



# DEBATES OF THE SENATE

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1st SESSION • 42nd PARLIAMENT • VOLUME 150 • NUMBER 100

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## UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by:

The Honourable Patricia Bovey

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

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### UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

#### ONE HUNDRED AND FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

**Hon. Patricia Bovey:** Honourable senators, I rise today in honour of the University of Manitoba's one hundred and fortieth anniversary, whose celebrations were launched yesterday, outdoors, in a wonderful ceremony.

Winnipeg has been the centre of many national firsts, in many fields, over many decades, and one — the founding of Western Canada's first university, the University of Manitoba — was particularly important for the west and Canada as a whole. I had the privilege of being a board member and its board chair for a number of years, years in which past accomplishments certainly proved to be firm foundations as we looked ahead.

Throughout its history, the U of M has provided a solid basis and head start for the work of all its graduates, who have taken their places in myriad fields, nationally and internationally. The U of M is, and will always be, a microcosm of the province and a leader in many national issues.

Research at the U of M over its 140 years has been inspiring, critically important and groundbreaking. Its teaching has stretched and inspired the minds of generations of students, building strong pillars of knowledge in every field of endeavour: agriculture, medicine, law, the arts, engineering, architecture, science, climate change and many more. U of M graduates, some of whom are members of this chamber, are trailblazers, pioneers, challengers, visionaries, explorers and creators.

Yesterday, I applauded the thousands of current students from Manitoba, encouraging them to make as much of the opportunities that lie ahead for them as they can.

With this new strategic plan, plans for future campus development, a serious commitment to indigenizing the campus and the opening of the new National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the U of M is well-poised in its leadership roles in many capacities.

This milestone anniversary is a perfect time to underline the importance of advanced education, providing opportunities for international students to study in Canada and for our students to study around the world, gaining mutual understanding of rich and multicultural diversities and perspectives. In our rapidly changing global landscape, we are on the cusp of new ventures and perspectives as to who we are, and what we are, as Canadians.

If the past has taught us anything, I know the University of Manitoba graduates will make this world a better place, building on the mantra that we are all better off when we are all better off.

While Canada celebrates the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Confederation this year, Manitoba anticipates its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary in 2020. The University of Manitoba will certainly play a central role in those celebrations, just as its faculty, students and staff will help guide Canada to a successful 200.

Here is to the University of Manitoba, to universities, their faculties and students across this country as we prepare our citizens for Canada's vital and vibrant future.

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