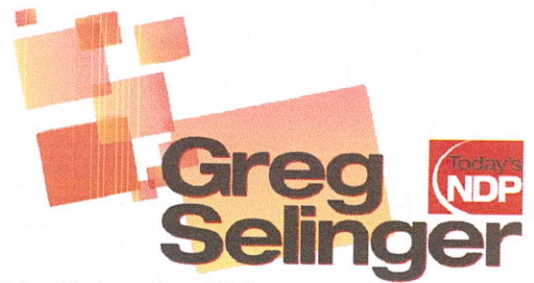


April 4, 2016

Dear Dr. Barnard,



Thank you for your letter about post-secondary education in Manitoba. Our NDP team believes that post-secondary education is crucial to ensuring our young people are prepared for skilled work, as well as being well-educated members of society. This is important for the future prosperity of our Province. I am happy to answer the questions in your letter.

1. A re-elected NDP government would carry through with the \$150-million commitment to the Front and Centre campaign. This will include funds for the new Inter-Professional Health Education Complex at the Bannatyne campus, redeveloping the Helen Glass Centre to support new engineering seats and the new hybrid engineering program, continuing provincial contributions to the Churchill Marine Observatory, and renewing classroom, libraries, and laboratories to improve the classroom and research environments for students. You should be congratulated on your private fundraising to date.

It is concerning that other political parties in Manitoba have not made similar commitments. There is a lot at risk in this important election.

2. The Manitoba NDP has been proud to keep tuition fees affordable for students while providing funding to support post-secondary institutions. We are allowing tuition fees to increase at the rate of inflation and have more than doubled annual funding for universities and colleges since 1999. While other provinces have cut back on post-secondary investments, the NDP government invested at one of the highest rates in the country.
3. We created Research Manitoba to bring existing research funding sources into one co-ordinated organization and to explore opportunities to leverage research funding from national and international sources. We will continue to fund Research Manitoba to ensure we are able to take advantage of matching funding opportunities and remain competitive with universities in other provinces.

Thank you for your leadership and for all you do for post-secondary learners in Manitoba. I hope we will continue to advance the good work we have done together.

Sincerely,

Greg Selinger