



Now that's an icebreaker! President Barnard, centre, at the opening of the SERF facility.

Photo: Mike Latschislaw

While this past Manitoba winter is likely to be remembered as one of the warmest on record, it brought a chill to many of us who are concerned about the impact of climate change.

Quite simply, climate change is a global problem with significant implications for Manitoba. At home, it threatens to alter the habitat of wildlife such as polar bears and caribou, disrupt crop production and food distribution, exacerbate flood and drought cycles and even affect the ability of our children to play hockey on outdoor rinks or ponds.

At the University of Manitoba, climate change and other planet-altering issues are always top of mind among our world-class visionaries and innovators.

David Barber, Canada Research Chair, studies Arctic system science at the University of Manitoba and leads a team of researchers without peer in the world when it comes to studying global warming and its implications.

I had the good fortune recently of participating in an official opening—with our partners in government and in the private sector—of a facility at our Fort Garry campus that produces sea ice on the Prairies under the direction of Feiyue Wang.

Manitoba's new Sea-Ice Environmental Research Facility (SERF) is one-of-a-kind in Canada. The facility allows our scientists to gather data necessary to determine the causes of the polar ice melt that is forever changing Canada's North.

Our climate change team is part of a proud tradition at the University of Manitoba where we embrace the unexpected, defy convention and carve a new path.

Here are only a handful of examples of how the University of Manitoba's community of learning, discovery and outreach has helped and continues to help build a more prosperous, productive, just, culturally vibrant and environmentally sustainable province, country and world:

- Infectious disease research pioneered in Manitoba by Drs. Allan Ronald and Frank Plummer into HIV-AIDS is saving lives in India, Africa and around the world.
- Dr. Bruce Chown's research into the Rh factor and his development of a life-saving vaccine ended the heartbreak of families who had

previously lost their newborns to Erythroblastosis fetalis.

- The innovative award-winning satellite technology developed by Lotfollah Shafai has helped spark the global cellular telephone revolution.
- During a recent part of her storied career, University of Manitoba alumna and judge Kimberly Prost presided over the court that brought war criminals from the former Yugoslavia to justice.
- Baldur Stefansson's revolutionary development of canola has resulted in a virtual market explosion of nutritious food products that now contribute more than \$14 billion to the Canadian economy.
- University of Manitoba alumnus and retired justice Murray Sinclair is currently heading the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into the impact of the Indian Residential Schools on First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, communities and cultures following a distinguished career as a judge.
- CBC reporter and hip-hop star Wab Kinew (who is our April cover) hosted *8th Fire*, a documentary series that explored the past, present and future of Aboriginal people in Canada. Kinew is leading efforts to bring the relationship between Canada's Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to a new and more positive place.
- Jeff Melanson, president of The Banff Centre, former co-CEO of the National Ballet School and one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 for 2009, is just one of our graduates who is reshaping Canada's arts scene.

It is gratifying to be part of such an impressive community of people who use their education, talent and passion to transform lives. As alumni, you are an important part of that community and we are proud to share in your success and your achievement.

At times it seems our outstanding students, faculty, staff and alumni perform at their best when the stakes for our province, country and planet are their highest.

Our home is Manitoba. Our impact is global.

David Barnard PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR