

November 16, 2021

Dear Premier Heather Stefanson & Honourable Wayne Ewasko,

The Manitoba Society of Occupational Therapists is the professional association and voice of Occupational Therapists in Manitoba. We are deeply concerned about the impact of the current strike and its impact on faculty, students and healthcare for Manitobans.

As the only post-secondary institution in the province that graduates many healthcare professionals, including Occupational Therapists, we need innovative, responsive and committed faculty to be able to train professionals for the future.

There is a need to keep the exceptional faculty who are currently here and recruit exceptional faculty for vacancies to be able to build a strong and robust healthcare system for the future. Faculty vacancies and retention are significant issues that impact student learning – the students that are our future health care providers.

Competent health care professionals are vital to creating and building a responsive and high-quality healthcare system that reduces the impact of disability and improves quality of life for all Manitobans when they are hurt, experience anxiety, show signs of dementia, or are recovering from surgery, a heart attack or stroke, to name a few.

This is a time to invest in healthcare. This is the time to invest in the faculty of our healthcare providers. We hope that you are able to offer and provide opportunity for open and free bargaining, and fair compensation to UMFA members. The future of our province depends on it!

Respectfully,



Heidi Garcia, OT Reg(MB)
MSOT Executive Officer



Alisia Roos, OT Reg(MB)
MSOT President