



RIELITY CHECK

A publication of the Louis Riel Teachers' Association (www.lrta.ca)

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FEBRUARY 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President – Frank Restall

In the last week of January, the provincial government announced an additional \$30 million of funding for public schools in the 2011-2012 school year. This announcement marked the 12th year the provincial government has kept its commitment to fund public schools at or above the rate of economic growth. The announcement of a 2.7% increase in funding comes with a guarantee that no division will receive less than a 2.2% increase in the 2011-2012 school year.

Some of our members have decided that 2010-2011 will be their last year of service. These members have announced their retirement early and will take advantage of a week off with pay. Congratulations upon your decision and we look forward to formally recognizing your contribution to teaching at the LRTA Retirement Celebration on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Legacy Centre. The Retirement Committee will soon begin planning for this gala event so be sure to mark your calendars.

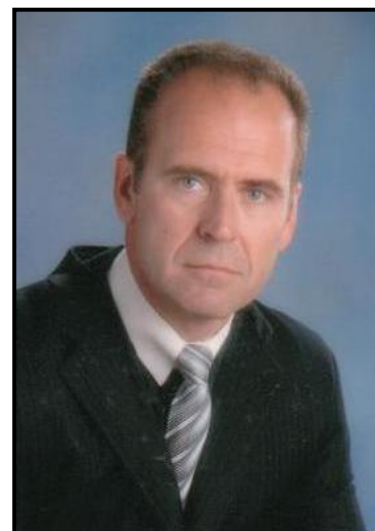
The LRTA AGA is just around the corner – Wednesday, April 20 at 4:30 at the Louis Riel Arts and Technology Center. Council Reps have received nomination papers for the Executive positions. Nomination forms are also available on the LRTA website. Please consider running for a position. This is also your chance to vote on any proposed changes to our Constitution, Bylaws and Policies. The LRTA budget for 2011-12 will be presented, debated and voted on. The LRTA/MTS Relations Committee will present their findings and the Dental Plan will be reviewed. Are there changes you would like to see or not see? Come out and let your voice be heard. These are very important reasons for attending the AGA as your voice and vote will determine the outcomes. The strength of our Association continues to be the active involvement of the membership.

The Resolutions Committee has proposed a life membership, two bylaw changes and six policy resolutions for debate at the Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Teachers' Society in May 2011. The committee's proposals have been presented to Council for ratification and the resolutions have been forwarded to MTS to be included in the AGM binder and debated on the floor of the Provincial Council.

As the month of February draws to a close, the Association wishes to remind members of the 1.5% salary increase effective the first day of March. This increase is part of the 2009-2011 Collective Agreement that expires on June 30. Over the last two years, the current Bargaining Committee has been working industriously on your behalf to create the new package for the next round of bargaining.

The end of February also witnesses the week long Operation Donation food drive. The need this year is greater than ever before! Operation Donation will run from February 28 through March 4. Please read the article in this issue which describes the need for food as well as how donations can be tripled!

Also contained in this issue, is a letter from the Association regarding the Canadian International Development Agency's decision to not approve the Canadian Teachers' Federation proposal for funding. This could have a





profound impact on a number of international programs such as Project Overseas. CTF has established an online petition for teachers to sign in support of international programs. Please refer to the letter for further details.

In addition, at last year's Annual General Meeting, LRTA pursued a resolution in the hope of reducing the environmental and budgetary costs of having to produce, distribute and recycle paper copies of The Manitoba Teacher newspaper. The MTS website now has a link to support this environmentally responsible option. The Association encourages all LRTA members to take a few minutes to go to this link and join to support this environmentally responsible choice. The process for members to follow is found later in this issue.

Finally, member wellness remains a priority of the Association. The LRTA Wellness Committee continues to meet in order to effectively develop a plan of action to facilitate workplace wellness and meet the needs of all members.

Take care of yourself and take care of each other!

Frank Restall

President, Louis Riel Teachers' Association

CIDA Does Not Approve CTF Funding Proposal

On the opposite page, is a letter from the Association regarding the Canadian International Development Agency's decision to not approve the Canadian Teachers' Federation proposal for the continued funding of international programs. This could have a profound impact on a number of international programs such as Project Overseas.

The funding that CTF is seeking from CIDA is just over \$10 million for a five year period. This funding is supplemented by an additional \$6 million from CTF to carry out the many international programs in which CTF is involved.

CTF and provincial teacher organizations are respected worldwide for the programming and support provided to teachers in every part of the world. Some of our own members have been involved in Project Overseas and speak of the profound impact the experience has had on their professional and personal lives.

CTF has established an online petition for teachers to sign in support of international programs. LRTA is encouraging members to join in supporting CTF on this issue.

Sign online petition in support of CTF International Programs
<http://www.ctf-fce.ca/petition/Default.aspx>

Signez la pétition en ligne en guise d'appui aux Programmes internationaux de la FCE
<http://www.ctf-fce.ca/petition/>



Shelley Glover
Member of Parliament
Saint Boniface Constituency
Room 534-N Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

February 4, 2011

It is with great disappointment that the Louis Riel Teachers' Association learned of the decision by the Canadian International Development Agency that the 2010-15 program proposal submitted by the Canadian Teachers' Federation for financing international work had been rejected. CIDA contributions supplement the contributions of member organizations. Without CIDA's support, the valuable work of Canadian teachers in developing nations through Project Overseas is jeopardized and the program is placed in a perilous position.

Project Overseas usually provides the only Professional Development that teachers in developing countries receive. This Professional Development increases the quality of education delivery in classrooms and extends the reach of quality education in the participating countries. In 2011, Project Overseas is scheduled to have 52 Canadian teachers offering Professional Development to 2,056 teachers. This will have a direct impact on more than 100,000 students in 12 different countries.

CTF provides a unique service focused on direct support to teachers and students in developing nations. The CTF program is direct, efficient, has a great reputation and is internationally recognized.

Members of the LRTA have heard first hand of the successes of Project Overseas through members who have participated in the program. The testimonials of these members describe the challenges and achievements of the program and have directly linked student learning in developing nations with student learning in local classrooms. The 1,100 members of the LRTA believe in the need and purpose of the program and have contributed financial support to assist in fulfilling the need in order to achieve the purpose.

Therefore, the Louis Riel Teachers' Association is appealing to you to take action by encouraging the reversal of the CIDA decision to ensure that this valuable partnership and Project Overseas can be sustained and thereby, continue to shape the lives of so many in need. I look forward to your response that I can share with our 1100 members.

Respectfully,

Frank Restall
LRTA President



DRAFT COPY OF COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

Collective Bargaining – Barry Wittevrongel

The Bargaining Committee has completed its work putting together the LRTA draft clauses for our opening package. At the February Council Meeting, one Council Rep from each worksite was given the opening package. A brief verbal description of the information was provided to the Council Reps. The proposals in the package try to address the concerns of members as expressed in the member survey which was completed in October 2010.

If a member wishes to view the opening package they must see their Council Rep as the Rep must maintain control of the document. This is a highly confidential document and any breach of this confidentiality could undermine the efforts of your Bargaining Committee. If you have questions or concerns, direct your feedback to Barry Wittevrongel at the Association office. (929-5782 or cblrta@shaw.ca) Please do not use divisional email, use the phone or your personal email account from a personal computer.

The package will be formally approved at the March Council Meeting. I would like to acknowledge and thank my committee for their effort and investment of time on behalf of all LRTA members.

Andre Carboneau (Rene Deleurme)

Arpena Babian (Samuel Burland)

Bernard Mazerolle (École Julie Riel)

Ryan Sabourin (Nelson McIntyre)

Bob Gaudes (Samuel Burland)

Carl Antymniuk (Samuel Burland)

James Bedford (Dakota)

Kevin Szajkowski (Dakota)

Marlene Schellenberg (JH Bruns)

Michael Moyes (Victor Mager)

Rayleen Dutka (Glenlawn)

Marsha Leary (Island Lakes)

Frank Restall (LRTA-President)

Henry Shyka (MTS Staff)

PPDF DEFINED

Professional Development – Bob Gaudes

The Personal Professional Development Fund (article 9.00 of the Collective Agreement) was created as a result of bargaining in the 2002-2003 school year. For the purposes of personal Professional Development all professional staff is considered to be teachers as per the Collective Agreement.

The Personal Professional Development Fund (PPDF) is intended to assist members in their personal professional development and provide financial assistance for as many members as possible. It is also recognized that this personal professional development will be of the kind that is beneficial to the division. An example of these benefits includes the sharing of information with other staff members and the development of expertise in areas deemed to be priorities in the division.

Most importantly, your PPDF benefit is “personal” and as such is to be used at your discretion in accordance with the PPDF Guidelines. In contrast, Divisional PD initiatives are funded by DPDF (Divisional Professional Development Fund) although teachers may choose to use PPDF to attend divisional offerings. However, where your attendance at a Divisional PD initiative is deemed to be compulsory the costs are to be covered by the Division.



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 20th 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.





Spring is the season to commence the building of the LRTA 2011 - 2012 Executive. All positions are one year terms so every position is vacant. Elections will take place at the AGA on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at The Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre (5 de bourmont ave).

The Table Officer positions are:

**PRESIDENT,
VICE PRESIDENT – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING,
VICE PRESIDENT – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, and
SECRETARY-TREASURER**

The Committee Chair positions are:

**ÉDUCATRICES ET ÉDUCATEURS FRANCOPHONES DU MANITOBA
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIAL
MEMBER AT LARGE (3) LRASA REPRESENTATIVE**

Nominations will be accepted until Wednesday, March 23, 2011, 12:00 noon. Nomination forms are available through your Council Rep or the LRTA website and once completed, forms are to be sent to James Bedford – LRTA Office – 929 5780 (fax)

Here are the procedures for the election:

- Candidates will be entitled to the following:
 - an election statement (one 8 1/2 X 11 sheet)
 - translation of the election statement
 - distribution of the election statement
- The expenses for the above will be borne by the Association.
- Materials to be distributed **must** be submitted to the Chair of the Nomination Committee, James Bedford, by noon (12:00 p.m.), Wednesday, March 23, 2011. **It is highly recommended that you send in your election statement as early as possible to facilitate translation and printing.** Materials arriving after March 23, 2011 will be translated and copied if time allows.
- No other campaign materials are allowed.
- **No campaign materials may be distributed at the Annual General Assembly.**

A written report on nominations will be distributed to each school in the Association by April 6.

APPLICATIONS FOR PPDF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Vice President of Professional Development is now accepting the names of LRTA members who would like to be considered for a position on the PPDF Committee. All interested members should email Robert Gaudes at pdlrta@shaw.ca to receive a candidate application form. This year's application deadline is Friday, April 8, 2011.

It is the mandate of the PPDF Committee to allocate PPDF funds. Committee members are required to process applications daily online throughout the school year. All committee positions are for two year terms unless you are filling in for a committee member on leave.



Victor and Marie Wyatt Bursary Application
for courses taken between January 2010-December 2010
by Robert Gaudes VP Professional Development

The Victor and Marie Wyatt Bursary Committee is accepting applications for bursaries from teachers and administrators to pursue studies related to public school education.

The Bursary is available to:

Educators who are *currently* employed in the Louis Riel School Division,
Educators who are *currently* on leave from the Louis Riel School Division.
And Educators who have requested a leave from the Louis Riel School Division for educational purposes and who will be *returning to the division*.

Bursary Criteria:

- Tuition at registered universities or colleges (not including such things as parking, dental or medical insurance, or cost of books and supplies) will be considered.
- Payment is made directly to the individual,
 - After completion of the course(s), and only
 - After funding is approved by the Bursary Committee upon submission of all required information.
 - Bursary applications will not be accepted in two consecutive years. (e.g. 2008 applicants may apply again in 2010)
 - Maximum eligible tuition: \$1500.00

Applications must include:

- Proof of course completion – Academic Transcript
- Proof that the course(s) fee(s) have been paid – T2202A Certificate

Application form can be found at www.lrta.ca under 'Bursaries'.

Deadline for submission: Friday, April 22, 2011.

Send completed form and all information to:

Louis Riel Teachers' Association
Attn. Vice President of Professional Development
L.R.T.A. Office, 22 Varennes Ave
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2M 0N1

Process:

- Applicants will receive their letter of confirmation from the Bursary Committee. It will indicate the amount of bursary awarded by the committee.
- A copy of the confirmation letter is sent to the Winnipeg Foundation.
- A cheque from the Winnipeg Foundation will be mailed directly to the recipient.
- In February, each applicant will be issued a tax receipt from the Winnipeg Foundation indicating the amount of their award.



The Manitoba Teacher Online Survey to Gauge interest in eventually replacing your paper copy of the Manitoba Teacher with an environmentally responsible e-copy

At last year's Annual General Meeting, LRTA pursued a resolution in the hope of reducing the environmental and budgetary costs of having to produce, distribute and recycle paper copies of The Manitoba Teacher newspaper. The MTS website www.mbteach.org now has a link to support this environmentally responsible option. The Association encourages all LRTA members to take a few minutes to go to this link and join to support this environmentally responsible choice. While you are there also please take a few seconds to update your profile. This will help keep the Society's membership role up to date and saves membership fee money and time in having to update it manually.

Where to update your profile and to ultimately subscribe to an e-copy (instead of a paper copy) of the Manitoba Teacher.

1. The MTS website www.mbteach.org will take you to where you can make the selection of "My Profile" in the menu at the left. This is where you can update your personal profile and answer the survey on paper vs. electronic copies of The Manitoba Teacher.

E-mail address or MTS Card number*:

Password



2. The Login requires your MTS Card Number or your MTS registered e-mail. Your password is your home postal code.

3. You will be asked to:

"Click here to add your name to a list of members who wish to receive an electronic copy of the Manitoba Teacher".

	To...	<input type="text" value="mts-im@mbteach.org"/>
Send	Cc...	<input type="text"/>
Account ▾	Bcc...	<input type="text"/>
Subject:		<input type="text" value="Subscribe:Electronic MBTeacher List"/>
Name:		
Email(if different from the 'From:' address above):		

4. Type in your name. You may want to add your e-mail address as the "From" does not always show up. (This may be an Outlook thing.)





We're bringing back the Early Bird registration rate!

Save \$50 on individual registrations until March 25th! See www.mbteach.org for details.

ENCOMPASSING KIDS

INCLUSIVE • APPROPRIATE • SPECIAL



INFINITE EXPECTATIONS, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

THE 2011 MANITOBA TEACHERS' SOCIETY CONFERENCE ON APPROPRIATE EDUCATION

April 20th-21st, 2011 -- Victoria Inn and Conference Centre, Winnipeg



Pat Mirenda

Prof. of Special Education, UBC

An authority on inclusion, differentiated instruction, Universal Design for Learning, and Developmental Disorders, Pat brings encouragement and expertise on specific student needs and on supportive, enabling program design.



Alvin Law

Self-described as one of Canada's first "Thalidomide Babies", Alvin speaks to the reality of a life without arms, and the supports, experiences, and decisions that helped him succeed.

"Attitude, learning, value, imagination, and never giving up are universal themes."

With presenters

- Gerald Farthing
- Jan Stewart
- John Wiens
- Jennifer Katz
- John Van Walleghe
- and many others!

Sessions on ...

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Differentiated Instruction
- Inclusion
- Developmental Disorders
- FAS/FAE
- GLBT Youth
- Working with Challenging Behaviour
- Assessment
- ICT supports for Appropriate Ed
- Developing School Teams
- Gifted & Talented programming
- La Douance (session en français)
- Aboriginal Education

... and many others!



Operation Donation for Winnipeg Harvest

The school-based Operation Donation food drive of 2011 is the most needed yet. Organizers of this year's Operation Donation are making an urgent emergency appeal for more schools to join in the fight against hunger. When the project started it was hoped that it would not be needed a decade later. However this is not the case and Winnipeg Harvest says that demand has skyrocketed this year. The number of school children using Winnipeg Harvest has risen to over 29 000 compared to 24 000 last year.

Each year in March, schools across Manitoba collect food for Winnipeg Harvest and organizations and food banks in their local communities. David Northcott, Executive Director of Winnipeg Harvest, says "Operation Donation fills a gap at just the right time – after Christmas and before spring planting when food stocks are low". Northcott adds "It's a great campaign for helping students think about the larger questions in life, such as 'why don't the poor have the right to eat the same kind of food as my family has on the table?'"

Operation Donation is sponsored by the Manitoba Teachers' Society and Manitoba Public Insurance. Peak of the Market matches the total amount of donations gathered by Operation Donation and Canada Safeway (new this year) will also match the total amount of donations raised by schools. In essence, every food donation will be tripled!

The food drive this year will be held February 28 to March 4. During the week, teachers and students are asked to donate one food item. For further information, please contact Frank Restall at the LRTA office (929 5782). Schools and classes that wish to get involved to make a difference can register with Winnipeg Harvest at 982-3670 or register online at the Winnipeg Harvest website at www.winnipegharvest.org.

One Week, One Donation, One Hope!



Fighting Hunger and Feeding Hope



Operation Donation Food Drive

Feb. 28 -
March 4,
2011

Manitoba Public Insurance,
Peak of the Market, The Manitoba
Teachers' Society, Canada Safeway
and schools throughout Winnipeg
are joining together to collect
food and cash donations for
Winnipeg Harvest.

Please help us to help those in need.

Visit www.winnipegharvest.org for more info.

10 Most Wanted List



Canned Meat
and Fish



Cereal



Macaroni
and Cheese



Dry Pasta



Baby Food



Canned Soup



Canned Fruit
& Vegetables



Canned
Stews



Peanut
Butter



Spaghetti
Sauce



LRTA Hockey Team

Richard Botchar



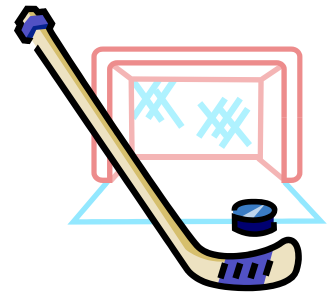
The MTS Hockey Tournament, hosted this year by the Portage La Prairie Teachers' Association, is being held April 15 – 17, 2011.

Robbie Mager and I are organizing the LRTA team. This year the games will be held in Portage La Prairie. There are only 16 playing spots available, we have decided the best and fairest method to create a team would be through a lottery system.

Those LRTA members interested in playing should submit a cheque for \$40.00 to Richard Botchar at Highbury School by Tuesday, March 1st. The purpose of the cheque is to show commitment to the team. Any member not drawn in the lottery will have his/her cheque returned. The Team will use the selected players' funds to cover team costs as they incur. Any funds not used will be returned to the players.

The Team Lottery will be drawn at Highbury School at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 10th in the Graphics Lab.

All interested players must include the position which they play (i.e. goaltender, right wing, etc.) when they forward their entry into the lottery to Richard Botchar.



The LRTA is
**The LRTA is
here for you**

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Winnipeg, MB R2M 0N1
Phone: (204) 929-LRTA (5782)
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Please don't hesitate to contact us!