

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

*Bonjour.* My name is Joachim Malig. I am a two-time alumnus from the Université de Saint-Boniface (USB) with a *Baccalauréat en arts* and a *Baccalauréat en éducation*, the latter which I received just this past June. In addition, I am a French Immersion Program high school graduate from the Winnipeg School Division, the largest school division here in Manitoba. I am but one of the many USB graduates eager to give back to their community and to continue to build and preserve Manitoba's long-time identity in providing bilingual academic excellence and success. However, if USB and the Manitoban government wish to continue to foster such accomplished francophone scholars for the province, they cannot expect to succeed without the very people who make it happen: the professors. During my time as both an undergraduate student and a student-teacher, I have met and worked with many hard-working, empathetic, and inspiring Francophone educators. All of whom I owe my success to, as seeing and experiencing their genuine dedication and passion towards the work they do have directly inspired me to also become a francophone educator. I do not exaggerate when I say that these professors are constantly working hard on and off campus for the simple success of each of their students.

Hence, the purpose of my letter. As both a newly appointed Manitoban educator and a French Immersion Program alumnus, I am a proud advocate for a multicultural and multilingual Manitoba. Statistics report that French-speaking school populations have reached the largest it has ever been across all school divisions in the province. If USB claims to offer our high school graduates valuable and well-lead French programs and courses to strengthen multilingualism within Manitoba, the administration must first support the professors who are at the heart of them, as one cannot exist without the other. As President Noël states, if the USB administration and the federal government's budget priorities continue to misalign with USB faculty's actual needs, the university will soon lose the very people and students that keep the University alive. As a result, not only will USB suffer due to its own negligence towards their own professors, but all Manitobans, francophone or not, will more importantly risk losing a vital institution that has provided many young people such invaluable academic and career-starting opportunities for decades. As such, the possible consequences of not having these Franco-Manitoban academic leaders' financial needs met should not only be a Franco-Manitoban community concern but a concern for all Manitobans as well.

As we continue to grow as a multilingual province, I strongly advise that standing in solidarity with the ones who are actively at the helm of Manitoba's francophone contributions in education, research and professional development should not be treated as an afterthought when planning the future and development of Manitoba. I therefore hope that the USB administration and the Manitoban government make the right decision to invest in the Manitoban people for the people and for the province.

Joachim Malig

Université de Saint-Boniface alumnus

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Malig', with a stylized flourish at the end.