workforce. The Province also committed to work with the faculties of education to make sure future teachers have the training required to teach math. The Minister declined to comment on whether the Province would push for higher math entrance requirements for enrolment in education.

COU launches campaign to connect university researchers to the public:

[The Council of Ontario Universities has launched "Research Matters"](#), a new province-wide campaign aimed at showcasing the research happening at Ontario's 21 publicly funded universities. The campaign has started with a website and blog, and will continue to roll out through 2012-13 with public events across Ontario designed to allow the public to engage directly with university researchers.

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U15 appoints Executive Director

[Suzanne Corbeil has been appointed](#) to a five-year-term as Executive Director of the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities. She will be the organization's first executive director and brings a great deal of experience in the research community to the organization, including almost ten years as a Vice-President at the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

Federal Government to Support Manitoba Aerospace Research

Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification Lynne Yelich, along with GLACIER and EnviroTrec were at U of M on June 8th to [announce funding for a new aerospace initiative in Manitoba](#). The investment of more than \$5 million allows EnviroTREC to develop the technologies and skills needed to evaluate and certify the next generation of large aircraft engines. Work will include aerospace engine design validation and the testing of green aerospace engine emissions and alternative fuels..



This is good news for U of M as the Faculty of Engineering has been working closely with partners GLACIER and EnviroTREC to develop the aerospace industry in Manitoba. The University is working with its partners to develop student co-op and internship opportunities, joint research and development projects and an Engineer-in-Residence position in support of the aero-engine testing industry in Manitoba.



Visionary Conversations

President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. David T. Barnard will host the next Visionary Conversation on June 13th. At 'The Food We Eat' join our expert panel for a discussion about the safety and supply of the food we eat – from the local and the global perspective. More information on the session is available from [the website](#) and you can rsvp at government_community@umanitoba.ca.

You can also view past conversations on [the U of M YouTube channel](#).

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