



RIELITY CHECK

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

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JUNE 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President – Frank Restall

Congratulations! Have a Wonderful Summer!

June is a time for reflection. Being President of our Association this past year has been an enriching and fulfilling experience for me. I believe in the importance of the work teachers do and the importance of supporting teachers in their work. This year has been eventful, hectic, demanding at times, and always very, very rewarding. However, the successes of the Association can be attributed to the collective efforts of the entire membership.

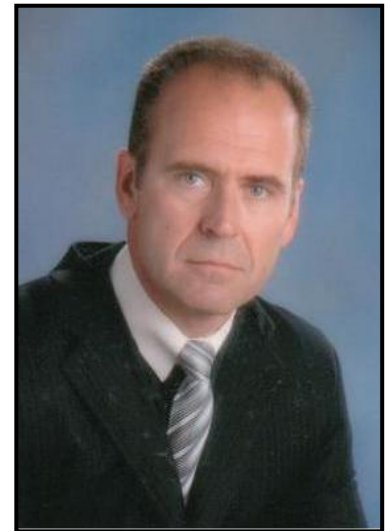
I would first like to thank all the members of the LRTA for the excellent work you have done for your students and your colleagues this past year. The work you do is so important. We prepare the future today and it is an incredible undertaking. Please take time to look over the positive events of the past year and celebrate them.

LRTA Council Reps., who represent the members of the LRTA, have done a great job this year. So much of the Association's work requires Council's participation as it allows the LRTA to advocate for members and to keep our colleagues throughout Louis Riel informed. Council Reps. are vital links to our members and participation at our Council meetings is always strong. Simply put, the LRTA has the best Council in the province!

LRTA Executive members are colleagues who put their names forward to be elected at our Annual General Assembly. They assume duties to ensure that the on-going needs of the Association are met. Our entire Executive took on additional responsibilities when asked to make sure that our Association activities served the members. The Executive is the administrative body of the Association and Executive members are constantly advocating for members. The efforts of the Executive are appreciated by all!

I would like to thank members of the Council and Executive for all of their efforts and support on behalf of colleagues this year. Enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation this summer.

Retirees, congratulations and best wishes for happiness and health as you close one chapter of your life and venture on your next journey. Your contributions have greatly impacted the lives of the students with whom you have worked.





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

New members, it has been many months since the LRTA New Member Celebration and I am certain your year has flown by. Thank you for your energy, your ideas and your commitment. Now take some time in the summer to catch your breath!

Thanks also to the Trustees and the Superintendent's Department for their collaboration on issues that were significant to members. The channels of communication were always accessible.

C'est mon privilège et mon plaisir de servir comme votre président. Merci pour votre participation, votre encouragement et votre appui de l'association.

It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as your President. Thank you for your participation, your encouragement and your steadfast support of the Association.

In the last few days of the year, take care of yourself and take care of each other!

Frank Restall

President, Louis Riel Teachers' Association

LRTA Executive

Your 2011-2012 Louis Riel Teachers' Association Executive will be:

President	Frank Restall	LRTA Office
VP Collective Bargaining	Barry Wittevrongel	Dakota Collegiate
VP Professional Development	Bob Gaudes	Samuel Burland School
Secretary-Treasurer	Deb Barry	Hastings School
ÉFM	Bernard Mazerolle	École Julie-Riel
Employee Benefits	Carl Antymniuk	Samuel Burland School
Equality in Education	Dallas Crawford	Hastings/Victor Wyatt Schools
Public Relations	Sean Fitzmaurice	Highbury School
Social	Alison Ward	Frontenac School
Members-at-Large (3)	Marcela Cabezas	Collège Jeanne-Sauvé
	Tara Law	École Julie-Riel
	Ben Storie	Glenlawn Collegiate
	Jack Fraser	Archwood School
	James Bedford	Dakota Collegiate
LRASA		
Past President		



PENSIONS

May 24, 2011

NEWS RELEASE!

TEACHERS' PENSIONS PLANS STRENGTHENED: ALLAN

The Manitoba government has accepted the recommendation of the Teachers' Pension Task Force for a two per cent contribution rate increase over four years to the Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund to help improve its sustainability, Education Minister Nancy Allan announced today.

"Our teachers are critical to the success of our education system, so strengthening the sustainability of their pension plan will help the profession now and for years to come," said Allan.

Currently, Manitoba teacher contribution rates are the lowest among teacher pension plans in Canada.

Allan said increased teacher contributions will be phased in and matched by the Government of Manitoba beginning in 2012. She said the increase will be introduced at a rate of one-half of one per cent effective every Sept. 1, until 2015.

"Teacher pensions have been a priority for MTS for many years. The Manitoba Teachers' Society has worked together with government to make significant strides toward making the pension plan sustainable in the long term. The increase in the contribution rate will help secure that sustainability," said MTS president, Pat Isaak. "I am confident that the 27,000 active and retired teachers will applaud the government's commitment to the security of our pension plan."

The minister also noted the province has made several improvements to teacher pensions over the last decade including contributing \$1.75 billion to fund the province's pension obligations under the Teachers' Pensions Act.



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Please don't hesitate to contact us!



WSH **REGULATION** *Summary Sheet*

PART 11 **Violence in the Workplace**

Previous Regulation(s): New

Summary of requirements:

- **Definition of “violence”** – the attempted or actual exercise of physical force against a person and any threatening statement or behaviour that gives a person reasonable cause to believe that physical force will be used against the person.

- **Employer duties:**
 - **Identify and assess risk of violence in the workplace** in consultation with the committee/representative/workers.

 - **Develop a written policy** – when a risk of violence in the workplace is identified, develop a policy in consultation with committee/representative/workers.

 - **Implement and train workers in the policy**

 - **Ensure that workers comply with the policy**

 - **Required statements to be included in the policy:**
 - Employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that no worker is subjected to violence in the workplace.
 - Employer will take corrective action respecting any person under the employer’s direction who subjects a worker to violence.
 - Employer will not disclose the name of a complainant or the circumstances related to the complaint – unless this is necessary to investigate the complaint or take corrective action, or is required by law.
 - The policy is not intended to discourage or prevent the complainant from exercising any other legal rights.

 - **Required information to be included in the policy:**
 - How to eliminate the risk of violence to a worker.
 - Where elimination is not possible, how to minimize the risk.
 - How to report an incident of violence.
 - How to investigate an incident of violence.

 - **Posting of the policy**- in a conspicuous place.

 - **Employer must inform workers on the risk of violence.**

 - **Nature and extent of risk** – provide information on the nature and extent of the risk and the risk of violence from persons who have a history of violent behaviour and who workers are likely to encounter in the course of their work.



MTS AGM

Past President / Resolutions Chair – James Bedford

Once again the membership of LRTA was well represented, this time at the 2011 meeting of Provincial Council of MTS, otherwise known as AGM. Your delegates successfully presented a number of resolutions to AGM, previously approved by the LRTA Council. Life Membership was conferred on former MTS Staff Officer Saul Leibl (with an outstanding introduction by former LRTA President Madeline McKenzie) and McMaster Square was renamed Bradley Square in recognition of former MTS General Secretary Judy Bradley. We also initiated action to pursue phased in retirement for members, to create a mechanism for all members to choose between paper and electronic copies of the MB Teacher and to bring about a level playing field for the election of the MTS President. We asked for studies to be done that may positively impact members on disability and may give members near retirement choice in how dental premiums are paid. Lastly, we successfully presented a resolution that will bring about greater transparency in the use of legal opinions within the Society.

The LRTA Delegation also supported resolutions that will bring about greater stability in the funding for the Disability Benefits Plan and greater transparency in how Plan premiums are proposed. We supported a reduction in the premium for the upcoming year to 1.94% of salary, down from the current 2.18% (an 11% reduction). We also supported clarification in the use of surplus money within the MTS budget, which will result in only a \$3 increase in membership dues for next year (a 0.3% increase). We presented a resolution which would greater define the application of the Code of Professional Practice, but this was caught up in a number of concerns regarding the Code and its application and was referred for further study as part of the what will likely be a significant review. LRTA looks forward to participating in this review of the Code over the coming year and debating the results at AGM 2012.

Politically, AGM heard an election-style speech from Education Minister Nancy Allen, who graciously visited with LRTA delegates at the Banquet. It was heart-warming to hear her comments of support for the work we do and to answer her many enquiries after some of our members with whom she is familiar with. We were left in little doubt that MTS is prepared for the upcoming election as the MTS Green Book was released in which our major concerns and issues for the campaign are outlined. I am also certain that most of you have seen the recent television ads in support of public education.

It was an honour to sit with LRTA member Deb Barry who was specifically recognized for her work in Ghana by Canadian Teachers' Federation President Mary-Lou Donnelly in her address to delegates. Ms. Donnelly was also instrumental in getting AGM delegates to enthusiastically support the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation in their contract negotiations with the Saskatchewan Government. We were reminded of the impact of technology on what we do when we heard quotes the next day from a number of STF members who had viewed our support and responded to it via websites.



...MTS AGM (continued from page 5)

AGM elections saw a new Vice President, Norm Gould from SJATA, elected along with a number of new faces to the Provincial Executive. Even though these elections currently take place at AGM, a resolution was passed that will see MTS study the possibility of moving them to the membership at large. We look forward to the results of that study at next year's AGM.

The business of AGM is only a part of the process, and I can certainly say that the LRTA delegates represented themselves equally well at the Hospitality Rooms, both our own and all the others. If you are familiar with the routine, this will be the last year for the traditional stair climb through the Hospitality Suites as next year we will be restricted to the Mezzanine Level of the hotel. I am certain that as one tradition ends a new one will develop that will hopefully result in some strengthened bonds between Associations as we will likely have to combine efforts to ensure well represented hospitality within a smaller number of rooms.

In closing, I would like to thank all LRTA Delegates for their professionalism and dedication at AGM. LRTA has always believed that it is both about what you do and how you do it. We never approach AGM with an expectation that everything will be the way we want it to be. Instead, our goal is to ensure that everyone is listened to and respected so that we can have debate in which the focus is doing the best for our members. It should sound a lot like what goes on in our classrooms; respect, the sharing of ideas, and learning for all. I have never been disappointed by our delegation and this year has been no exception. Your representatives spoke clearly yet passionately, and in both official languages of the Province I might add. LRTA made a difference not only in what we did, but how we did it. I am certain that all of our delegates look forward to returning next year as representatives, but I am equally sure that we might be able to make room for you as well.

For more details of AGM 2011 please see the MTS website at:
www.mbteach.org/AGM2011/agmmain2011.html.

TEAM LRTA 2011

Carl Antymniuk	Deb Barry	James Bedford	Lynne Berard
Marcela Cabezas	Dallas Crawford	Karyn Durupt	Rayleen Dutka
Sean Fitzmaurice	Jack Fraser	Bob Gaudes	Tara Law
Angela Locke	Bernard Mazerolle	Tim Parker	Valérie Remillard
Ben Storie	Catherine Strifling	Barry Wittevrongel	Alison Ward
Scott Wood	Bill Young	Frank Restall	



Louis Riel Staff Monday Night Curling

- ★ **4:30 pm Monday Nights**
- ★ **St. Vital Curling Club**
- ★ **19 games (8 ends each) starting October 24th.**
- ★ **All levels of competition.**

Plus!

- ★ **Christmas Dinner**
- ★ **Skins Game**
- ★ **End of Year Banquet**



Beginner's Welcome!
No experience necessary...
Although we have been known to
turn out world champion curlers!

**Look for posters coming to your staffroom in September
or contact Ginette Trapp @ ginette.trapp@lrsd.net**





The Louis Riel Teachers' Association
28th Annual
TERRY FOX TORCHLIGHT RUN

Friday, September 30th, 2011
St. Vital Park (Duck Pond)

Louis Riel Students, Teachers
and Community

Keeping Terry's Dream Alive!



Donations:

Donations to the Terry Fox Foundation will be accepted. Donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt.

Entertainment:

Beginning at 6:30 PM
Clowns, Face Painting, Bands,
Magic Man, Loads of Fun!

Warm Up To Walk!

7:30 p.m. Opening Presentation
and Aerobic Warm Up

Glow Sticks Refreshments

Torchlight Run

7:50 — 8:30p.m.



For further information contact:
Louis Riel Teachers' Association—929-5782, or
The Terry Fox Foundation—231-5282

