

# LEGAL CARE PROGRAM (THE ESSENTIALS): REFERENDUM

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Vote online between  
**March 17 - 18, 2025**

A link will be sent to your @myumanitoba.ca email account.

## 1. WHY A STUDENT LEGAL CARE PROGRAM?

Seeking professional legal counsel can be intimidating, especially if it's the first time you're facing a legal issue, and legal resources aren't always easily accessible or affordable for students. To help give students who wish to pursue legal action the means to do so with expert support, the Legal Care Program (The Essentials) offers:

- A **legal consultation service** providing unlimited access to legal counselling on any area of law
- **Legal representation** for eligible cases related to **employment, housing, academic, and public notaries**

## 2. WHY A REFERENDUM?

The UMGSA is holding a referendum to decide if students **support the implementation of a Legal Care Program (The Essentials)** for UMGSA members.

## 3. WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM INCLUDE?

### LEGAL CONSULTATION SERVICE

Students would have **unlimited quick access to legal counselling for all questions on any area of law.** The service offers:

- Legal opinions
- Advice on legal documents and contracts
- Development of a strategy
- Follow-ups by the partner law firm
- Legal research
- Interpretation of applicable laws for each case
- Sharing general information of a legal nature
- Personalized and individualized case management

Students can have lawyers examine their case, do the research and analysis, and offer legal advice adapted to their situation.

## LEGAL REPRESENTATION

A lawyer will take charge of proceedings related to the following areas of law:

### DISPUTES RELATED TO A HOUSING LEASE

Legal expenses arising from a dispute over a housing lease, such as a disputed rent increase, an illegal eviction, or a breach of a condition in the lease.

### DISPUTES RELATED TO AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

Legal fees related to a dispute relating to a current or future contract of employment, with respect to labour standards for grievances not covered by a union or a government agency.

However, the Program doesn't include legal fees if the student is eligible for legal representation services provided by a government agency. Occupational health and safety disputes aren't included in legal representation services.

### DISPUTE WITH AN ACADEMIC INSTITUTION

A student's legal expenses in the event of a dispute with an academic institution. This excludes cases related to sexual misconduct or a criminal act.

### PUBLIC NOTARIES

Members who require commissioning services can arrange for virtual meetings to commission affidavits. Notarizing services are also offered.



### Legal representation includes:

- Lawyers' fees
- Legal expenses (disbursements): attendance fees, court fees (except for fees the student may be ordered to pay by the court), and witness expenses

## 4. HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST?

The fee for Legal Care Program would be automatically charged with tuition and other fees and wouldn't increase for the duration of the proposed renewal period of Sept. 2025 - Aug. 2026. It would cost:

- **\$35.12 annually** for access from Sept. 1 - Aug. 31 each year
- \$23.41 for access from Jan. 1 - Aug. 31, for new Winter Term students in January

## 5. COULD I OPT OUT?

Yes. As of Sept. 2025, students would have the **option to opt out of the Legal Care Program** during the Change-of-Coverage & Opt-Out Period at the start of the term and **receive a full refund for the fee**. The process would be similar to what is currently in place for the UMGSA Health & Dental Plan.

## 6. WHERE AND WHEN CAN I VOTE?

You can vote online between **9 am on March 17** and **5 pm on March 18**. A link will be sent to your @myumanitoba.ca email account.