

Re : Professors demand more input, reduced workload, better wages at French-language university

As a student at the University of Saint-Boniface, the existence of a French university in my home province was the leading factor in my decision to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher. I could not afford to travel for university and I wouldn't have chosen a career in education if I couldn't do it in French. The difference between a French university and an English university that offers a few classes in French is astronomical. Ask any English student at the UofM if they would consider taking their BA at a French university! This coming fall will mark my first year in the faculty of education after completing a four-year BA this past spring. To have succeeded thus far in my second language shows the importance of teaching French in schools from a young age. My life and career will be shaped by my time at USB and I look forward to my last two years at the university.

On a larger scale, the University of Saint-Boniface is essential to Manitoba, especially if the provincial government plans on pursuing bilingual status. USB offers equal opportunity for education to francophones coming from inside and outside of Manitoba. It's these students who will enter the work force and become the next generation of francophone teachers, nurses and government officials. If francophone students are forced to leave the province for post-secondary education it will weaken the province's francophone community and discourage those like myself, who can't afford to travel outside of Manitoba for university, to continue in French. As French Immersion education in elementary and high schools continues to expand, it would be ridiculous to undervalue the educators of the only option for post-secondary education in French in Manitoba.

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