

# Virден-born woman now Miss Rodeo

By Kevin Rollason

THE song may say Mama don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys, but it says nothing about a kid becoming Queen of Canadian rodeo.

Aleaha More, who was born and raised in Manitoba — her hometown is Virден — has been crowned Miss Rodeo Canada 2006.

The 22-year-old More's honour came last Friday during the Canadian Finals Rodeo in Edmonton.

The honour means that for the next year More will serve as the first lady of Canadian Professional Rodeo and make appearances throughout western Canada and the United States including the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

"I've been riding since I was a little girl," More said from her home in Medicine Hat where she is enrolled in college.

"It was a pretty good contest, but it hasn't sunk in yet. It's pretty big to think I'm Miss Rodeo Canada. I haven't got used to it yet."

More competed against six other Queens and Princesses from communities with professional rodeos.

Not surprisingly, unlike a beauty pageant, the ladies who compete to be Miss Rodeo Canada have to know their way around a horse and be able to ride in various patterns including one where they carry a flag.

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SUPPLIED PHOTO

Virден native Aleaha More, 22, has been crowned Miss Rodeo.

## UNIVERSITY FUNDING

# Student leaders launch campaign against fee hike

By Leah Janzen

STUDENT leaders at the province's three largest universities launched a campaign and a website yesterday against possible fee hikes and the removal of the tuition freeze.

The NDP government has maintained a tuition fee freeze for the last six years. Last year, the University of Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg and Brandon University all announced they would be forced to implement massive ancillary fee hikes to deal with funding shortfalls caused by the freeze and inadequate provincial funding.

Public outcry forced the province to ante up \$8.95 million in one-time funding to avoid the fee hikes.

All three schools are again asking for significant increases in the amount of funding they receive from the province for the coming school year.

Officials at the schools suggest they may have to revisit the idea of ancillary fee hikes if provincial funding does not meet their needs.

Yesterday, student leaders at U of M, U of W and BU launched a public awareness campaign with students, urging them to get involved in fighting the fee hikes and to maintain the tuition freeze.

"We're trying to mobilize against the likelihood that fee increases will be pro-

posed again this spring," said Kate Sjoberg, president of the University of Winnipeg Students Association. "The administration (at U of W) has offered no commitment to keep fees level for the coming year. That's a scary proposition for students."

The student groups are offering prizes and incentives for those students who get actively involved in the issue.

University officials have argued for years that the tuition freeze mandated by the NDP in 2000 has left them scrambling to find money to preserve programs, pay staff, maintain buildings and keep up with technology needs.

The NDP has steadfastly clung to the tuition freeze that was an integral part of the 1999 provincial election.

Yesterday, Premier Gary Doer said he sympathizes with all the groups involved, but would not say whether the tuition freeze will come to an end in next year's budget.

Doer said the freeze has resulted in increased enrollment at Manitoba institutions. But advanced education critic Leanne Rowat said that means schools are serving more students with no increase in resources.

The students groups also formally launched a website on the issue yesterday. The website can be accessed by logging on to [www.feewatch.ca](http://www.feewatch.ca).

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## Province expanding programs at RRC

THE province will spend over \$1 million to expand two medical technology programs at Red River College.

The announcement of the funding and expansion will be made today.

The move is being made in an effort to increase the number of laboratory and radiological technologists working in the province. It's hoped additional staff in these areas will speed up diagnostic tests and decrease wait times.

The Medical Laboratory Sciences and Medical Laboratory Technology programs will be expanded with the new funding.

Medical Laboratory Sciences is a two-year diploma program with an August start date. Laboratory technologists analyse blood and tissue samples and conduct other lab tests.

Medical Radiologic Technology is a two-year diploma program with a September entry date. Radiologic technologists perform imaging procedures like X-rays, mammography, angioplasties and CT scans.

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