

Office of Equity Transformation 2026 October Newsletter

GREETINGS FROM VICE PROVOST (EQUITY) – TINA CHEN

As September comes to a close my thoughts are on Truth and Reconciliation. I am sitting with the experiences shared at College of Nursing Orange Shirt Day event, including the powerful words of alumni [Michelle Monkman](#). She challenged all of us not to be complacent with rationales that make sense from within the system, but that have disproportionate negative impacts and reinforce systemic inequities. All the speakers also reminded us of the importance of listening, Truth, community, and walking together for Reconciliation.

These remarks resonated with work that has preoccupied me this month: how do we build shared pathways to counter hate, and to work for a more socially just and equitable UM and world? For me, I keep returning to the importance of connection within and across various experiences of systemic marginalization. From here we can recognize common struggles – the issues we all know need to be addressed – while also holding space to listen to different communities about their distinct histories, lived experiences, and ongoing harms of racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, religious discrimination. As the academic year gets fully underway, I invite you to connect with me, and to join in the work of listening and stepping forward with epistemic humility.

OFFICE OF EQUITY TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

Equity Leadership Breakfast Series

The Equity Leadership Breakfasts series is rooted in the importance of connection and mutual support in opening up career pathways. Each gathering features invited speakers who share insights and reflections from their own personal leadership journeys. These events are open to faculty and staff in any position who identify as members of the systemically marginalized groups featured. Please check the [Equity Leadership Breakfast intranet page](#) for full series information.

Women in Senior Academic Leadership

- Wednesday, **October 7** at 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.
- Location: Cross Common Room (room 108) at St. John's College

- Panelists:
 - Donna Kotsopoulos, Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada (SWAAC) president
 - Shanthi Johnson, SWAAC Ontario representative

[Register to attend the Women in Senior Academic Leadership](#)

Indigenous Leadership

- Monday, **December 7** at 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.
- Location: Quiet Room (room 111) at St. John's College
- Panelists:
 - Angie Bruce, Vice-President (Indigenous)
 - Mike Robertson, Chair, UM Board of Governors

[Register to attend the Indigenous Leadership](#)

(Please note: Registration for the December gatherings is being collected via a new registration system. To register, please log in using your University of Manitoba single sign-on (SSO) credentials. Once logged in, navigate to "Sessions" tab and find the Equity Leadership Breakfast Series events to reserve your seat. If you have any difficulty, please contact provost.communications@umanitoba.ca)

Public Classroom Initiative

The Public Classroom Initiative create spaces for public learning for all UM students, staff, and faculty. The sessions are organized around 20-minute presentations by UM instructors and researchers, followed by a 10-minute question and answer period. The full schedule can be found on the [OET Learning and Engagement](#) webpage, with upcoming sessions listed below.

Thursday, October 1 at 12:30 pm:

Topic: "Race Is Not a Scientific Category: The Economic and Social Inheritance of Black Americans" with Robert Chernomas, Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts

Wednesday, October 21 at 12:30 pm:

Topic: Early Modern Portraits of an African Prince" with Braden Scott, School of Art

Thursday, October 29 at 12:30 pm:

Topic: Why Privacy Matters, Even When You Have Nothing To Hide and Learning for Democratic Futures with Christina Penner, Computer Science, Faculty of Science

Monday, November 2 at 12:30 pm:

Topic: Jews and Romanies in each other's stories with Justin Jaron Lewis, Department of Religion and Culture, Faculty of Arts

EDIA Community of Practice

Sharing Session: “Our Goals and Challenges with EDIA Work”

Date and Time: October 8, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Facilitated by Robin Attas, EDIA Specialist, Division of Extended Education

[Register to attend the EDIA CoP Sharing Session](#)

In this EDIA CoP “Sharing Session”, you’ll engage in facilitated small-group discussions with other members of the UM EDIA CoP community. Together, you’ll explore your goals for the work you’re doing related to EDIA in the upcoming year, and brainstorm strategies for existing or potential challenges that you’re facing. By attending this session, you’ll meet other folks across the University engaged in EDIA work in different ways, and get valuable feedback and inspiration for your own work this academic year.

UM and the Scarborough Charter

As UM has prepares to host the 2028 Scarborough Charter Inter-University Forum, we welcome Black students, staff, faculty, and alumni to help shape the forum’s theme and activities. Let us know if you’re interested in being involved through this [form](#).

[Promoting Black Flourishing Fund](#) – Applications open. Deadline for Round 2 consideration is November 29, 2026.

Drop-ins Hours with Vice-Provost (Equity) and Vice-Provost Students

Laurie Schnarr, Vice-Provost (Students), and Tina Chen, Vice-Provost (Equity) make to it easier for students to connect and share their ideas, concerns, and issues with them.

Upcoming dates for drop-in hours are below, with the full schedule on the [Vice-Provost Students webpage](#).

- **Tuesday, October 6, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.**
Arts Student Body Council Lounge, 2nd floor Fletcher Argue Bldg.
- **Wednesday, October 28, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**
Science Student Association Lounge, 209 Armes Bldg.UM Events
- **Monday, November 16, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
Commerce Student Association Office, 144 Drake Centre

UM COMMUNITY BUILDING, WORKSHOPS, AND EVENTS

Sukkah Cakes and Lulav Shakes

University of Manitoba, Thursday Oct 1, 12pm-1:30pm

Drop by Chabad's Mobile Sukkah for an opportunity to shake the lulav, grab cookies and fruit shake, and experience the joy of Judaism.

For information on location, please contact: M.Soderstrom@umanitoba.ca or lkerr@jewishwinnipeg.org.

MMIWG2S+ Advocacy & Two-Spirit Representation: An Event in honour of National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender Diverse People (MMIWG2S+).

On Friday, October 2nd 2026 at 11:00am, please join us for with MMIWG2S+ Advocacy & Two-Spirit Representation with **Adrienne and Anna Huard**. This event takes place in honour of National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender Diverse People (MMIWG2S+). To learn more, we encourage you to read the [Calls for Justice](#) or check out our [Resource Guide on MMIWG2S+](#).

The event will begin at 11:00am in Room 200 Education Building at the Fort Garry Campus, University of Manitoba. For information on getting to the UM, please see: <https://umanitoba.ca/about-um/our-campuses/getting-here>

UDL in Practice: Emancipatory Pedagogy

October 15, 1-2:30pm, CATL

This session will examine the educational philosophy of bell hooks as a tool to incorporate emancipatory practices into your practice. bell hooks is one of the most influential pedagogical theorists of the last century. We will explore the application of her philosophy to the contemporary University. Through a combination of theory and embodied practice, participants will have the opportunity to explore hooks' emancipatory frameworks and apply them to their own practice.

Connect Group for Parents and Caregivers of Children with Disability**October 13, 1-2pm, Student Wellness Centre (162 Extended Education)**

This group offers a supportive space for parents or guardians of children with disabilities to connect, share experiences, and learn from one another.

Led by Dr. Christine Stewart (Professor in Women's and Gender Studies) and hosted in partnership with the Student Wellness Centre.

Pause for Paws – Pet Therapy at the Student Wellness Center

October 20, 11:30am to 1pm

Access to Justice Week 2026

Monday, October 26 @ 12pm - 1:30pm via Zoom

Webinar: Knocking on Justice's Door: Trans People and the Law, hosted by the Manitoba Bar Association SOGIC section.

Tuesday, October 27 @ 12pm - 1:30pm via Zoom

Webinar: Working together towards a truly bilingual justice system / Oeuvrer ensemble vers un système de justice véritablement bilingue

New Faculty Orientation - November 3, 2:30-4pm

Topic: Fostering a Vibrant Community: EDIA and Anti-Oppression at UM

Presenter: Tina Chen, Vice-Provost (Equity)

[Registration required](#)

To submit events and news to share in November 2026 newsletter, please email Amy at amy.zhang@umanitoba.ca before October 25, 2026.

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