



Dear Mr. Rob Altemeyer, MLA of Wolseley,

The Manitoba Medical Students' Association (MMSA) is the organization that represents the interests of undergraduate medical students at the Max Rady College of Medicine. In this capacity we function to advocate for all medical students in Manitoba across academic, community and professional domains. We are writing to you in response to the elimination of the Medical Student/Resident Financial Assistance Program (MSRFAP). We are concerned that since its elimination in April 2017 there has been no announcement of a new strategy for rural recruitment and retention of physicians and there has been a continued lack of consultation with medical learners.

In an interview with CBC, Health Minister Goertzen announced that in their survey of doctors in regards to rural retention, "... money was almost never the motivating factor. It almost always was how welcome they felt in the community". The elimination of the MSRFAP program removes an important opportunity for new physicians to develop a relationship with the community and its people. Medical students expressed that while an MSRFAP credit may not affect the six-figure salary of a physician, alleviating the financial burden of medical school is something we take into serious consideration when planning for a future career. A Canadian medical student graduates with an average of \$160,000 of debt. As the MSRFAP previously offered \$48,000 over four years, this made a significant financial impact, especially in light of rising interest rates. One student expressed the following: "The MSRFAP program was one of the reasons I chose to stay in Manitoba and enter family medicine". So while "money may not be an issue for physician *retention*, physician *recruitment* is different. A program that helps financially during school can be incredibly beneficial." Medical learners provide a unique perspective on how these changes make an important impact on the lives of medical learners and the career choices that they make. Medical learners must therefore be consulted on changes that affect them directly.

As medical students we understand the need for recruitment and retention of physicians into rural communities, and we trust that the Government of Manitoba is working hard on a new program as Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced in April 2017. As stakeholders that are affected by this new physician recruitment and retention strategy in our future careers, **we hope to see a strategy that is developed in direct consultation with medical learners, retains the level of voluntariness and flexibility that was seen in the MSRFAP program, and is developed and implemented in a timely manner.** The road to becoming a physician is a long and challenging one and medical learners make many personal sacrifices along the way to become competent physicians for our society. This unique journey pushes us to grow in ways that we do not always expect and this is the reason why a certain degree of voluntariness and flexibility is necessary for a successful strategy. Each year that there is no strategy we are losing trained physicians to other provinces, therefore timeliness is a crucial factor.

Physician recruitment and retention strategies cannot focus on financial incentives alone. There needs to be investment into supporting communities and health practitioners that choose to practice in these communities. As current medical learners and physicians of tomorrow, we are stakeholders that are directly affected by the new strategy and believe that it would be irresponsible of the Government not to include us in these discussions.

Sincerely,

Manitoba Medical Students' Association
Max Rady College of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Manitoba

Supported by:



1. Linda Lam, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 15:23
2. Lochlan Wilson, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 15:51
3. Woo Jin Kim, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 15:57
4. Lauren Bath, MD Student, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 15:58
5. Dominic Chung, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 15:58
6. Alexandra Dansen, MD Candidate, Class of 2019 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 16:00
7. Erin McAndrew, MD Student, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 16:05
8. Vivin Simon, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 16:08
9. Kanwar Bhangu, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 16:26
10. Allison Furness, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 16:45
11. Achieng Tago, MD Student, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 16:47
12. Hongru Ren, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 16:56
13. Cathy Tat, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 17:02
14. Ryan Ramjiawan, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 17:05
15. Kardy Fedorowich, MD Candidate, Class of 2019 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 17:13
16. Kaitlyn Kaltenberger, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 17:16
17. Evan Graham, MD Candidate, Class of 2018 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 18:16
18. Gabriel Dmytryszyn, MD Candidate, Class of 2019 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 18:32
19. Nathan Wiebe, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 18:32
20. Lucy Karp, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 18:47
21. Alyssa Archibald, MD Candidate, Class of 2019 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 19:44
22. Izabella Supel, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 20:10
23. Cael Enns, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 20:20
24. Glennis Bushie, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 20:47
25. Stephen Neal, MD Candidate, Class of 2019 Monday, Oct 2, 2017, 20:51
26. Jaspreet Bassi, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017, 21:41
27. Melissa Bulloch, MD Candidate, Class of 2019 Monday, Oct 2, 2017, 23:06
28. Jenna Sabourin, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Monday, Oct 2, 2017 23:19
29. Mikayla Gawiak, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Tuesday, Oct 3, 2017 7:17
30. Danica Avery, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Tuesday, Oct 3, 2017 8:20
31. Andreah Anterola, Candidate, Class of 2021 Tuesday, Oct 3, 2017 8:25
32. Matthew Genung, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Tuesday, Oct 3, 2017 8:27
33. Braden Cruise, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Tuesday, Oct 3, 2017 8:30
34. Shivani Mathur, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Tuesday, Oct 3, 2017 8:32
35. Amy Lam, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Tuesday, Oct 3, 2017 08:38
36. Megan Sorokopud-Jones, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017 8:41
37. Sara Matyas, MD Candidate, Class of 2018 Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017 11:21
38. Carmen Tse, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2017 13:38
39. Cody Clovechok, MD Candidate, Class of 2019 Tuesday, Oct 3, 2017 16:46
40. Carrie Bergen, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Tuesday, Oct 3, 2017 16:48
41. Leanne Thompson, MD Candidate, Class of 2019 Wednesday, Oct 4, 2017 11:23
42. Jessica Lezen, M.D. Candidate, Class of 2018 Wednesday, Oct 4, 2017 13:44
43. Fatemeh Bakhtiari, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Wednesday, Oct 4, 2017 14:19
44. Jess Polley, MD Candidate, Class of 2020 Wednesday, Oct 4, 2017 16:30
45. Brent E. Sheardown, MD candidate, Class of 2021 Wednesday, Oct 4, 2017 16:49
46. Alexander Sharp, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Wednesday, Oct 4, 2017 17:37
47. Alireza Almaleki, MD Candidate, Class of 2019 Wednesday, Oct 4, 2017 21:15
48. Trevor Aquin, MD Candidate, Class of 2018. Saturday, Oct 7, 2017, 17:30
49. Ryan Henrie, MD Candidate, Class of 2018 Saturday, Oct 7, 2017, 17:30
50. Stephen Kesselman, MD Candidate, Class of 2021 Saturday, Oct 7, 2017. 17:41
51. Tyler Hunter, MD Candidate, Class of 2018 Saturday Oct 7 2017
52. Samantha Reimer, MD candidate, Class of 2020 Saturday Oct 7, 2017
53. Joseph Asaminew, MD Student, Class of 2021 Saturday Oct 7, 2017



54. Justin Feilberg, MD candidate, Class of 2021	Saturday, Oct 7, 2017
55. Carlo Navarro, MD Candidate, Class of 2019	Sunday, Oct 8, 2017
56. Henry Li, MD Candidate, Class of 2021	Sunday, Oct 9, 2017
57. Hannah Stirton, MD Candidate, Class of 2021	Monday, Oct 9, 2017
58. Carly McLellan, MD Candidate, Class of 2020	Monday, Oct 9, 2017
59. Dorothy Yu, MD Candidate, Class of 2018	Monday, Oct 9, 2017
60. Adam Warelis, MD Candidate, Class of 2018	Monday, Oct 9, 2017
61. Lindsey Kjaldgaard, MD Candidate, Class of 2019	Monday, Oct 9, 2017
62. Julia Wiens, MD Candidate, Class of 2020	Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017
63. Greg Longbottom, MD Candidate, Class of 2020	Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017 16:36
64. Brittany Litster, MD Candidate, Class of 2020	Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017 16:36
65. Marna McKenzie, MD Candidate, Class of 2020	Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017 16:39
66. Jaymie Walker, MD Student, Class of 2020	Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017 16:42
67. Julie Semenchuk, MD Candidate, Class of 2019	Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017 16:42
68. Himath Jayasinghe MD Candidate, Class of 2019	
69. Anna Liu, MD Candidate, Class of 2021	Tuesday, Oct 10, 18:15
70. Maxwell Burg, MD Candidate, Class of 2020	Tuesday, Oct10, 18:35
71. Wayne Hicks, MD Candidate, Class of 2018	Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017
72. Simon Christie, MD Candidate, Class of 2019	Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017
73. Holly Cole, MD Candidate, Class of 2019	Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017
74. Steve Weger, MD Candidate, Class of 2019	Tuesday, Oct 10, 2017