

Hello Canadian Jesters!

We're thrilled to share some exciting news from the Manitoba Jesters, University of Manitoba and Squash Manitoba:

- **A bold, community-driven initiative** is underway at the Frank Kennedy Centre on UM's Fort Garry campus. In partnership with Squash Manitoba, the university is transforming squash for the province by creating a state-of-the-art facility that benefits students, alumni, local families, newcomers, and aspiring athletes alike.
- **Why this matters now:** Squash is set to make its Olympic debut in Los Angeles in 2028—that makes this a perfect time to invest in Manitoba's future of the sport. There are only two private clubs in Winnipeg that have squash courts and there is nowhere else for juniors to play squash or learn about the game if they cannot join a private club. Having new courts at Manitoba's largest university will be an opportunity to grow the sport like never before in Manitoba. The usage agreement that Squash MB has signed with U of M will allow programs such as Jesters Juniors and local school programs to be run at the university. New courts will also allow our players to go to University at home and still be able to play squash locally, nationally and internationally!
- **What's coming:** The new facility will feature four international-standard squash courts with glass-backed walls for better visibility and spectator engagement. The design includes improved lighting, modern flooring, sustainable but stylish materials, thoughtful acoustics, and a welcoming lounge and viewing area—designed with both performance and aesthetics in mind.
- **Built for everyone:** Programming will include over 1,800 hours a year of diverse squash opportunities—junior programs, beginner lessons, leagues, university competitions, and inclusive specialty offerings like Indigenous, wheelchair, and LGBTQ2S+ squash. There's even space for high-performance coaching, competitions, and tournaments.
- **Growing Manitoba's squash identity:** UM was selected for its central location, easy access to public transit, and proximity to communities—including many newcomers—outside of southern Winnipeg where there are currently no squash courts.
- **Support making it happen:** The project is already underway thanks to a generous donation by Michael Nesbitt of \$1.7M and support from U of M. Squash Manitoba has agreed to raise the remaining **\$550,000** toward the **\$2.6 million** goal, moving us closer to a facility that will serve all Manitobans—and potentially turn Manitoba into a hub of squash excellence.



- **Next steps:** The courts are slated to open by **January 2026**, bringing together the energy of campus life and the wider community in a vibrant, inclusive new home for squash.

Why support this?

- **Build community health & engagement** – Squash is dynamic and inviting, a great way to foster physical activity, social connection, and mental resilience.
- **Champion inclusivity and diversity** – From free beginner programs to Indigenous and wheelchair offerings, this facility opens the door to all.
- **Create a lasting regional sports legacy** – Your support helps shape Manitoba's athletic future and can inspire national-level players and events.

Targets and Timelines to Reach \$550,000

- By December 2025, Squash Manitoba will have contributed \$306,000.00 of its own capital and have successfully raised \$75,000.00 in private donations, leaving us \$169,000 left to raise.
- According to the project timeline and staged advances, Squash Manitoba requires \$69,000.00, by December 2025 to meet our next staged advance. The final advance of \$100,000.00 is due in December 2026, one year after project completion.

Would the Canadian Jesters consider joining us in supporting this transformative project? Together we can help create a world-class squash venue and foster community spirit and athletic excellence right here in Manitoba. Help us grow our sport and create opportunities for juniors, new Canadians, students and others in the centre of Canada! There are still court naming opportunities (the Henry Thiessen family already has one) but all contributions are welcome!

Links: news.umanitoba.ca, <http://www.squashmb.org/>,
<https://crowdfunding.umanitoba.ca/project/help-transform-squash-in-manitoba/>