



# RIELITY CHECK

A publication of the Louis Riel Teachers' Association ([www.lrta.ca](http://www.lrta.ca))

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JANUARY 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

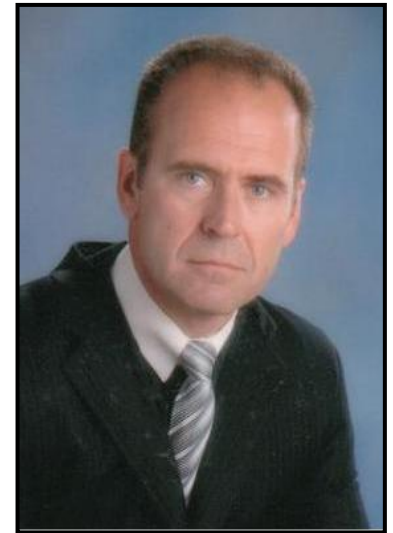
President – Frank Restall

**Bonne et Heureuse Année!**

**Happy New Year!**

Welcome back! I hope that everyone had a wonderful break and enjoyed the special time with family and friends.

One of the primary functions of the *Rielity Check* is to provide important and relevant information to LRTA members. Articles often focus on issues that have been shared with the Association and are of significant concern to members. Thus, we have included many articles on wellness, duty free lunch, prep time, PPDF, bargaining and teacher rights as outlined in the Labour Relations Act and the Collective Agreement.



As our Collective Agreement expires June 30, 2011, the Collective Bargaining Committee is putting the final touches on the package that it will be presenting to Council at the February meeting. The package will then be placed in the schools for feedback. Formal approval of the package takes place at the March Council meeting. This committee's work endeavours to better members' salaries, benefits and working conditions now and into the future.

The Constitution of the LRTA states that an objective of the Association is "to exercise all powers as may be within its competence in order to achieve and protect terms and conditions of employment..." The ramifications of ignoring articles in the collective agreement are dire! If members ignore a negotiated benefit it may establish a precedent that could eventually undermine the benefit. On a day to day basis, members can demonstrate commitment to the collective by ensuring that the articles of the Collective Agreement are honoured. Member rights and working conditions must be protected and it is the responsibility of every member to safeguard these rights and conditions.

With the start of a new year, it is important to once again remind members that the Association exists to serve you. As a member of LRTA, please remember that whenever the need arises, we should be your first call (929-5782). From general enquiries to issues surrounding bargaining to questions about PPDF, contact the LRTA office by phone or email. Ensure that any sensitive inquiries/questions are made from a personal email account on a personal computer. All matters will be dealt with in confidence. As well, members can call the Manitoba Teachers' Society (888-7961) and request Staff Officer assistance. →



...PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

While some things evolve with time, some things do not. The major responsibility of the Association is, and always will be, to advocate teacher concerns and help members resolve issues. But the Louis Riel Teachers' Association also exists to support local Association activities, to explain to members changes that affect them, to develop networks with other teacher Associations, to liaise with the Division and to nurture a sustainable local organization.

Finally, I wish each of you the very best in the year to come. Hopefully your resolutions will only grow stronger as the days lengthen.

Take care of yourself and take care of each other!

## **Frank Restall**

President, Louis Riel Teachers' Association

# **NEW LRTA EMAIL ADDRESSES**

**Just a reminder about the NEW email addresses for the LRTA:**

**President – Frank Restall [preslrta@shaw.ca](mailto:preslrta@shaw.ca)**

**Vice President Collective Bargaining – Barry Wittevrongel [cblrta@shaw.ca](mailto:cblrta@shaw.ca)**

**Vice President Professional Development – Bob Gaudes [pdlrta@shaw.ca](mailto:pdlrta@shaw.ca)**

**Office Administrator – Lorrie Restall [seclrta@shaw.ca](mailto:seclrta@shaw.ca)**

**Please make the necessary changes to your contact list. The LRTA office phone number (929-5782) and fax number (929-5780) remain the same.**



## WAGE FREEZES – WHY?

Collective Bargaining – Barry Wittevrongel

### Our economy continues to grow

School Boards across the province are proposing four year agreements with no money in years 1, 2 and 3 with an undisclosed amount of money available on the last day of the third year. School Boards want us to accept wage comparisons with nurses who have accepted back ended wage increases. However, when nurses were receiving 8% increases, no School Board was offering teachers those kinds of increases.

In the November 8, 2010 publication of the “Manitoba Economic Highlights” the Provincial Government’s Finance Department provided the following economic overview. The 2010 Economic Review and Outlook is available at: [www.gov.ca/finance/budget10/papers/economy.pdf](http://www.gov.ca/finance/budget10/papers/economy.pdf)

- Manitoba real GDP economic performance exceeded Canadian performance for 4 consecutive years from 2006 to 2009.
- Statistics Canada estimates that Manitoba was the only province to have an increase in the value of real GDP in 2009. Overall Canada’s real GDP is estimated to have declined by 2.5%.
- Manitoba’s population increased by 15 850 in the year ending July 1, 2010, the best performance since at least 1972. Every 10 000 migrants adds \$757M to the economy.
- In 2010, Manitoba has the second lowest unemployment and youth unemployment rate.
- In 2009, there were only 65 business bankruptcies in Manitoba, the lowest level since 1977.

*NOTE: Real GDP is adjusted for inflation.*

The Toronto Dominion Bank has provided its own provincial forecasts into 2012 which very much mirrors our Manitoba Government’s Finance Department forecast. The following table can be found at [www.td.com/economics/forecasts.jsp](http://www.td.com/economics/forecasts.jsp) In Manitoba the forecasted growth is over 4% in each of 2010, 2011 and 2012. Currently, no non-teacher education support unit has taken a salary increase less than 2.5% going forward. If our economy is growing at that rate shouldn’t we also benefit from its growth? From the forecast provided there is no reason to accept a wage freeze!

*NOTE: Nominal means not adjusted for inflation.*

NOMINAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)						
Annual average per cent change						
	95-08	2008	2009E	2010F	2011F	2012F
Canada	5.4	4.6	-4.5	5.7	3.7	4.6
NL	8.4	7.0	-15.5	8.2	2.6	4.6
PE	4.5	3.0	0.9	4.0	3.6	3.8
NS	4.4	3.8	-0.5	4.4	3.0	4.0
NB	4.3	1.4	-0.6	4.3	3.3	4.1
QC	4.2	1.6	-0.2	4.6	3.4	4.2
ON	4.7	0.4	-2.5	5.5	3.6	4.5
<b>MB</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.4</b>
SK	7.2	25.0	-10.0	6.0	4.7	5.6
AB	9.1	13.4	-12.0	7.6	4.3	5.7
BC	5.0	3.3	-4.4	6.9	4.1	4.6

E: Estimate for provinces; F: Forecast by TD Economics as at Sept 2010  
Source: Statistics Canada / Haver Analytics



## **GS TERM EXTENDED**

At the January Presidents' Council of the Manitoba Teachers' Society it was announced that General Secretary, Ken Pearce had his contract extended for two years. The new termination date is May 31, 2013. To quote Frank Restall, LRTA President; "This is excellent news for LRTA and for the Society." We wish Ken the very best in the upcoming years.

## **The New Provincial Assessment Policy Kindergarten to Grade 12: Academic Responsibility, Honesty, and Promotion/Retention**

New Policy Highlights include:

### **ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY**

- 1 – Establish and clearly communicate expectations regarding assignments
- 2 – Set and communicate reasonable timelines for assignments and support students in meeting these timelines
- 3 – Establish, communicate and apply consequences for late or missing work

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

- 1 – Communicate and reinforce expectations of academic honesty with students
- 2 – Respond appropriately to academic dishonesty

### **ACADEMIC PROMOTION/RETENTION**

- 1 – In Kindergarten to Grade 8, promotion decisions rest with the principal, who consults with teachers, parents, and other specialists as appropriate
- 2 – In Grade 9 to 12, the final decision on whether or not to grant credits rests with the principal, who consults with teachers, parents, and other specialists as appropriate

**The full document can be found at: [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/assess/publications.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/assess/publications.html)**



**Congratulations to Michelle Angst from Samuel Burland School and her husband John who welcomed a baby boy into the world. Lincoln Duncan Angst, weighing 9 lbs. 3 oz., was born on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Mom, Dad, and baby Lincoln are doing well. CONGRATS!!!**



## **Call for Nominations for the 2011-2012 LRTA Executive**

The Executive Nominations Chair is calling for nominations to the Louis Riel Teachers' Association Executive for 2011-2012. Nominations will be accepted beginning March 1, 2011. Nomination papers must be accompanied by the signatures of two members and forwarded to Past President James Bedford at the LRTA Office at École Varennes.

### ***What is the LRTA?***

The Louis Riel Teachers' Association represents all administrators, clinicians, coordinators, substitutes and teachers in the Louis Riel School Division. The LRTA actively supports the well being of its members through various committees such as Collective Bargaining, Professional Development, Social and Public Relations. In addition, the LRTA provides assistance and guidance to individual members upon request.

### ***Who can be an Executive member?***

Any member who indicates their willingness to run for election to the Executive (when the call for nominations goes out) can be elected. Candidates may be asked to speak at the Annual General Assembly on April 20<sup>th</sup> where the election takes place. The Executive for 2011-2012 assumes office on August 1, 2011.

### ***What will I do if elected?***

All Executive members attend monthly Executive and Council meetings. A one day planning workshop is held in October. All Executive members must familiarize themselves with current issues and be willing to serve on committees. Some Executive positions require less of a time commitment than others and may be ideal entry points.

### ***What is the time commitment for an Executive member?***

The Executive and Council meet monthly. Meetings last from one to two hours and supper is served. Committees meet according to their mandate and therefore the number of meetings varies from committee to committee.

### ***Will I find the experience rewarding?***

You will find the experience to be very rewarding! Rewards are both extrinsic and intrinsic. Members of the Executive are reimbursed for dependent care, and the opportunities for Professional Development and networking are many. Also members of the Executive play a pivotal role in achieving improved working conditions for their colleagues and gain an insider's view of the political arena. Executive members know they have helped all of their colleagues by serving their Professional Association.

### ***And there is more!***

You will get to work with a group of dedicated, supportive and industrious leaders who will also become trusted friends.







9TH ANNUAL LOUIS RIEL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION SKI / SNOWBOARD TRIP

# ZOMBIE SKI TRIP!!

The trip is open to all MTS members and their guests. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is now being accepted. The Bus will be filled on a first-come basis. Full payment due by February 11th, 2011. Registration forms are available from your MTS rep. For more information or to receive a registration form, contact by email only -

**Brad Nechwediuk - [brad.nechwediuk@lrsd.net](mailto:brad.nechwediuk@lrsd.net) or**

**Carla Allan - [carla.allan@lrsd.net](mailto:carla.allan@lrsd.net)**

**The Fine Print:**

*No refunds will be given after February 11th, 2011.*

*Ski/board rentals extra.*

*Due to the instability of fuel costs and the U.S. dollar, the quoted prices may be subject to additional fees or surcharges.*

**Prices:**

Quad - \$229

Triple - \$249

Double - \$289

**Price includes:**

2 nights hotel at the Americinn, Virginia, MN.

2 day lift ticket

2 deluxe continental breakfasts

Transportation

Pizza and beverages on the bus



**Giants Ridge Ski Resort, Biwabik, MN. March 11-13, 2011**

The LRTA is

here for you

**Louis Riel Teachers' Association**  
**22 Varennes Avenue**

**Winnipeg, MB R2M 0N1**

**Phone: (204) 929-LRTA (5782)**

**Fax: (204) 929-5780**

**[www.lrta.ca](http://www.lrta.ca)**

Please don't hesitate to contact us!