

THE

# UNITER

FREE.WEEKLY.  
VOLUME 74 // ISSUE 06 // OCT. 10

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

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For more info, contact Talia at [creative@uniter.ca](mailto:creative@uniter.ca).

## \* ON THE COVER

Anthony Huynh, a researcher from the University of Manitoba, advocates for the rights and welfare of migrants.

Read more on page 9

# HAUNTED WHEN THE MINUTES DRAG

Every October, as Halloween approaches, Winnipeggers are reminded of the city's many supposedly haunted buildings. Whether discussions of hauntings happen through word-of-mouth conversations or official ghost tours (or on page 13 of this very issue of *The Uniter*), engaging with Winnipeg's ghosts is part of what it means to live here.

But Winnipeg is haunted by its past (and its present) in more ways than one. Nearly five years ago, *Maclean's* magazine published its cover story that named Winnipeg "Canada's most racist city." The article inspired its share of detractors but spawned necessary conversations about the city's major problems with casual and systemic racism.

Our cover feature this week focuses on diversity in Winnipeg. In the few short years since the *Maclean's* cover story, we've made some strides. Manitoba elected its first three Black MLAs in the most recent election. Former radio personality Dave Wheeler, who managed to stay on the air despite years of open racism (and who infamously ambushed the writer of the *Maclean's* story live on his show), was finally removed by Rogers.

But as our features reporter Amol Samra points out in her cover feature, the people in power still look a lot like those from five - or 50 - years ago. There are Winnipeggers working to empower the marginalized and make life in the city more equitable. But we still have plenty of ghosts to exorcise.

—Thomas Pashko

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The Burton Cummings Theatre, built as the Walker Theatre in 1907, has a reputation as one of Winnipeg's most haunted buildings. Read more on page 13.

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## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions of articles, letters, graphics and photos are encouraged, however all new contributors (with the exception of letters to the editor) must attend a 45-minute volunteer orientation workshop to ensure that the volunteer understands all of the publication's basic guidelines. Next volunteer workshop takes place **Wednesday, October 23 at 12 p.m.**, in room ORM14. Please email [volunteer@uniter.ca](mailto:volunteer@uniter.ca) for more details. Deadline for advertisements is noon Friday, six days prior to publication. The Uniter reserves the right to refuse to print material submitted by volunteers. The Uniter will not print submissions that are homophobic, misogynistic, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.



PHOTOS BY CALLIE LUGOSI

Actor and dancer Maria Anne Grant

# CREATING SPACE FOR WINNPEG'S DANCE COMMUNITY

KATHERINE CAO

FEATURES EDITOR

@KATHEKATS

For dancer and actor Maria Anne Grant, performing has always taken a central role in her life.

"I was just a really energetic child, and my parents were like, 'okay, we've got to put her somewhere,' so they put me in dance," she says.

As an adult, Grant recognized the gap in dance education for those who wanted to further their training or return to dance after long break periods, and so Drop In Dance Winnipeg was born.

"There wasn't a lot of options for adults to dance, and if there were, it was just very niche ... you could take burlesque classes or heels classes, or you could join a hip-hop crew, and that was kind of it."

Before opening her studio, Grant travelled to Vancouver and Australia to further her film-school education.

"Before I started dancing again, I thought I needed some sort of creative outlet, so I got into acting," she says.

It was during the summer of 2017 that Grant started leaning more into acting, auditioning for roles in film and television, securing her principal role in Syfy's *Channel Zero*.

"It usually takes a long time to book that kind of a role, so I was really proud of myself, (but) it was in the middle of filming (when) my dad passed away," she says.

"Something was missing from my life, so I started dancing again."

Initially operating out of NAfro Dance Productions in Osborne Village, Grant began teaching drop-in style classes with the help of fellow dancers and teachers Jennifer Jonasson and Davin Furtado.

"We had quite a few brainstorming sessions, the three of us, and they were pretty instrumental in really getting (Drop In Dance Winnipeg) up and running," Grant says. "They were amazing, but neither of them wanted to be (more involved). They just wanted to teach. They didn't want to run the thing."

As her business grew in popularity, Grant opened her permanent studio and settled into her Wolseley home. This is where she now lives with her partner Kevin and their three cats.

"Everything happened at once. My dad died, a week later, we got possession of this house, and a few weeks later, I started the dance stuff."



1

## 1) TIGER THE CAT

"She's very photogenic. She's got the black around her eyes that just makes her look sad all the time."



2

## 2) PANDA THE CAT

"That's Panda ... They're all named after what they look like."



3

## 3) MOON SHUTTERS

"I found this house with the moon shutters, and I was like 'that's the one!'"



4

## 4) ABSTRACT PAINTING

"That one Kevin and I painted together. That was when we first started dating. I was painting a lot, and we went out to the lake one weekend, and I was like, 'oh, do you want to paint with me?' So we painted that. I painted the right side, and he painted the left side."



5

## 5) SPOONS

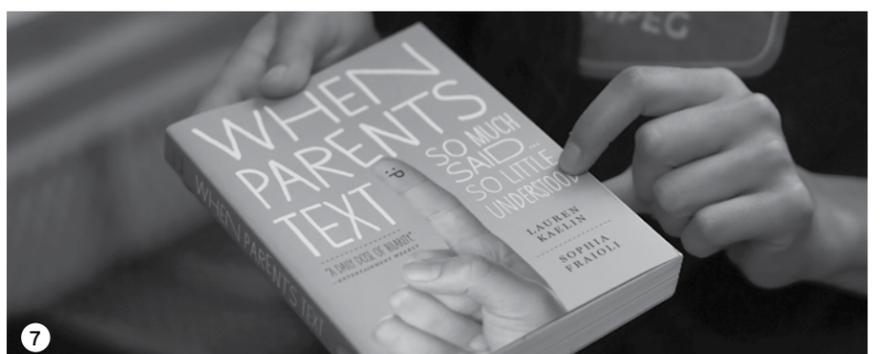
"That was my Oma's as well. I told you, it's like a museum!"



6

## 6) AN IMPORTANT DATE

"That's the day my dad died, July 10. That was left from our cabin that's now been sold ... I don't change the date on that."



7

## 7) BOOK

"This book I found in the library when my dad was in the Grace Hospice ... and it was the only book there that I thought was funny, so I would read him the text from it."

## THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Indian celebration brings various cultural and religious communities together

NAAMAN STURRUP

 @NAAMANSTURRUP

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Derived from the Sanskrit word *dīpāvali* meaning "row of lights," Diwali is a five-day spiritual event that begins on Oct. 25. The event's pre-celebration on Oct. 11 at the Punjab Cultural Centre promises to be culturally encapsulating.

Director of Tashan Entertainment and Diwali's event organizer Sunny Singh says, "this will be a small Folkarama of Indian culture."

"This event is not just (for) Punjabis and Sikhs but will try to represent India as a whole."

For Hindus, Diwali commemorates King Rama's return to Ayodhya from a 14-year exile to defeat Ravana's army.

In Jainism, the event highlights when Lord Mahavir, the last Tirthankara in Jainism, obtains freedom from the reincarnation cycle.

Sikhs celebrate Diwali, as it marks the sixth guru, Guru Hargobind, being released from prison along with 52 princes in 1619.

In all these religions, Diwali celebrates harmony, peace and success, and the event provides a space for both Indians and non-Indians to come together as a community.

Featuring food stalls, henna booths, folk dancing, DJs and bouncing castles for children, Singh points out that Indian-organized cultural events like Diwali are open for all to attend.

"It does not matter where you are from, as long as you want to enjoy and learn about the various Indian cultures, you are invited," he says.

Singh notes that events like these are important to help keep cultural traditions alive and approachable.

These events "are not telling people to absorb and accept our cultures," he says. "Rather, the event showcases what (India) has to offer," he says.

"You do not have to do the things we do, but if you like something, we would be happy to help you learn about our cultures."

This event also provides an opportunity for people of Indian descent to reconnect with their cultures. Event organizer Sandeep Bhatti says young Indians born in Canada may not know about this historical event.

"They may go to their families to learn



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Punjab Cultural Centre's Diwali pre-celebration will take place on Oct. 11.

about this, but coming to this event gives them practical experience with the culture," she says.

Along with building respect for other cultures, events like these help immigrants come out of their cultural shells.

"This is a symbol for immigrants who come to Canada and do not know how to live here," Singh says. "They may still have inner cultural barriers, and events like

these are good to help break these walls."

**This Diwali celebration takes place on Oct. 11 at the Punjab Cultural Centre located at 1770 King Edward St., and it runs from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. The entry fee is \$10, and tickets can be purchased at the door.**

## WRITING IN A REVERIE

Arts and literature magazine releases inaugural issue

HANNAH FOULGER

 @FOULGERSCOVFEFE

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

Canada has a brand new arts and literature publication. Winnipeg-based *Reverie Review* features painting, fashion, writing and more. The magazine is the brainchild of editor Emily McDonald. She and co-editor Laura Woelk launched the inaugural issue on Oct. 8 at Forth Café.

McDonald says the goal of *Reverie* was to give "a platform to artists. I know that (it) can be tough to find a place to put your work and get it out there, so I wanted to create (space) for people who are looking for a place to do that."

*Reverie* also features fashion by designer Mat Kurtas.

"We think Mat's work makes you think about art differently," McDonald says. "You start to look beyond the 'typical' mediums that one thinks of such as painting or drawing and begin to realize what art can really all encompass. We are really excited to be able to represent a full range of what art is and can be."

They originally intended for the magazine to publish Winnipeg artists and writers and describe the magazine on social media as "a submission-based arts

and literature publication in Winnipeg, intended to be an outlet for local artists to showcase and publish their art."

McDonald, however, says she and Woelk were "kind of surprised how things took off" and "were getting people (submitting) from all over Canada." They received submissions from as far away as the United Kingdom.

"We said that we were going to keep it Canadian for the beginning, just to keep it simpler. We unfortunately said no (to international submissions) for now, but maybe in the future we'll be able to keep going ... That would be pretty cool."

Vancouver-based Ash Winters has three poems in the magazine.

"This is the second literary magazine that I have been published in, and I could not be more excited to have my work be part of the first *Reverie*. It is small, independent literary magazines like *Reverie* that support local writing talent across Canada, bringing poetry into our communities and our daily life. (I'm) so grateful to be a part of this ... addition to the Winnipeg literary scene," Winters says in an email to *The Uniter*.

McDonald was especially excited to publish a lyrical personal essay from



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

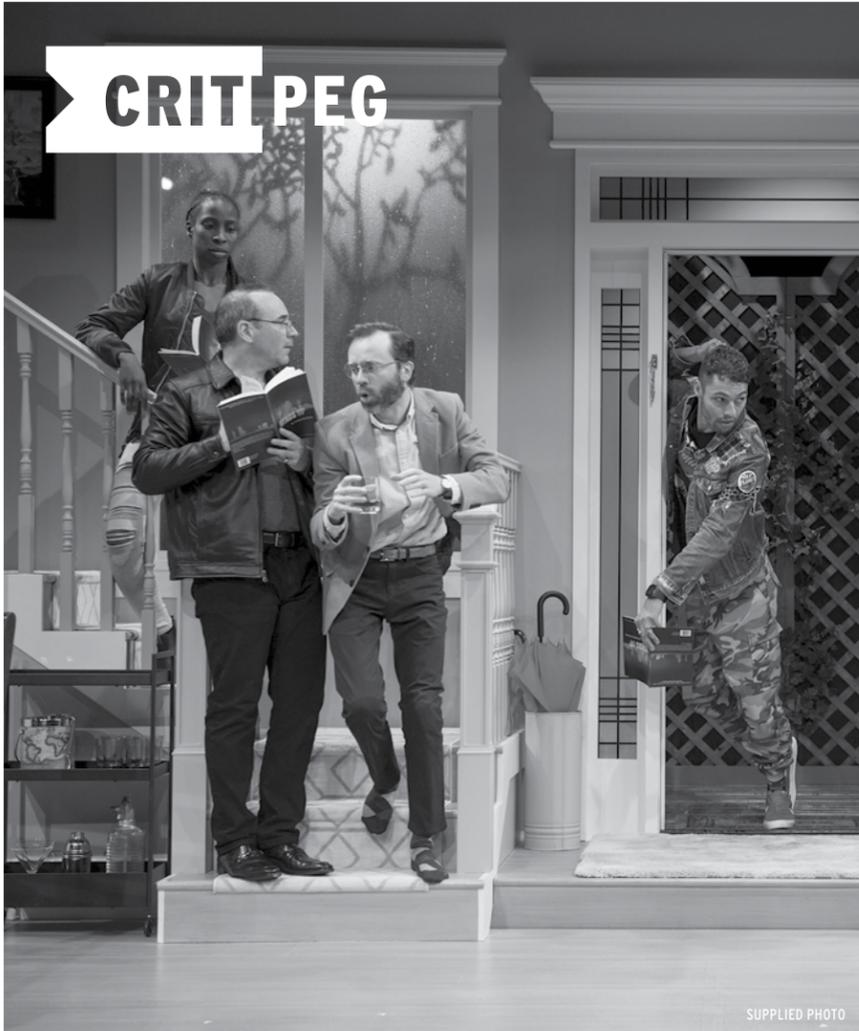
*Reverie* editors Emily McDonald and Laura Woelk

Angelica Castellaneta, which follows Castellaneta's university years in Toronto and experiences grappling with borderline personality disorder.

Castellaneta and McDonald went to elementary school together. McDonald describes her as a "really talented writer," mentioning that she thinks it's "really cool" that someone she's known for a long

time is being published in the magazine.

While the submission date for the next issue has not been set, McDonald says, "We are definitely planning to have more." Follow *Reverie* on Facebook to find out where to get copies of their first issue and for future submission calls.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

## CRIT PEG

# RMTC'S NEW SEASON OPENS WITH A BANG

Kat Sandler's theatre culture critique is RMTC gold

*Bang Bang*

Directed by Kelly Thornton

Presented by Royal MTC

HANNAH FOULGER

@FOULGERSCOVFEFE

ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

*Bang Bang* by Kat Sandler opens up the 2019-20 season at Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre at the Tom Hendry Warehouse, which is in its 50th season. This season is the last one conceived by artistic director emeritus Steven Schipper and the first executed by incoming artistic director Kelly Thornton and associate artistic director Audrey Dwyer.

The play centres around Lila Hines (Beverly Ndukwu), a rookie cop who shoots an unarmed black man by mistake. Tim Bernbaum (Tom Keenan), a playwright, descends on her living room after the success of his play *Hands Up*, inspired by her story. This “living-room play” combusts with energy as actor Jackie Savage (Sébastien Heins) and his bodyguard (Alex Poch-Goldin) crash Bernbaum's attempted reconciliation with Hines and her mother (Warona Setshwaelo), with whom she lives.

Sandler's gut-busting, trigger-happy script is a self-eviscerating dress-down of the supposedly woke theatre artist and the theatres that put him there, but in a way that doesn't seem forced or vindictive. The play does lose a bit of energy at the end of the first act, but the intermission cuts at the perfect moment, driving into the stronger second act.

The performances of Ndukwu as Lila and Setshwaelo as her mother sometimes seem out of sync, compared to the more laugh-out-loud comedy of the other actors, but they ground the play in the everyday world, which bears

the consequences of the art the other characters create.

Keenan, an actor whose bio is overflowing with RMTC productions, overshadows the more nuanced performances of Ndukwu and Setshwaelo in his annoyingly good-intentioned but ultimately insensitive Bernbaum. His earnest self-involvement shifts from laughter-inducing to a gratingly annoying portrayal, which eventually pays off in the second act.

Heins returns to the role of Savage in *Bang Bang* after he starred in the play at Factory Theatre in 2018, a production directed by Sandler. His performance does not get stale. More than once, he smoothly brings the entire play to a halt with talent and narcissism. Poch-Goldin, as his bodyguard Tony Cappello, elevates the role of the food-mooching former cop, rightfully earning some of the longer laughs from the audience.

Adam Parboosingh's set design intensifies the action without being over the top and contextualizes the play as part of a larger world and a larger conversation.

The play is full of commentary on theatre and playwriting. *Bang Bang* positions itself as a living-room play, but its sharp dialogue prevents it from becoming heavy-handed or preachy. It acknowledges the tactics used to make the audience heavily complicit in the violence and cultural appropriation inherent in representations of police violence against Black people and how those stories are appropriated and celebrated by audiences.

Sandler is a talent not to be missed on the Winnipeg stage. *Bang Bang* is a contemporary, visceral and unflinching standout performance and a positive start to Thornton's tenure as artistic director.

## CKUW TOP 30

September 30–October 6 2019



TW = This Week // LW = Last Week // ! = Local content // \* = Canadian Content

TW	LW	C	Artist	Album	Label
1	2	*	Fly Pan Am	C'est CA	Constellation
2	1	*	Rheostatics	Here Come The Wolves	Six Shooter
3	3	!	Holy Void	Naught	Transistor 66
4	4	*	Shotgun Jimmie	Transistor Sister 2	You've Changed
5	5	!	Dave McLean	Pocket Full Of Nothin'	Black Hen
6	14	!	Begonia	Fear	Rex Baby
7	9	*	Pup	Morbid Stuff	Little Dipper
8	7	!	Sol James	Fighting	Self-Released
9	12	*	Bruce Cockburn	Crowing Ignites	True North
10	8	!	Absent Sound	Hola Sol	Transistor 66
11	11		Gym Tonic	Good Job	Transistor 66
12	RE	*	B.A. Johnston	The Skid Is Hot Tonight	Transistor 66
13	10	!	Paige Drobot	Zero Thought	Transistor 66
14	18		CHAI	P U N K	Burger
15	21	!	JayWood	Time	Self-Released
16	16	!	Man Candy	Model Boyfriend	Transistor 66
17	6	*	Curtis Nowosad	Curtis Nowosad	Sessionheads United
18	22	*	Orville Peck	Pony	Royal Mountain
19	13	*	Various Artists	Class Of 2019	No List
20	15	*	Ian & Sylvia	The Lost Tapes	Stony Plain
21	17	!	Smoky Tiger And The Manitobandits	Royal Rumpus	Self-Released
22	20	!	Jacob Brodovsky	Sixteen Years	Self-Released
23	24		The Babe Rainbow	Today	30th Century
24	RE	*	Black Mountain	Destroyer	Dine Alone
25	RE	!	Living Hour	Softer Faces	Kanine
26	26	!	The Bros. Landreth	'87	Birthday Cake
27	29		Iggy Pop	Free	Lama Vista
28	28		(Sandy) Alex G	House Of Sugar	Domino
29	RE		Various Artists	Chill Pill	Public Possession
30	NE	*	Fred Fortin	Microdose	Grosse Boite

## ARTS BRIEFS

BETH SCHELLENBERG // ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR

@BETHGAZELLENBERG

### Real Love Thursdays

Catch Urban Vacation (Winnipeg), Brent Penny (Minneapolis), and p o u t (Winnipeg) on Thursday Oct. 10 at the Good Will Social Club (625 Portage Ave.) for Real Love Winnipeg's biweekly indie/pop showcase. Doors open at 8 p.m., and cover is \$10.

### Handsome Daughter anniversary party

Local watering hole The Handsome Daughter (61 Sherbrook St.) celebrates five years of cheap Standard, no Budweiser and plenty of good times on Friday, Oct. 11. Head down for karaoke and try the special HD cask brewed by Barn Hammer or sample the tiki cocktail menu. There is no cover. The event starts at 9 p.m. and goes late.

### Mike Maryniuk workshop

Local film virtuoso and well-renowned oddball director Mike Maryniuk is running a workshop through Video Pool Media Arts Centre (300-100 Arthur St.) on Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. The workshop will give participants an overview of the animated techniques that Maryniuk uses in his films. Workshop fees are \$60 for members and \$80 for non-members. Reserve a spot on videopool.org.

### PROJECTIONS at Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain (CCFM)

Rhayne Vermette's newest work, a series of immersive collages that explore the relationship between composition and material, is being exhibited at CCFM Art Gallery (340 Provencher Blvd.). The reception for Vermette's *PROJECTIONS* is from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11, and the show will be up until Dec. 9.

### Cyanotype and photogram workshop

Local filmmakers Marie-France Hollier and Kristiane Church are running a workshop on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The workshop will explore cameraless photography processes and takes place at PLATFORM centre for photographic + digital arts (121-100 Arthur St.). The fee is \$40 for PLATFORM members and \$65 for non-members (which includes membership). To reserve a spot, email outreach@platformgallery.org.

### School of Art Gallery opening

*Superscreen: The Making of an Artist-Run Counterculture & the Grand Western Canadian Screen Shop* opens at the School of Art Gallery (255 ARTlab, 180 Dafoe Rd.) on Friday, Oct. 11. The exhibition, curated by Alex King and Timothy Long, is co-produced with the MacKenzie Art Gallery. The opening reception is from 5:30 to 10 p.m. and will feature a panel discussion with folks working in local artist-run centres.

# MUSIC, WITH WORDS IN MIND

Providing local artists with the tools and connections needed to excel

NAAMAN STURRUP



ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER

In Winnipeg's growing art scene, artists must distinguish themselves from the status quo to excel in the music industry. The Winnipeg Music Project (WMP) radio show provides artists with the help and connections needed to achieve greater musical success.

WMP host Ashley Bieniarz says she created the radio show to support musical talent in Winnipeg.

"I just wanted to create more opportunities to make artists undeniable," she says. "This is a safe space where everyone has the opportunity to improve and be engaged in community."

WMP has partnered with the Songwriters Association of Canada to make the Winnipeg Music Project Songwriter's Group 2019-20, a 10-session songwriters circle that provides local artists with lyrical and musical guidance from accomplished artists and their peers.

This program has a different approach than other professional development programs, as it focuses on lyrical development.

"There are a lot of programs in Winnipeg that help you become 'expert

ready,'" Bieniarz says. "They help you to prepare for touring and performances, but I feel that there would be stronger artists if (those of us with musical programs) work together on the creative side and not only the financial and performative aspect."

To help with this, the songwriters group had Juno-nominated artist Jaylene Johnson, whose music was featured on *Pretty Little Liars* and *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, as its most recent mentor.

"My hope is (that) when I write a song, it connects with other people's lives, and that they will engage with it on a heart level," Johnson says.

Johnson points out that as most of what she has learned in songwriting has been from mentors, the songwriters group presents a unique opportunity for artists to learn more and grow their craft.

"This is a safe place for people to share their work and receive encouragement and critiques," she says.

Johnson and Bieniarz both feel that one of the biggest obstacles songwriters face is being their own worst enemy.

"There is always an inner editor that makes us hard on ourselves," Johnson says. "Also, in a world where there is so much content, to find ways for your content to stand out and find its audience is challenging."

Bieniarz agrees and says this can lead to "imposter syndrome."



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Winnipeg Music Project Songwriter's Group gives musicians a place to develop their lyrical craft.

"Getting over the initial hump of believing that you cannot do this and that you are fooling everyone is a difficult task," she says.

"Though it can be hard for artists to be confident when they have not had many recording or performing opportunities, you must first believe in yourself and then get others to believe in you. That is what gets your music out there."

The next session takes place on Oct. 28 and features children's music performer Fred Penner. The songwriters group has a drop-in style format, or pre-registration can be done at [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca). The sessions take place at Forth Café Gallery at 171 McDermot Ave.

# THE END OF FARMERS' MARKET SEASON

How to eat locally and sustainably during the winter months

MARK TEAGUE

VOLUNTEER



The availability of fresh, local produce during the summer months is one of Winnipeg's greatest assets. Local farmers provide Winnipeggers with a variety of tasty and ethically conscious food. A cultural awareness about these systems is also gaining traction. But what happens at the end of October when squash season comes to a close and local markets shut their doors?

Local producers suggest a few different techniques, most of which they use themselves, to stay full outside of growing season.

"You have to eat like your great-grandparents did," Percy Phillips, the owner and operator of Prairie Quinoa, says.

He says the most manageable way to leave a minimal carbon footprint is to plan ahead.

"Stock a basement full of squash and root vegetables and local grains and pulses (that) will easily last over the winter," he says, explaining that while these are the last of the local produce to be sold at the market, they are also the longest lasting when stored correctly.

Vikki Derksen, co-proprietor of Forever Prairie Preserves, suggests pickling and jarring local produce while it is available and then diving into those stores over the colder months. She says

the handful of local markets, such as the St. Norbert Farmers' Market, that stay open throughout the winter continue to sell local preserves.

The St. Norbert Market is a mainstay for many local producers during the slower, colder months. It is a covered market in which vendors can sell their wares (quite often crafts and other non-edible goodies), and it provides a space to find local food throughout the less-plentiful prairie winter.

It is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until Dec. 21 and then reopens in the new year every other Saturday until early May. Many local farmers, whose products are salable in winter, use this as their main connection to the city from November to March.

So what can shoppers do to eat local during the winter?

"Eat more meat," Chad Wiens of Heart Acres Farm suggests in what may seem like an odd piece of advice for those looking to reduce their carbon footprints.

He explains there are a handful of local meat producers, such as Hutlet Family Farm, Zinn Farms and Fresh Roots Farms, that are working on a method of "regenerative growing," which is a method of farming animals



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Percy Phillips of Prairie Quinoa

that aims to dramatically reduce carbon output.

Wiens says the pasturing of animals farmed this way produces enough greenery to absorb more CO<sub>2</sub> than the animals emit, a process that serves to bring a new perspective on meat consumption in the coming years.

The folks at Harvest Moon also pro-

vide winter services through their Food Initiative. Their website profiles each of their "farm families," the types of food that they raise and information for ordering and delivery.

Despite the inevitable malaise of Winnipeg winter, there is still a world of ways to continue to eat delicious and ethically conscious local food.

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# PERCEPTIONS OF DIVERSITY IN WINNIPEG

Uncovering social realities and issues faced by marginalized communities

Winnipeg is a melting pot of cultures and traditions. It is home to people from different origins, religions and ethnicities, who speak different languages and follow different traditions. The city's diversity is a direct outcome of an increase in immigration, past colonial settlements and a significant local Indigenous community. Multiculturalism is reflected in everyday interactions and bleeds into society's changing political and cultural fabric.

Immigrants account for approximately 20 per cent of the population in Canada, and this number is even higher for Winnipeg. The Indigenous population in Winnipeg is one of the highest per capita in Canada, which makes it significant in the city's diverse ethnocultural makeup.

While the numbers paint a rosy picture of diversity, they

tend to conceal the truths and realities associated with Winnipeg's multiculturalism.

Boardrooms and political councils are quintessential examples that highlight the irony behind these numbers. For an ever-so-diverse province, it took 150 years to elect the first Black MLAs: Uzoma Asagwara, Jamie Moses and Audrey Gordon. This win was a historic moment, not just for the Manitoba Legislature, but also for the 30,000 Black Canadians in Manitoba who now have someone who looks like them in the Legislative Assembly.

This feat, though widely celebrated, might lead people to question why it took so long to get to this point, despite the city's notion of diversity. It also puts into perspective why, in 2019, Winnipeg's boardrooms and executive suites look somewhat similar to 50 years ago.

COVER FEATURE CONTINUES | NEXT PAGE >>

**“In a way, Canada is an industry that is based on the exploitation of migrants and Indigenous peoples ... we have neo-liberal policies and trade agreements that force migrants to leave their countries and move here. I want to speak to the marginality but also to the powers that reinforce that marginality.”**

**—Anthony Huynh**



“With my research, I’m going full circle. I’m honouring my past by doing research to make a difference.” - Anthony Huynh

## WHERE ARE YOU REALLY FROM?

A question BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) folks and migrants often get asked is “where are you really from?” This not-so-innocent question is often asked based on a person’s appearance. The question outwardly assumes BIPOC folks to be non-Canadian. The people asking this question often also say it’s okay to look different but knowingly or unknowingly still judge people based on how they look.

Anthony Huynh, an organizer with Migrante, a group that advocates for the rights and welfare of migrant workers, says “Canada is a white settler-colonial country with a history of colonialism and slavery. This context has permeated our everyday reality and relationships with people.”

When someone’s identity and origin is questioned, it can do more harm than some people might imagine. When young BIPOC Canadians are asked this question, it can lead them to wonder if they belong.

“I was one of the few Asian people in (a high school) class. I always felt that I was neither here nor there. I felt my identity was always being confronted and challenged,” Huynh says. “With my research, I’m going full circle. I’m honouring my past by doing research to make a difference.”

Funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Huynh’s doctoral research is focused on issues impacting migrant workers in Canada.

“In a way, Canada is an industry that is based on the exploitation of migrants and Indigenous peoples,” they say. “We have neo-liberal policies and trade agreements

that force migrants to leave their countries and move here. I want to speak to the marginality but also to the powers that reinforce that marginality.”

Newcomers to the city add to its cultural framework and contribute immensely to its economic growth. They are solutions to Canada’s problems of ageing populations and the shortage of skilled labour in a number of sectors and industries.

But despite playing an important role in the economy, migrants, refugees and Indigenous groups are often forced to feel as if they don’t belong. However, there are groups and organizations working to overcome those stereotypes through open conversations and discussions.

The University of Winnipeg’s (U of W) student groups are an example of initiatives that offer people of different origins, varying sexual orientations, People of Colour and other marginalized groups a safe space to connect. One such group is the Indo-Canadian Students’ Association (ICSA) at the U of W, which encourages the exchange of ideas and conversations among international and Canadian students on campus and pushes for social change.

Harneil Aulakh, ICSA co-chair, says, “A big focus of ours this year will be on the international students. They do face a lot of hardships coming out here.” As a first-generation Canadian, he believes in helping international students during their transition to a new country.

“Having a group at (the) U of W being there for you just makes it a lot easier for Indian students. A lot of people struggle in jobs and school when they move here. You have to see it from a humanity stand-

point and help them irrespective of whether they’re Indian, Filipino or belong to whichever religion,” Aulakh says.

One out of five Canadians is foreign-born. The question that needs to be asked is why, despite spending major parts of their lives in Canada, are they treated as outsiders?

## THE INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

Indigenous people account for 12 per cent of Winnipeg’s population, a percentage that is higher than the Canadian average. Issues and challenges faced by this community find its roots in Canada’s colonial history, residential schools, the Indian Act and other discriminatory policies. The atrocities committed against this group impact these communities to date.

Jim Thunder, who works at the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs as an economic and business development officer, says, “Our colonial history, in part, was focused on separating Indigenous people from their culture, their history and Indigenous identity.”

Thunder, who self-identifies as First Nations, faced issues growing up that motivated him to help solve problems his community has faced for centuries.

“I grew up not knowing a whole lot about my cultural identity and who I was, and (I) wasn’t aware of our history of colonialism. I wasn’t aware of what the treaty was and wasn’t aware of how policies such as the Indian Act affected the way that I lived, the way that I grew up,” Thunder says.

The past is often thought to determine the present. It also affects perceptions,

relationships and actions in more ways than one.

“We have a history that is still haunting us. There is hate, but there are also people fighting for hope and change,” Huynh says.

People have to be the ones leading the change, and Thunder, with dedication toward his culture and community, has started a nonprofit called Reconciliation Thunder. He started this organization “to advocate for Indigenous people and explain the basics of reconciliation and the need to appreciate Indigenous people and their culture.”

He continues to inspire and spread awareness through public speaking on issues related to reconciliation and decolonization. He says that “there are a lot of things I wish I had known and a lot of things I want the new generation to know.”

## THE WAY FORWARD

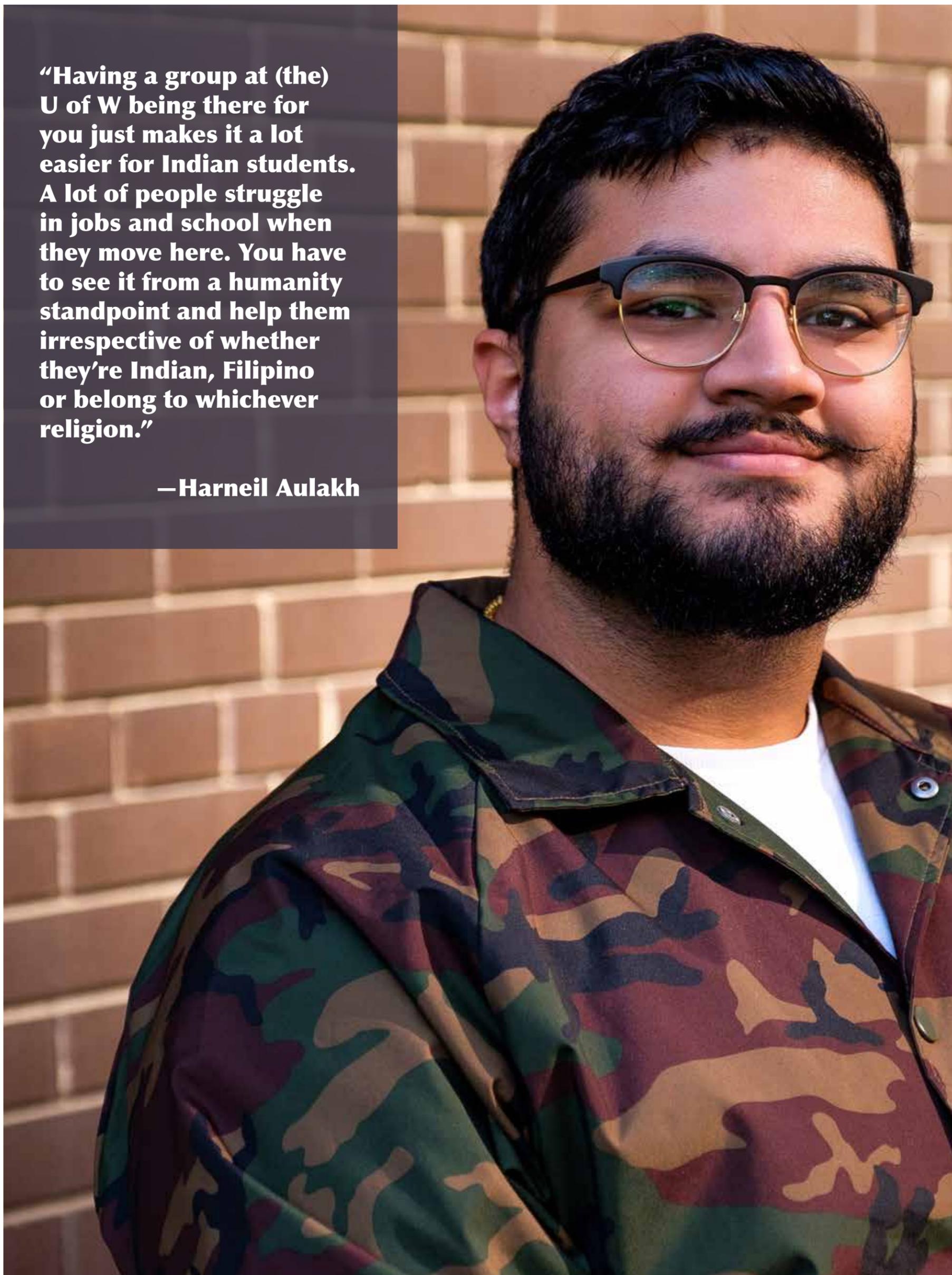
Diversity and multiculturalism can be said to be overarching concepts, but what really matters is inclusion and belongingness. This sense of belongingness can be achieved through open conversations and awareness of minority issues. These notions translate into actions when people internalize the feelings of equality and find strength in diversity.

According to Aulakh, inclusion and acceptance in the simplest form could mean greeting someone with a smile, being open and helping out people.

Education and research are other avenues that can empower people and provide them with the means to question and probe. By creating spaces of discussion and holding people in power accountable, Winnipeg

**“Having a group at (the) U of W being there for you just makes it a lot easier for Indian students. A lot of people struggle in jobs and school when they move here. You have to see it from a humanity standpoint and help them irrespective of whether they’re Indian, Filipino or belong to whichever religion.”**

**—Harneil Aulakh**



Harneil Aulakh, co-chair of the Indo-Canadian Students' Association at the U of W

and Canada can truly benefit from its diversity.

“Research can be used to spread awareness to policymakers and to people who are in a position of disadvantage. I’m hoping my research will help provide the migrant workers with the tools they need

to speak out. I know that can be terrifying, but there is always strength in numbers,” Huynh says.

The first step toward invoking a sense of belonging is to not let anyone question a person’s identity.

It’s “easier said than done, but (my)

advice would be to not let them get to you. Tell yourself that you have done a lot of things to get here. Be true to yourself and don’t let others bring you down,” Aulakh says.

For People of Colour, Huynh says, “I want to tell them that you belong here,

your voice needs to be heard, and you are not alone.

“Don’t be afraid to be more than what they expect of you.”



Jim Thunder, economic and business development officer for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

**“I grew up not knowing a whole lot about my cultural identity and who I was, and (I) wasn’t aware of our history of colonialism. I wasn’t aware of what the treaty was and wasn’t aware of how policies such as the Indian Act affected the way that I lived, the way that I grew up.”**

**—Jim Thunder**



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# WHAT HAUNTS YOUR LOCAL HAUNT?

Paranormal tours are in season and doing well

ALEX NEUFELDT

CITY REPORTER

@ALEXEJNEUFELDT

What do the Masonic Temple, St. Andrews on the Red Anglican Church, the Fire Fighters Museum and the Burton Cummings Theatre all have in common? According to some, they are all hot spots for paranormal activity.

Kristen Treusch, owner of SquarePeg Tours says she “was not a believer in spirit stuff” when she started leading paranormal tours.

“Initially, (the ghost tours) were a way to extend the tourism season in Winnipeg, because it’s a little short here. So it was a way to get people out and learning about their heritage,” she says. Treusch now leads several ghost and paranormal tours, including one that involves communing with spirits.

She and Matthew Komus, author of *Haunted Winnipeg*, have both become important figures in Winnipeg’s paranormal scene. They both also lead haunted and paranormal tours this month.

Treusch and Komus both strive for a very particular tone in their tours, drawing on the history of different sites rather than leaning into over-the-top scares for participants.

The two ran more conventional tours before moving into ghost and paranormal tours 11 years ago. Komus says that before offering ghost tours, he would get a lot of questions about whether tour locations had ghosts, which was part of what led him to expand into ghost tours.

He says that while some non-paranormal subject-specific tours get very few takers, “the very first ghost tour I did over 10 years ago, it was cold, it was rain-

ing. I thought, ‘I’ll show up, I’ll stand outside for like 15 minutes, and no one will show up, and I’m going to go home,’ and as soon as I got there, there were 20 people standing out in the rain waiting for the tour.”

Treusch says that while there are always people excited for her paranormal tours, compared to other cities with a similar amount of paranormal stories per capita, Winnipeg’s paranormal tourism industry does not get the same kind of year-round support or have the same level of competition between companies as in cities like New Orleans or Las Vegas.

“No one would think of doing a ghost tour in Winnipeg over the Christmas break,” she says. “When I first started these tours, we were able to run them through June right through the end of October, and in October, we were able to run them every single night, and then over the years, it just got harder and harder.”

Still, Komus says *Haunted Winnipeg* has consistently sold well, and he has another book, *Haunted Manitoba*, coming out this month. Even if Winnipeg can’t sustain a year-round paranormal industry, “the ghost stuff is staying popular, or even still increasing,” he says.

**Tours from both Treusch and Komus can be booked on [squarepegtours.ca](http://squarepegtours.ca). For a more full listing of ghost tours, haunted houses and other Halloween-season activities, go to the [Tourism Winnipeg](http://TourismWinnipeg.com) website. Komus’ new book, *Haunted Manitoba*, is launching at McNally Robinson on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.**



PHOTOS BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK



The Burton Cummings Theatre is one of several historical Winnipeg buildings with a reputation for being haunted.

## CITY BRIEFS

LISA MIZAN // CITY EDITOR

@LISA\_MIZAN

### Manitoba Chamber Orchestra wins award

The Manitoba Chamber Orchestra was named the Classical Artist/Ensemble of the Year at the 2019 Western Canadian Music Awards for their album *Mirage? Concertos for Percussion*. The album has received international acclaim, and the *Winnipeg Free Press* awarded it four-and-a-half stars. This marks the second time the ensemble has received a nomination, with the first being for its 2012 album release of *Troubadour & the Nightingale*.

### Mennonites and Anthropology

The University of Winnipeg’s Mennonite Studies program will host a conference titled “Mennonites and Anthropology: Ethnography, Religion and Global Entanglements” from Oct. 25 to 26 in Convocation Hall with free admission and registration happening the day of onsite. The conferences takes an interdisciplinary approach to the fields of anthropology, history and gender studies and will discuss entanglements through the relationships of these departments with the Mennonite community.

### Confronting colonial violence

The panel “Confronting the Legacies of Colonial Violence: From Destruction to Denial, Retribution and Compensation” will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Eckhardt Gramatté Hall at the University of Winnipeg. The event will centre on the historical persecution of memory and identity of targeted groups and is a part of the Traversing Landscapes of Violence: Nazi Germany and the Canadian Prairies Education Forum.

### Cal Botterill lecture

Tony Rossi, health and physical education professor at the School of Health Sciences at Western Sydney University in Australia will give a free talk on high-performing environments as learning platforms, especially in regards to activities like sports. The event will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. at Eckhardt Gramatté Hall (third floor, Centennial Hall) at the University of Winnipeg.

### Writer-in-residence

Jennifer Storm, an Ojibwe writer and artist from the Couchiching First Nation in northwestern Ontario, will be the writer-in-residence from Oct. 21 to 25 on the University of Winnipeg campus as a part of the One Book UW (1BUW) program. She will offer workshops with students, staff and faculty in Room 3C25 from Oct. 21 to 25.

### First aid on campus

The University of Winnipeg Safety Office will hold a first aid training session with St. John Ambulance on Oct. 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm at Room 2M70. The session is free for all U of W students, staff and faculty. The participants will receive a two-year certificate with successful completion of the program and will be recognized under the Workplace Safety and Health Act as a First Aider 1. For questions and registration, call (204) 786-9400.

# FINDING THE HOPE THROUGH CONVERSATION

What does it mean to imagine a just future?

ALEX NEUFELDT

CITY REPORTER

 @ALEXEJNEUFELDT

Wrapped in the question of how society responds to climate change are a lot of other questions about what people value, what “progress” means and what a good life looks like. While Mark Hudson does not have the answers to those questions, he is probably one of the best people to talk to about them.

Hudson is an environmental sociologist who teaches sociology at the University of Manitoba. He researches human relationships with nature under capitalism and is currently studying how the financial industry understands climate change “through this weird, disturbing, very limited financial lens.”

He will be the first lecturer in a new speaker series, Speaking Up: Conversations about an alternative future, hosted by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Hudson says for this lecture series, “the goal is not to have me up there as a talking head droning on for an hour, but to start a conversation with people that will extend through the evening. I’m trying to frame it as a conversation opener about how we might try to think about things like progress and ideas, like a good life in the context of climate change, which is a pretty

dire emergency.

“But I think for political action to take place, we also have to have a narrative and a collective conversation about how in the face of this awful potential outcome, we might start to think about and act on building something better.”

Part of that “something better” might include campaigns like Blue Communities. The campaign, which author and activist Maude Barlow will talk about while on tour for her new book, *Whose Water is it Anyway?*, is “a practical way for municipalities and other institutions, particularly universities and faith-based groups, to take proactive action on water protection and the human right to water,” Barlow says.

She says that while fighting for water protection has been tough, she says she wants to make sure that Blue Communities is framed as “a project of hope, so that people can do something very tangible with the concerns around climate and water.”

“We have to imagine (a sustainable and just future),” she says. “It worries me that we go around with this apocalyptic thinking. I know the statistics on climate and water. I read all the reports. I know how frightening it is, but I think it’s really important that we not say ‘the planet only has 10 years left.’ I can’t imagine being (a



Mark Hudson, speaker at the CCPA lecture series on imagining alternative futures

young person) and hearing that. Frankly, I think it’s unfair ... I would think it would make you think that there’s not much you can do. And in fact, we can change.”

She also says it’s important for people to understand the water crisis as something distinct from the issues surrounding greenhouse gasses.

“The way we abuse water and over-extract groundwater and dam rivers and so on is in and of itself a cause of (the) climate crisis. If we could stop every greenhouse gas in the world, we would still have

a water crisis, so we have to care for water, and we have to restore watersheds.”

Hudson says that, in a terrible way, climate change opens up political conversations that haven’t previously received a lot of media attention.

“We already cannot have the future we thought we would have 30 or 40 years ago, so given that, what are the important aspects of a new kind of society?”

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## UWSA FOODBANK OFFERS CRUCIAL SERVICES

Food insecurity continues to plague students across Canada

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR

CAMPUS REPORTER

@CGOULETKILGOUR

With Thanksgiving approaching, the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) Foodbank plays a key role in the lives of many members of the University of Winnipeg (U of W) community.

Binara Hewagamage, social sustainability manager at the UWSA, says in an email to *The Uniter* that the Foodbank was created to "provide regular food supplements to U of W students and community members in need."

"The Foodbank is held every Friday from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.," she says. "We welcome both registered and walk-in clients during this time," and notes they also have an emergency food bank.

According to Hewagamage, the demand for the Foodbank's services is on the rise.

"The overall number of clients that use the Foodbank has increased over the years,

especially among students. It has become a lot more popular than it used to be," she says.

Winnipeg Harvest found that since 2008, food bank use in Manitoba has increased by 58 per cent, representing the "highest rate of increase among the provinces."

A 2016 report observes a similar trend. "Hungry for Knowledge" by Meal Exchange finds that 39 per cent of post-secondary students across Canada experience "food insecurity." This report also finds that 49.5 per cent of students sacrifice buying healthy food in order to pay for education-related expenses.

In Hewagamage's experience, these concerns and challenges disproportionately impact international students.

"About 80 per cent of the post-secondary

students who use the Foodbank are international students," she says. "This could be due to the restrictions of working by law. They are allowed to work only a limited number of hours."

International students represent 9.5 per cent of the U of W's student population.

The UWSA Foodbank is run in partnership with Winnipeg Harvest. Because of this association, Hewagamage says that they "usually do get adequate amounts of supplies."

"Registered clients get four non-perishable items (per week), some produce and bakery items," she says. Items like milk, available for clients with children, can be requested.

However, the Foodbank is always looking for volunteers and accepting donations.

"Donations from university groups and other community-based organizations are always appreciated," she says. "We also hold annual food drives in order to collect donations of non-perishable food items from students and faculty members."

"We make an attempt to make it convenient for students by providing them food hampers if they have registered as a Foodbank client," Hewagamage says.

According to Winnipeg Harvest, more than 41 per cent of Manitoba children use a food bank, which is the second-highest provincial rate in Canada.

*More information on the UWSA Foodbank, visit [theuwsa.ca/foodbank](http://theuwsa.ca/foodbank).*



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

## SPACED OUT?

Closure of Garbonzo's and Starbucks sparks questions about campus development

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR

CAMPUS REPORTER

@CGOULETKILGOUR

Earlier this year, Garbonzo's Pizza Pub and Starbucks, located in the AnX building on the University of Winnipeg (U of W) campus, closed their doors. No announcement or formal statement was provided, but this sudden closure has raised questions about how the university allocates space and deals with on-campus businesses.

The AnX building opened in 2011 and had housed Garbonzo's and Starbucks since 2012. The building is also home to the U of W Bookstore, the Balmoral Transit Terminal and classrooms.

Many students are concerned with the closure of these popular restaurants.

"I find retail outlets for food and drink missing on campus now that Starbucks has been shut down," Breanna Belisle, a student in the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program, says. She is also the president of the Criminal Justice Students' Association.

According to the U of W website, on-campus dining options include Tony's, dash cafe, Elements, The MALECÓN, Pangea's Kitchen (all run

by Diversity Foods) and Stella's Café & Bakery. Many of these restaurants, however, are closed in the evening and on weekends.

In terms of allocating the space in the AnX or other areas on campus, Belisle thinks there should be more transparency.

"I would like to see secure study spaces, more commercial food choices, but also space for student groups," she says.

The current U of W Capital Projects and Renovations Policy states that "internal stakeholders (users and maintainers) will be appropriately consulted throughout the project" and any project costing over \$250,000 will require the development of a "formal business case" and a "social and environmental sustainability impact report."

The U of W campus has been rapidly expanding and changing in recent years with the opening of Downtown Commons in 2016, Leatherdale Hall in 2017 and Merchants Corner in 2018.

Since 2005, there has been an increase in the campus' footprint by more than 30 per cent, which is approximately double the rate of increase for enrollment.

The organization responsible for on-campus development is the University of Winnipeg Community Renewal Corporation (UWCRC), which is "guided by



Following the abrupt closure of Garbonzo's and Starbucks, the future of the AnX remains unclear.

the four pillars of sustainability: environmental, social, economic and cultural," according to their website.

Despite the recent development projects, Belisle says some students still feel there is a lack of study spaces, especially where "students can feel safe and not vulnerable."

During the recent State of the University Address by president and vice-chancellor Dr. Annette Trimbee, there was no mention of the university's plans for the AnX building or the closure of Garbonzo's or Starbucks.



## HEATHER SNELL

PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH,  
UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

KATHERINE CAO

FEATURES EDITOR



PHOTO BY CALLIE LUGOSI

Dr. Heather Snell is a professor specializing in post-colonial and cultural studies in the English department at the University of Winnipeg.

While an undergrad at the University of Guelph, Snell noticed a gap in the curriculum to which she “felt it was important to integrate post-colonial voices into, what at that time was a very traditional canon.”

“My introduction to English literature was through major British writers, most of them white and male,” she says.

Dr. Snell is an outdoor enthusiast and enjoys hiking, kayaking and cycling.

As a professor, “you sit all day, reading and writing and even teaching,” she says. “You (could) stand when you teach, but not necessarily all of the time.”

“When I’m not doing actual academic work, I like to

be very active.”

Her love of the outdoors finds its way into her current work, as Dr. Snell stresses the importance of land and environment in academia, as oftentimes literature, culture and land are intertwined.

She says that “we need to do a lot more than just acknowledge that we are occupying Indigenous lands” in reference to the institutional efforts of decolonization.

“For me, part of that is learning about Indigenous perspectives on land and thinking about that when I’m out on the land,” she says.

“I find that when literary critics focus on land in literature, they often do so in a way that perpetuates this romanticized object, rather than (land as) our relatives.”

Dr. Snell says these topics are interconnected with the crisis of climate change.

“Sometimes I feel like I should focus on local literatures, because when you focus on literature from elsewhere, you then have to go to those places, because otherwise you’re speaking from a place of ignorance, and so I’m flying,” she says.

She notes that in restructuring her research to deal with more local literatures, she can reduce her carbon footprint.

“Academics don’t think of themselves as tourists,” she says. “They think it’s completely legitimate to go to a place (and) parachute in, and they do it for a conference ... and that makes them “travelers,” and not tourists.

“Academic tourism is a problem, and I want to address that in my work.”

### WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU’VE LEARNED FROM YOUR STUDENTS?

“They teach me to think differently. We all have blind spots because of our particular experiences and our identity. My students have very different experiences of the world, and so I often become very aware of my blind spots through my students, and that’s always a good thing.”

### WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH YOUR WORK?

“The work that we do in the humanities, it doesn’t have a direct impact, (but) we hope to make a modest contribution to our field, and we hope that it changes people’s thinking.”

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK YOU’VE READ RECENTLY?

“The book that I just finished that I really really loved a lot was *Here Comes the Sun*. It’s such a great engagement with tourism and the Caribbean.”



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### AWARDS & FINANCIAL AID

#### Student Research & Volunteerism

Students who have undertaken a research project or volunteered on campus or in the community can apply for Research & Volunteerism Awards. Go to [uwinnipeg.ca/awards](http://uwinnipeg.ca/awards) and click on “In-Course Awards (current students).”

Deadline: Tues., Oct. 15

### Indigenous Youth

Indspire Awards disburse funds to Indigenous youth across Canada, covering all disciplines in funding categories in post-secondary education. Those who apply are considered for all Indspire awards including the University of Winnipeg/Indspire Indigenous Award. Go to [uwinnipeg.ca/awards](http://uwinnipeg.ca/awards) and click on “Indigenous Students.”

Deadline: Fri., Nov. 1

### On-campus Part-time Jobs

UWinnipeg’s Work-Study Program provides on-campus part-time job opportunities for full-time students with financial need. These jobs are available from October to March. Various faculty and administrative departments participate in this program so there is a broad range of jobs from which to choose. Apply now for the best selection! Go to [uwinnipeg.ca/awards](http://uwinnipeg.ca/awards) and click on “Work Study Program.”

Deadline: Fri., Dec. 6

### EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

#### Information Session

If you are thinking about going on an exchange, please join us for an information session:

Wed., Nov. 13  
12:30-2:10 p.m.  
Room 2M70

You can also visit our website at [uwinnipeg.ca/study-abroad](http://uwinnipeg.ca/study-abroad) or drop in to the Exchange Opportunities Resource Area:

2nd floor, Rice Centre, 2Ri55  
Mon.- Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Note: The main deadline to apply is March 1. Those applying for University of Bamberg should apply by Jan. 17.

### INTERNATIONAL, IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE STUDENT SERVICES (IIRSS)

#### International Cultural Day

Join us for this annual celebration of world cultures as students, staff, and community members showcase their heritage through dance, music, food, and cultural displays:

Thurs., Nov. 7  
5:00-8:00 p.m.  
Bulman Student Centre  
Admission is free.

### STUDENT CENTRAL

#### Fall Reading Week

The University of Winnipeg’s annual Fall Term Reading Week will take place from Oct. 13-19. No classes, except Education students taking 4000-level certification courses are required to attend class and practicum during this period. Please consult your course outline for more information.

#### Undergraduate Tuition Fees

Fees for U2019F and U2019FW were due Sept. 19. Late payments are subject to a late fee of \$77.00. Please see Student Central to discuss payments if you have not paid your fees yet.

The final day to drop a U2019F or U2019FW course for full refund was Sept. 16. Please consult the withdrawal schedules online.

### Rent a locker today!

Brrrr, it’s getting chilly outside! Need a place to put your jacket? Rent a locker!

Fall Term (until Dec. 19, 2019) - \$21.00/person

Fall & Winter Terms (until Apr. 21, 2020) - \$42.00/person

Go in-person to Student Central, OR fill out the form online at [www.uwinnipeg.ca/lockers](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/lockers)

### Changes to SC’s Hours

SC will be closed for Thanksgiving on Monday, Oct. 14, but open the rest of Fall Term Reading Week.

Fri., Oct. 25 - SC will be open 9:00 am-4:15 p.m.

SC’s regular hours are 8:30-5:30 Monday-Thursday and 8:30-4:15 on Fridays.

### myVisit App

Need to see an academic advisor for a 10-minute drop-in session? You can now add yourself to the lines at Student Central, Campus Living, or Academic & Career Services virtually! Download the myVisit app today. The myVisit app allows students to check the queues, add themselves to a line, or book an appointment with an academic or career advisor. Appointments with advisors can be booked through [www.myvisit.com](http://www.myvisit.com) as well.

### STUDENT RECORDS

#### Graduation

The deadline to apply for the February Graduation is Fri., Nov. 1.



## CRYSTAL CLEAR

Scheer terror

CRYSTAL RONDEAU

COLUMNIST

With the federal election coming up on Monday, Oct. 21, it's important to understand how a conservative government would affect people with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

Conservative leader Andrew Scheer may trash other candidates in his ads, but he doesn't look like such a great choice himself.

According to a *Vice News* article, Campaign Life Coalition, a religious organization that aggressively opposes abortion and gay marriage, supports Scheer's voting record.

*Vice* reporter Justin Ling writes that Scheer's "record includes him voting against bills to legalize gay marriage, enshrine human rights protections for transgender people and to allow physician-assisted dying." He has also voted "in favour of passing a legislation act to redefine when, during pregnancy, a fetus is considered a human being."

These legislation changes, if enacted, would likely be detrimental. Banning

abortions could lead to heightened stress on the medical system by increasing the amount of pregnancies that are carried to term. The medical system would not only have to account for more births, but also for additional complications and dangerous pregnancies, as well as the after-effects of "back-alley" abortions.

People can take precautions to try and avoid pregnancies, but they can still happen. Personally, the thought of an abortion ban is quite scary. Because of my health issues, a pregnancy would be extremely dangerous for me.

Additionally, the Conservatives, both federally and provincially, don't want to expand public health-care coverage. Scheer's platform dismisses the recommendations that a federal advisory committee made to extend prescription drug coverage to all Canadians. He instead proposed that "there are other ways for the federal government to ensure Canadians have access to necessary drugs, such as filling gaps in coverage for people without access to provincial or employer-sponsored plans."

Scheer does not specify what funding gaps they intend to fill. In fact, the Conservative Party website doesn't have an easy-to-find list of the policies they want to change.

Ontario can provide somewhat of an example of what kind of cuts a federal Conservative government might make. The province has seen cuts to drug coverage for youth under 25, paramedic services and out-of-country health coverage.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

The Conservatives have also put essential programs for disease control, immunization, food and water safety in danger by opening the door to more privatization of health care.

For people who are disabled and chronically ill, private health care can be absolutely terrifying. These individuals are more likely to be low-income, because their illnesses can restrict their abilities.

Data from a 2014 Longitudinal and International Study of Adults (LISA) shows that "In 2014, persons with a disability accounted for approximately one-fifth of the overall (Canadian) population aged 25 to 64," and that, of this percentage, those living with disabilities were statistically much more likely to be low-income or unemployed than people without a disability.

Many folks living with disabilities or chronic illnesses depend on disability

payments and fixed incomes and still struggle to afford their expensive medications. Even with exemptions due to low-income status and after insurance, medication can cost hundreds of dollars.

Other parties are more empathetic to the economic barriers experienced by people with disabilities. Conservative candidates, in general, do not believe in social programs or providing for them. Scheer is no different. He's not for national pharmacare, which means he's not for affordable medicine.

*Crystal is a 30-year-old woman living with a progressive, terminal illness. However, she lives her life to the fullest by getting several tattoos, writing her blog on Facebook, modeling, advocating for various causes and sporting a rocker girl style.*



# WRITE FOR US!



## The Uniter is seeking writers.

Are you looking to develop your writing style or develop a portfolio? Writing for *The Uniter* is a fun and collaborative opportunity to grow your journalistic or creative writing skills and a chance to see your work in print!

We send out story lists to volunteers on a weekly basis, or you can pitch your own ideas. You can write as often as you like - weekly, biweekly, monthly, once or twice a year - it's up to you. Writers can be students or community members.

All new writers are required to attend a volunteer orientation to learn more about the paper.

**See [uniter.ca/volunteer](http://uniter.ca/volunteer) for a full schedule of orientations. The next orientation is Oct. 23 from 12 to 1 p.m. in ORM 14 in the Bulman Centre at the University of Winnipeg.**

# COMMENTS

## TWO MINUTES FOR INTERFERENCE

Sports reporters need to stop meddling in athletes' lives

DANIELLE DOIRON

@DANIELLEDOIRON

COPY AND STYLE EDITOR

Another hockey season is underway, and, at least for the Winnipeg Jets, this year seems to be fraught with more drama than the last.

Much of this tension comes as a result of contract disputes, as the Jets scrambled to lock down key players at nearly the last minute. In the final days of September, the team signed “offensive weapons” Kyle Connor and Patrik Laine to a seven-year contract and two-year bridge deal, respectively.

While these signings briefly dominated the local sports news cycle, many Jets fans are preoccupied with one hold-out: Dustin Byfuglien. The 34-year-old defenceman is easily one of the biggest personalities in the NHL both on and off the ice, which is why Byfuglien made headlines around the league when he failed to report for training camp.

He was officially granted an indefinite leave of absence for personal reasons in early September, and, as the expression goes, that's when the rumour mill started turning. I couldn't scroll through my Facebook feed without seeing fans and

reporters speculating about what was happening with “Big Buff.”

Local sports columnist Mike McIntyre wrote in a *Winnipeg Free Press* opinion piece a few weeks ago, “Regardless of what might be happening in Byfuglien's personal life, which frankly is none of our business, this really is about one core issue: How much longer does he want to keep playing hockey?”

But is it? McIntyre himself admits he tried to dig a little deeper and find out what's really going on – something anyone who's followed his Twitter feed over the last month can likely attest.

In the same *Free Press* article, he wrote that Jets head coach “Paul Maurice said there was nothing ‘sinister’ at play here, and from everything I've found that is true. There's no scandal or smoking gun to be found.”

It's a seemingly harmless comment from a reporter merely doing his job – but it's one that set off red flags for me. At what point does doing one's due diligence become outright nosy and intrusive?

During my brief stint in sports media, I struggled to find and then toe this line. I had deadlines to meet and radio shows to record – and when covering the same team every single day, finding new and interesting material is a challenge. Still, if a player told me something in confidence or didn't seem comfortable discussing a certain issue, I tried my best not to broadcast it to the world.

While some, like Byfuglien, might gain celebrity status, athletes at all levels of play are human. They deserve the chance to maintain personal lives and make mistakes, just like anyone else. Even though people out there might think otherwise, these players don't owe anything to fans

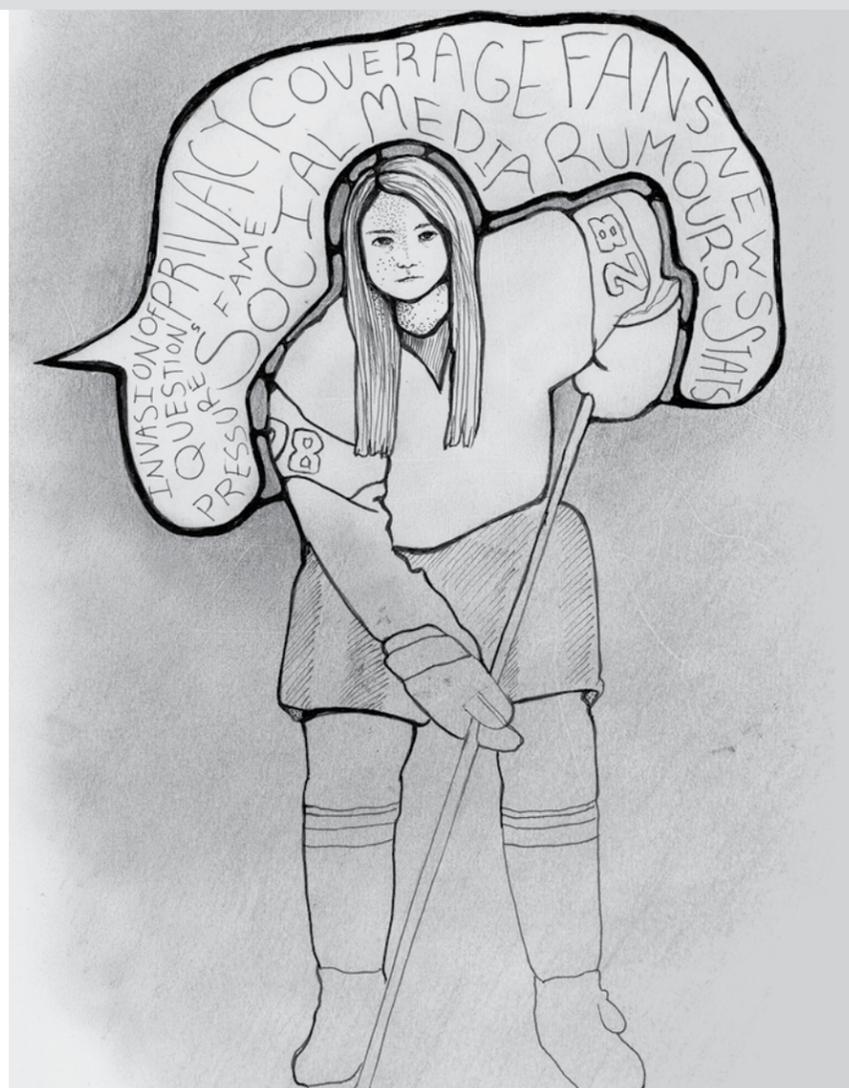


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

or the cities in which they play.

Winnipeg, enjoy players like Connor and Laine while they're still around. And if the retirement rumours still swirling about Byfuglien are true, remember his time here, thank him for the memories and let him move on with his life.

*Danielle Doiron is a writer, editor and marketer based in Winnipeg. She can't eat wheat right now, so if you have any killer gluten-free recipes, send 'em over.*

## THEY'RE FINALLY HERE

Adding “they”/“them” pronouns to the dictionary is a step in the right direction

JAY WEBSTER

VOLUNTEER

@JAYPEYWAY

On Sept. 17, 2019, Merriam-Webster added the non-binary pronouns “they”/“them” to the dictionary. This is a huge step toward achieving broader acceptance for individuals who identify as non-binary.

For a long time, one of the main arguments against using these pronouns were their lack of grammatical correctness as singular pronouns. Ironically, though, many people who make this argument often use “they” or “them” to refer to individuals when gender isn't specified.

When someone wishes to be identified using these pronouns, however, the same people often react intolerantly and excuse themselves by explaining that using “they” or “them” as a singular pronoun conflicts with the laws of grammar.

Now, by Merriam-Webster definition itself, “they” and “them” are singular pronouns. This will cause the old deniers to be presented with two options: reveal the bigotry that was always behind their argu-

ments or accept the future and change with it.

Although I do not use “they” or “them” for my pronouns, as a trans man, I understand the importance of being gendered correctly and am aware of the impact this can have on an individual's mental health. It is often painful, in my experience, to be misgendered by someone else who thinks they know better than I do.

Even with my experience, I struggle to grasp what it would feel like to be told that your pronouns – and your identity – are not viable by the rules of your language. I can only imagine what a belittling experience this must be.

Those who still insist on misgendering non-binary people will often turn the entire English language against them, claiming that their identity is not valid according to the rules of the language itself. This is a horribly disrespectful, condescending experience, which is all too frequently inflicted on non-binary people.

With the addition of “they” and “them” as singular pronouns to the dictionary, this is no longer a justifiable argument. That is why the addition is so important.

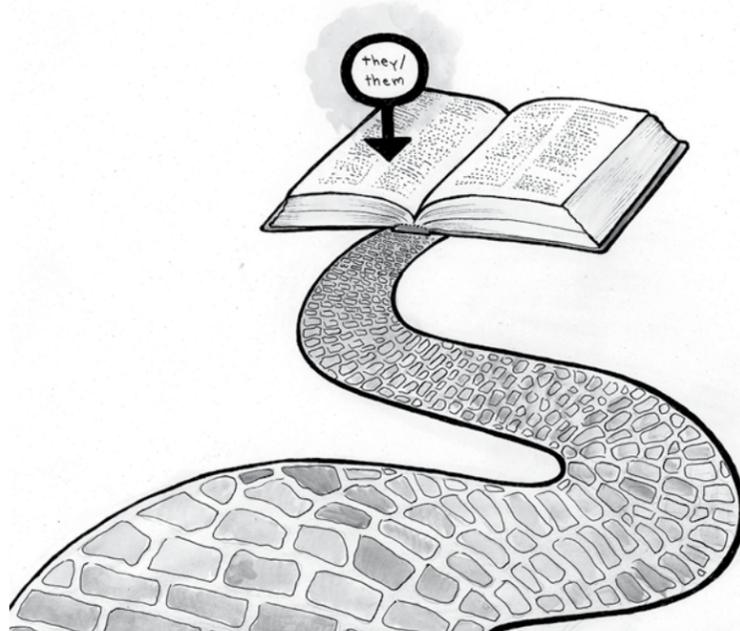


ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

New acceptance of “they”/“them” pronouns and increased recognition of the existence of non-binary identities has led to a long-overdue surge in the amount of people willing to proudly state who they have always been. Even public figures – such as singer/songwriter Sam Smith, who goes by “they”/“them,” and actor Amandla Stenberg, who uses both “they”/“them” and “she”/“her” pronouns – are starting to come out in the highly spectated and criticized spaces in which they work.

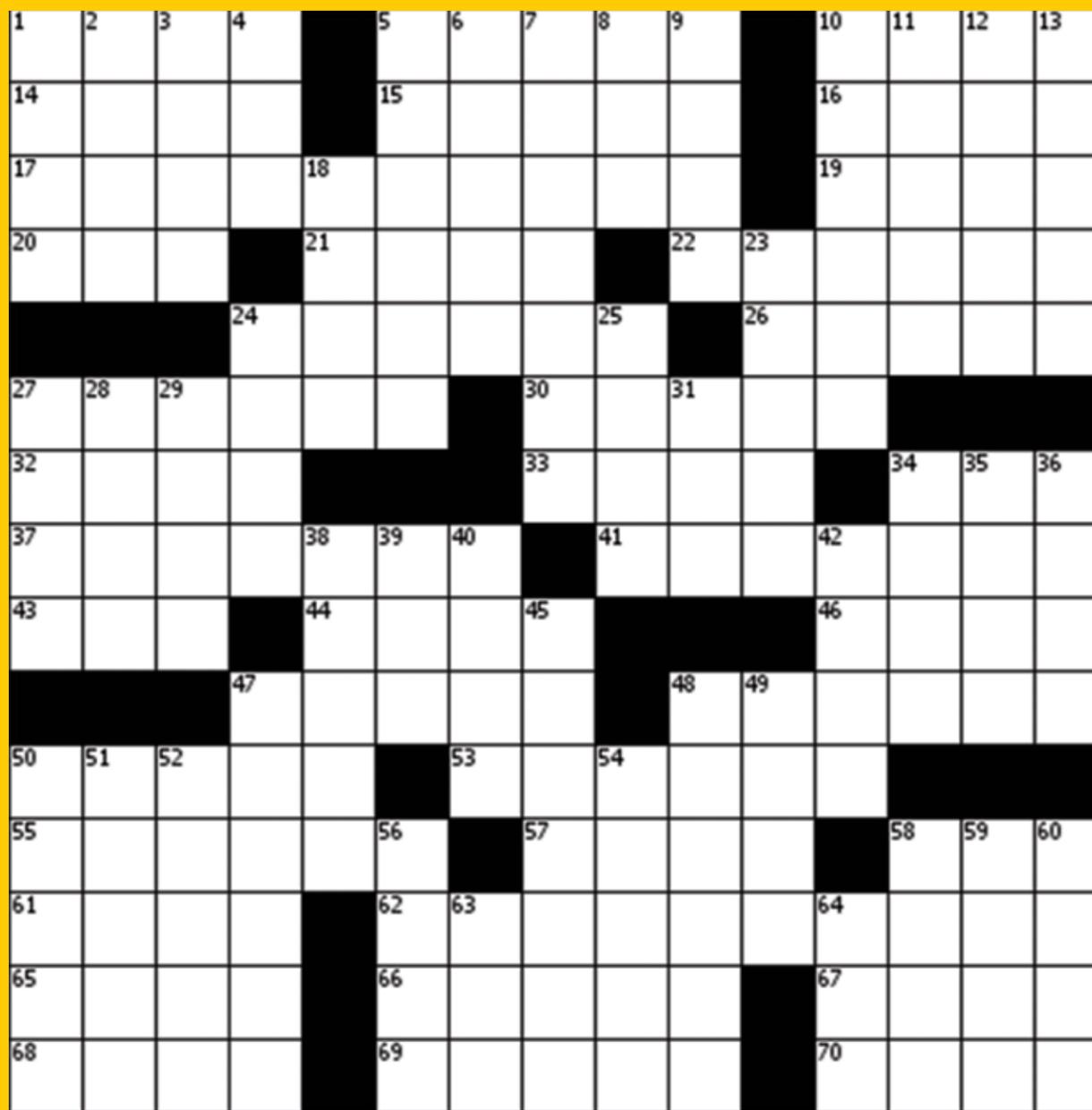
Unfortunately, this growing acceptance cannot be found everywhere. The purposeful misgendering of trans\* people as an expression of hatred and bigotry is as prevalent as ever. The comments section of almost any online article mentioning the use of gender-neutral pronouns will likely reveal countless remarks ridiculing

their use. Even a recent *Associated Press* article written specifically about Smith coming out as non-binary repeatedly misgendered them.

However, it is my hope that it will not be long before the people who are still opposed to respecting non-binary identities will simply become an irrelevant opposition to an inevitable future.

No matter what people say, the use of the pronouns “they” and “them” will only gain acceptance moving forward, and here is step one: official recognition from the dictionary itself.

*Jay Webster is a first-year university student who can normally be found writing, studying or drawing. He does slam poetry in his spare time.*



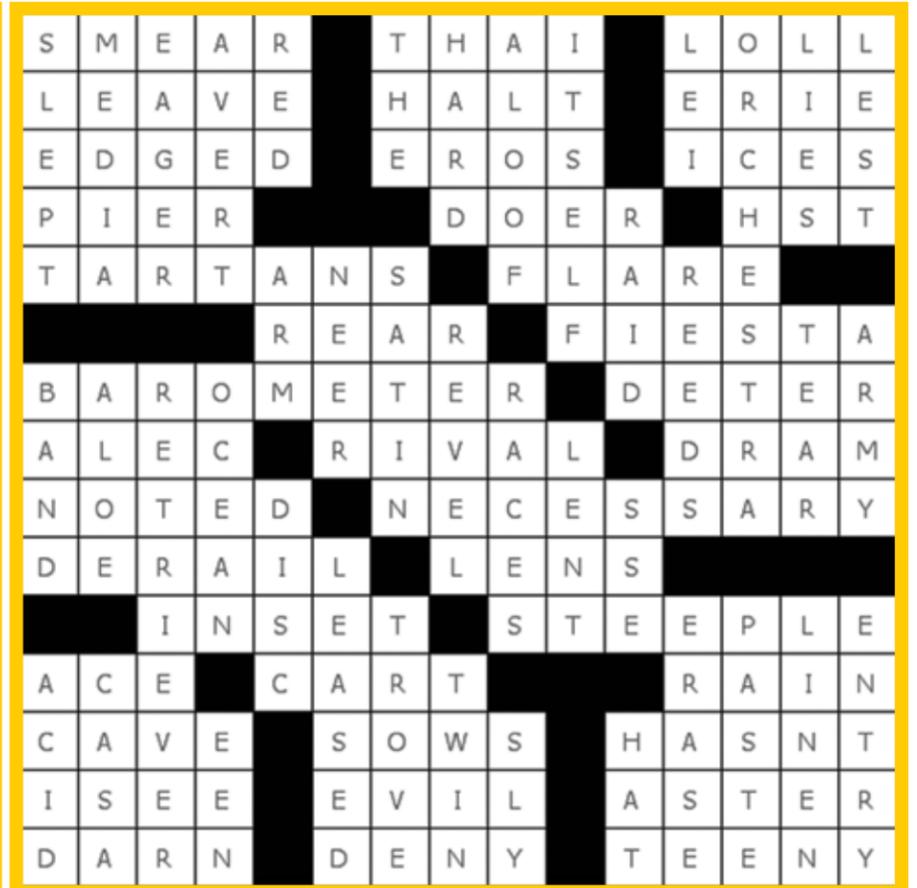
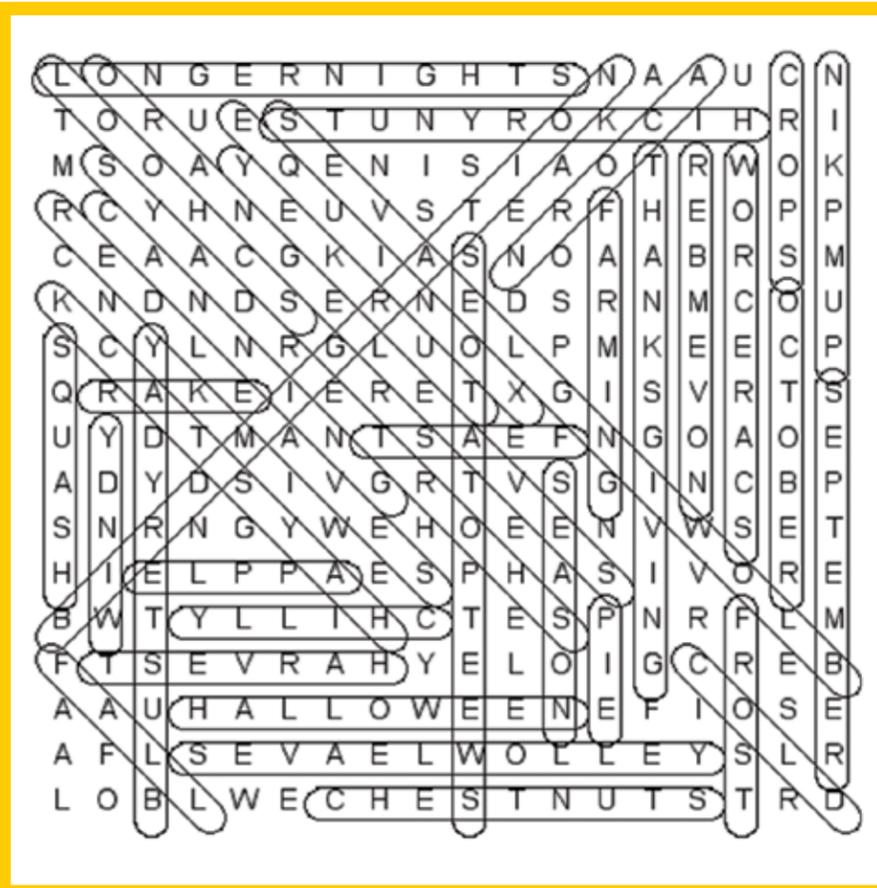
### ACROSS

- 1. TRICK
- 5. \_\_\_\_ ACID (PROTEIN COMPONENT)
- 10. FRESH TALK
- 14. NOT ASHORE
- 15. STARCHY VEGGIE (SL.)
- 16. ADORED ONE
- 17. GET BETTER
- 19. SHREDDED
- 20. DETROIT TIME ZONE (ABBR.)
- 21. TRAIN TRACK
- 22. HOLY
- 24. TILE PICTURE
- 26. GO-GETTERS
- 27. VIDEO GAME
- 30. ASSERT AS FACT
- 32. CANVASS
- 33. POSITIVE
- 34. CHOOSE
- 37. TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTION
- 41. SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY
- 43. GOP MEMBER
- 44. PAL
- 46. THE \_\_\_\_ RANGER
- 47. HOT PEPPER
- 48. BECOME VISIBLE
- 50. STARTLE
- 53. LACKING IRON
- 55. TOUCH LOVINGLY
- 57. WRINKLE REMOVER
- 58. TO AND \_\_\_\_
- 61. CITRUS DRINKS
- 62. IRRELEVANT
- 65. GAVE TEMPORARILY
- 66. RENTAL AGREEMENT
- 67. "\_\_\_\_ UPON A TIME..."
- 68. SCHOOL GPS.
- 69. EYED FLIRTATIOUSLY
- 70. DISAPPOINTING GRADES

### DOWN

- 1. Barely cooked
- 2. Consumes
- 3. Religious subgroup
- 4. \_\_\_\_ de toilette
- 5. Sergeant's command (2 wds.)
- 6. "West Side Story" character
- 7. Slanted characters
- 8. Fish trap
- 9. Raw metals
- 10. "Scrubs," e.g.
- 11. Worship
- 12. More angry
- 13. Toboggans
- 18. Poke
- 23. Goodbye (Fr.)
- 24. Beer ingredient
- 25. Tip
- 27. Mimic
- 28. Thick cord
- 29. Trim
- 31. Curve
- 34. Bloodhound's clue
- 35. Early video game
- 36. Wood source
- 38. Pains
- 39. \_\_\_\_ Beta Kappa
- 40. \_\_\_\_-Hoop
- 42. A Baldwin
- 45. Least possible
- 47. Tops of waves
- 48. Showed feelings
- 49. Coal source
- 50. Head skin
- 51. West Pointer
- 52. Hockey venue
- 54. Wipe away
- 56. Farm tower
- 58. Delicate
- 59. Track event
- 60. Bullring shouts
- 63. \_\_\_\_ Ryan of "Sleepless in Seattle"
- 64. Fishing pole

## SOLUTIONS TO ISSUE 73-05 PUZZLES



3	9	1	8	7	2	4	5	6
4	5	2	9	1	6	7	8	3
6	7	8	3	5	4	9	1	2
5	2	3	1	8	9	6	4	7
7	8	4	6	2	3	5	9	1
9	1	6	5	4	7	2	3	8
8	3	7	4	6	5	1	2	9
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2	4	9	7	3	1	8	6	5

7	1	4	8	2	5	9	3	6
5	6	2	4	9	3	7	8	1
9	8	3	1	6	7	4	2	5
3	2	7	6	1	8	5	4	9
4	5	8	2	7	9	6	1	3
6	9	1	3	5	4	8	7	2
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6	3	7	9	5	2	1	8	4
4	8	9	3	6	1	5	7	2
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8	9	3	6	1	5	2	4	7
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7	6	4	8	2	9	3	1	5
3	5	6	1	4	7	9	2	8
9	7	1	2	8	3	4	5	6
2	4	8	5	9	6	7	3	1

9	5	3	1	8	4	7	2	6
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4	8	1	6	2	7	9	3	5
3	1	8	5	4	2	6	7	9
5	9	2	8	7	6	1	4	3
6	7	4	9	1	3	2	5	8
7	3	5	2	6	1	8	9	4
1	2	9	4	3	8	5	6	7
8	4	6	7	9	5	3	1	2



# VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITES



## The Uniter year end readers poll 2019 is here!

It's back! The Uniter readers poll aims to put the spotlight on your favourite local people, places and things of 2019 - and we do stress LOCAL. Anything non-local (or non-2019) will not be counted.

We want to make this list as inclusive as possible, just like the rest of the paper, so we ask that you please write an answer for each of the 30 categories - but if you don't have an answer, feel free to write "N/A" or "I dunno" to fill the spot.

Ballots will be considered spoiled if they contain blank spaces, or if they contain any derogatory, homophobic, misogynistic, racist or libellous content. Let's keep it positive! Remember, you're voting for your favourites.

**1. Favourite local writer (includes playwrights, poets, journalists etc.)**

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**2. Favourite local athlete**

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**3. Favourite local comedian**

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**4. Favourite local filmmaker**

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**5. Favourite local activist**

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**6. Favourite local photographer**

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**7. Favourite local visual artist**

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**8. Favourite local dancer**

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**9. Favourite local DJ**

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**10. Favourite local politician**

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**11. Favourite local baker**

.....

**12. Favourite local chef**

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**13. Favourite local achiever under 30**

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**14. Favourite local achiever over 60**

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**15. Favourite local social media presence / content creator**

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**16. Favourite local grassroots community group**

.....

**17. Favourite new local place to eat or drink (opened in 2018 or 2019)**

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**18. Favourite new independent business (opened in 2019)**

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**19. Favourite public gathering place**

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**20. Favourite local gallery or artist centre**

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**21. Favourite local establishment that no longer exists**

.....

**22. Favourite local performance of 2019 (includes music, theatre, performance art, etc.)**

.....

**23. Favourite local radio show or podcast**

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**24. Favourite local independent publication (that's not The Uniter)**

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**25. Favourite local public art piece**

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**26. Favourite local album of 2019**

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**27. Favourite University of Winnipeg prof**

.....

**28. Favourite activity to do on a date**

.....

**29. Favourite Winnipeg winter activity**

.....

**30. Favourite political moment**

.....

**VOTING DEADLINE IS NOV. 7 AT NOON, 2019 WITH WINNERS BEING ANNOUNCED IN THE NOV. 28 ISSUE OF THE UNITER.  
TO SUBMIT YOUR VOTES, FILL OUT THIS FORM AND DROP IT OFF IN THE UNITER MAILBOX, ROOM ORM14, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG,  
OR CHECK OUT UNITER.CA/UNITER30 TO VOTE ONLINE.**