

**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**

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Other speakers:

- **Tyler MacAfee**, Director of Government and Community Engagement will introduce you.

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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:
  - the attraction of the first national museum outside of Ottawa.
  - the rebirth of one of our most popular family parks, and
  - 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:
  - educate the professional work force,
  - provide valuable community services, and
  - 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 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.