

WEBVTT

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00:00:15.100 --> 00:00:19.920

Students vote to postpone decision to fold the University of Regina's Students' Union.

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00:00:20.140 --> 00:00:24.740

Horrific conditions condemned by Ombud's office at Mental Health Hospital in New Brunswick.

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00:00:25.040 --> 00:00:30.760

Ontario Ombudsman decries at-home health programs supply shortages, 14 people are dead from

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00:00:30.760 --> 00:00:35.720

typhoon in Taiwan, and 15 people have been killed in Elfashire by the RSF.

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00:00:35.720 --> 00:00:41.320

Good morning. It's Thursday, September 25th. I'm Nora. Here are your headlines.

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00:00:51.050 --> 00:00:54.850

First to the University of Regina, where the Students' Union there, the University of Regina

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Students' Union, or URSU, is about to vote to dissolve itself. In an article for CTV News by

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Ciara D'Souza-Butts and David Priziak, it's reported that members quote, successfully staved

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off a vote to dissolve the organization, unquote, but that the decision will come back again.

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00:01:11.810 --> 00:01:15.470

At the time of writing, there was very little news about the decision itself,

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aside from this, that it happened on a teams meeting, which people don't meet on teams for

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such incredibly important decisions. That's nuts. Not, not teams, no teams, no teams, no in

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person. The meeting had been moved twice from two different venues before they decided to

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online. But that doesn't matter because you should not meet on teams for any reason for such

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00:01:39.030 --> 00:01:43.970

an important decision. Find a park if you have to, if you don't have a place for 450 people,

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00:01:44.010 --> 00:01:49.950

which I'm sure the U of R does. But anyway, 450 people joined this teams meeting yesterday.

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00:01:50.310 --> 00:01:56.230

I'm speaking to you, who has to be on teams all the time, dear listener. Right. Students

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very, very wisely called for a physical ballot and the meeting to be adjourned. The

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reporters wrote quote, eventually the board obliged unquote, and there will be another

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meeting date set soon. CTV doesn't say much about what has brought about such a radical attack

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on autonomous student organizing. The university evicted Ursu from campus space and it's being

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investigated for misappropriation of funds. But neither of those are good enough reasons

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to fold Ursu entirely. So I had to find more context at the Regina leader post.

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One of the parts of the dissolution motion that students are voting on is that students would

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release elected people and staff at Ursu from liability as part of the wind down process,

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00:02:39.410 --> 00:02:45.230

which I don't actually think you can do legally, but Hey, what do I know? Students are upset

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00:02:45.230 --> 00:02:51.050

that it seems like people are trying to avoid responsibility for whatever it is is going on.

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Ursu also has no student funding either. The university quote unquote, cut it off,

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but the leader post doesn't actually explain what that means either. Like is the fee being

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refunded to students or collected by the admin and held in trust or being spent by the admin

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00:03:04.850 --> 00:03:09.750

or what and that the police are investigating something, but that they wouldn't quote comment

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00:03:09.750 --> 00:03:14.790

further on the nature of the investigation unquote, which is also a big giant red flag

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00:03:14.790 --> 00:03:20.250

of a nothing comment. Part of the dissolution being proposed by the Ursu executive is for the

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to become the owner of any assets that remain, which is also nuts. Actually,

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that's way worse than holding a meeting on teams. Those are students assets,

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00:03:30.570 --> 00:03:35.190

not the university's assets, regardless of literally anything that the cops could be

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investigating, including something as wild as murder, handing all of that over to the

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university administration is so inappropriate and awful and horrible. And I really,

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really, really hope that students are fighting like crazy against this at the U of R.

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Now, this is a really, really big deal. Student unions are the engine of progressive action. And

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when students unions become corrupt or funds are misappropriated or whatever, there's usually

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several years of pain while students battle it out to figure out what direction to take the

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00:04:06.850 --> 00:04:11.850

organization in to get back on solid footing. The university should not be interfering under

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00:04:11.850 --> 00:04:16.870

any circumstances. And that is an attack on autonomous student organizing and free speech

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00:04:16.870 --> 00:04:21.910

free expression for students at the university there and universities anywhere. And the idea

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00:04:21.910 --> 00:04:27.870

that a university student board would voluntarily put a motion to its members to dissolve their

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00:04:27.870 --> 00:04:34.150

own students union. I cannot believe any of this. I mean, I've spent a lot of time

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00:04:34.150 --> 00:04:41.970

at the University of Regina and my mind is like going what on earth. So if you're a

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00:04:41.970 --> 00:04:45.090

student and you're at U of R and you're like, what am I supposed to do about this?

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00:04:45.090 --> 00:04:49.610

Fight tooth and nail to take your students union back. I promise you it is possible.

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00:04:49.610 --> 00:04:53.370

And I promise you, you can wrestle your funds back from the administration. You can rebuild,

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00:04:53.430 --> 00:04:57.550

you can get your space back, but you have to do the hard work of going through the motions

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00:04:57.550 --> 00:05:03.830

of defeating whatever wild level of corruption this group of students is apparently involved

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00:05:03.830 --> 00:05:09.310

in. I don't know. Next to Campbellton, New Brunswick, where the province's ombudsman

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is investigating 12 patient complaints from 2021 to 2023 about the misuse of restraints

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and the use of solitary confinement. The report found that Rustigouche hospital center,

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which is a mental health facility, was relying on the use of seclusion rooms that were bare,

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had physical restraints in them, no natural light, no toilets or sinks. Several people

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00:05:31.350 --> 00:05:36.250

said that they were kept for hours and even days in these rooms. Some had to go to the

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pillow cases and they didn't always get meals or water. The Vitality Health Network has promised

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to make changes and fire the people who are responsible for these crimes. But this is not

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the first time that there have been complaints at this institution. In 2019, another

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investigation found that some patients were malnourished and that the hospital staff

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used excessive force. The hospital was also fully staffed just 3% of the time.

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00:06:05.190 --> 00:06:11.790

Since the network fixed that problem by reducing the number of beds at the facility from 140 to

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00:06:11.790 --> 00:06:17.350

100 to achieve a better patient to staff ratio without actually increasing services.

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00:06:18.130 --> 00:06:23.350

The province says that they quote fully accept unquote the recommendations of the ombuds report

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and ombudsman Marie-France Peltier said that she would monitor the implementation of her

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recommendations closely.

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00:06:31.890 --> 00:06:37.390

Next, another story from an ombudsman's report but this time in Ontario. The province's home

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care program has been plagued by material shortages that the ombudsman has concluded

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00:06:41.890 --> 00:06:47.610

were due to poor planning. The program is called Ontario Health at Home. Alison Jones

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from the Canadian Press reports that in one case a person near the end of their life was

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00:06:51.770 --> 00:06:57.030

not able to access medicine to stop their pain and nausea until it arrived 10 minutes

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before they died. This person was not the only one to experience something similar.

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Other patients didn't receive medicine or materials like one patient who needed a

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catheter and didn't get one for three weeks in the month that they died and a set of drugs

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00:07:11.610 --> 00:07:16.210

used to ease the pain of someone at the end of their life that usually must arrive immediately

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00:07:16.210 --> 00:07:21.330

after prescription didn't reach a patient in time causing them a painful death that was

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00:07:21.330 --> 00:07:26.050

difficult for them and their loved ones to watch. The contracts for the materials were

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00:07:26.050 --> 00:07:31.010

inaccurate predictions of what would be needed and while concerns about the quantities were

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00:07:31.010 --> 00:07:37.090

communicated to provincial agencies nothing was done. Families started buying items out of pocket

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from October to February of last year and in total the province received 932 reimbursement

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claims. One of the vendors was implicated in creating the shortages as well but the ombudsman

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00:07:49.530 --> 00:07:54.510

doesn't name the vendor and says that ultimately their failures just added to a

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00:07:54.510 --> 00:08:01.790



problem. Overall poor governance made everything worse. The board chair and CEO of At Home Health

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00:08:01.790 --> 00:08:07.110

have apologized. Now I looked up the board to see who is managing this outfit and it's mostly

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00:08:07.110 --> 00:08:11.770

doctors and other kinds of health care professionals, managers, pointy headed

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00:08:11.770 --> 00:08:16.750

bureaucrats, that kind of thing but I wasn't too surprised to see the former CEO of Colleges

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00:08:16.750 --> 00:08:21.710

Ontario, the lobby organization for Ontario colleges, you know the ones who have shockingly

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00:08:21.710 --> 00:08:26.390

exploited international students, is a member of the board of At Home Health.

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00:08:28.210 --> 00:08:33.250

Next to international news and first to super typhoon Ragassa which has walloped Taiwan,

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00:08:33.450 --> 00:08:39.289

China and Hong Kong. Seventeen people are dead and 17 are missing in eastern Taiwan

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00:08:39.289 --> 00:08:44.490

reports Al Jazeera. Most of the dead were people who were unable to escape rising waters

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due to mobility limitations including elderly people. The typhoon created a lake that then

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00:08:50.770 --> 00:08:56.710

overflowed and raised water by two stories, say local journalists. In China that country has

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00:08:56.710 --> 00:09:01.810

evacuated almost two million people as the typhoon made land in the southern part of the

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00:09:01.810 --> 00:09:07.650

country there. More than 700 flights were grounded in Hong Kong as a precaution and

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00:09:07.650 --> 00:09:13.330

there's been a lot of damage caused by the typhoon hitting Hong Kong. And finally to Sudan

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00:09:13.330 --> 00:09:18.450

where 15 people were killed at a market in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur. They

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were attacked by a drone strike that was launched by the rapid support forces allegedly.

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One of those killed was an aid worker. Just a few days ago the RSF also hit a mosque in

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El Fasher killing 70 people according to the Associated Press. Since the start of the civil

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00:09:34.670 --> 00:09:40.770

war more than 3,000 people have died alone from cholera as people try to flee the violence

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00:09:40.770 --> 00:09:46.030

while also having to live with contaminated food and water. Those are your headlines for

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00:09:46.030 --> 00:09:51.150

Thursday, September 25th. I'm Nora. You're listening to this podcast at [sandyandnora.com](http://sandyandnora.com)

107

00:09:51.150 --> 00:09:54.490

on the Real News Network podcast feed and anywhere you get your podcasts.

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00:09:55.130 --> 00:09:58.190

I hope you have a wonderful Thursday. You know what Thursday means? It means that tomorrow

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00:09:58.190 --> 00:10:02.470

is Friday and I hope you're happy to see it. I'm not sure if I'll be. I mean,

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00:10:02.590 --> 00:10:05.330

I've just been getting by this week trying to recover from

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00:10:06.230 --> 00:10:09.250

the festivities of the week prior. I'll talk to you tomorrow.