

Hon. Brad Wall
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RE: Closure of the Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus

I am shocked, dismayed and sorely disappointed in the decision of the University administration to close the Kenderdine Campus. Such a decision is short-sighted without any serious attempt on the part of the University to involve the communities most affected by the loss of this historic center of creative energy.

The Emma Lake Kenderdine Campus has been a boon to participants of its programs, not just by people from Saskatchewan, but places world-wide. Paintings, drawings and other art forms created there adorn homes and galleries around the world. Books of poems, collections of short stories, essays, novels and music compositions have been written at Kenderdine. Students have had some of their most significant and relevant learning experiences at this site. Thousands of attendees over the generations, the Kenderdine Campus has been invaluable in their development. This historic part of the University and the province of Saskatchewan is now denied to those whom its founders intended it to serve.

Clearly this is a financial decision and financial decisions must necessarily be made by the administration. However, in the making of this decision was any concerted effort given to discuss with the primary stakeholders means by which funding might be accessed? In fact, to what degree did the University reach out to the vested communities of this province to involve them in the problem facing the University regarding the continued operation of the Kenderdine Campus? Specifically, what discussions were held with the community of visual artists, sculptors, ceramic artists, musicians, writers, dancers, Biologists, educators and environmentalists to name a few? It would appear that the University has been remiss in their failure to involve those with vested interest.

A huge concern is the notion that the year 2016 has been given as an apparent appeasement to the public as a possibility that the campus could be re-opened or at least re-visited as a decision. Common sense would tell anyone that you cannot leave valuable lake property unattended, unmaintained and vacant for a matter of years without risking serious vandalism, looting, weathering, storm destruction, fire and other deterioration. The property must be kept maintained. What amount has been budgeted to ensure this important, valuable and historic property will not fall to ruin?

Many universities in this country would be honoured to have such a storied outdoor campus, but here we have the University of Saskatchewan closing Kenderdine Campus as if it were an irritation.

It is not too late to change a bad decision. Please reconsider. Please re-instate Kenderdine Campus.

Sincerely,