



# RIELITY CHECK

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

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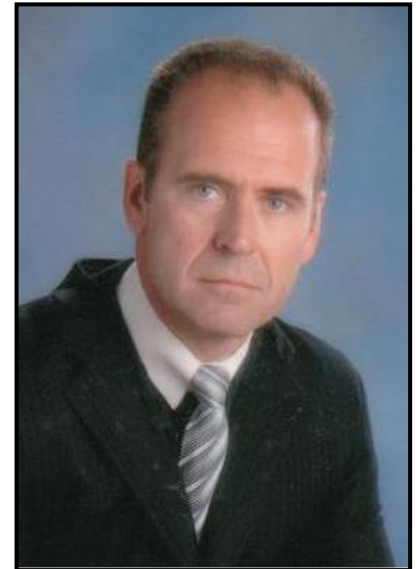
FEBRUARY 2013

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President – Frank Restall

I have said many times that the strength of the Louis Riel Teachers' Association is the active involvement of our membership. The active involvement of members demonstrates the importance of being a collective. In addition, on a day to day basis, the active involvement of members means supporting one another and working as individuals to improve conditions for all. Each of us, in our own way, can have a profound impact on the well-being of the collective.

The last couple of months have provided many examples of members working for the betterment of all. Following the first reporting period of this school year, the LRTA was contacted by many concerned members about their reporting experience. A commonality of almost every conversation I had with individuals or email I received was the increase in workload and the increase in stress for all members that the reporting process had created. Although each member's experience was his or her own, members were applying their own experience to voice concerns about the impact on the entire LRTA membership. It was inspiring to witness examples of individual members striving to improve the reporting process for the wellbeing of the collective.



Much of this inspiration was derived from the many phone calls received by the LRTA. The Association compiled a list of member concerns to share with the Division. If individuals hadn't contacted the LRTA, the list would never have been as comprehensive. This list was shared with the Superintendent and members of his team.

As well, six individuals volunteered to be part of a LRTA working group to sit down with representatives of the Division and walk through the online reporting process, sharing concerns and providing suggestions for improvement. These six individuals were, in essence, representing us all.

A teacher in a school that follows a middle year's philosophy contacted the Association about the repetitive requirement of writing Learning Behaviour comments for each subject area as opposed to writing one fluid comment about the whole child. This individual wrote a very compelling message about her experience. On behalf of members, the Association sent a letter to Manitoba Education and included the teacher's compelling message as support. Near the end of January, the Association received a response that supported the teacher's request for writing one overall Learning Behaviour comment for each child. The response was shared with the Division and changes for expectations in the second reporting period, that reduced member workload, then occurred. →



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

In addition, the Association shared concerns about the implementation of technology (both past and present) with Trustees at a Liaison meeting. The combined concerns and recommendations of many individuals were presented to the Trustees. Without these individual concerns and recommendations, the Association would not have been able to provide such a comprehensive overview on behalf of all members.

I would like to acknowledge the Division for hearing the concerns of members and working with the Association. The Trustees, the Superintendent and members of his team were receptive to addressing the needs of members. The Association appreciates the open lines of communication, the opportunities to dialogue and the commitment of the Division to work together to address challenges.

The active involvement of individuals does indeed demonstrate the importance of being a collective. The Association exists to serve its members and protect member rights and working conditions. In order to best represent and serve the members, all administrators, clinicians, coordinators and teachers need to be actively involved. A chain is indeed only as strong as the weakest link!

Each member of the LRTA can demonstrate his/her active involvement in the Association by attending the LRTA AGA Wednesday, April 17th, 4:30 p.m. at the Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre. Council Reps have received nomination papers for the Executive positions. Nomination forms are also available on the LRTA website. The AGA is your chance to vote on any proposed changes to our Constitution, Bylaws and Policies. The LRTA budget for 2013-14 will also be presented, debated and voted on. These are very important reasons for attending the AGA as your voice and vote will determine the outcomes. The Association requests that each member highlight the AGA on his/her calendar and attend this one meeting on April 17th. I shall conclude as I began; the strength of our Association continues to be the active involvement of the membership!

For all members and the Association itself, this is indeed a very busy time. Striving for personal and professional balance in your lives is a necessity.

Remember, take care of yourself and take care of each other!

**Frank Restall**

President, Louis Riel Teachers' Association



**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)**



## **Call for Nominations for the 2013-2014 LRTA Executive**

The Nominations Chair is calling for nominations to the Louis Riel Teachers' Association Executive for 2013-2014. Nominations will be accepted beginning March 1, 2013. Nomination papers must be accompanied by the signatures of two members and forwarded to Barry Wittevrongel at the LRTA Office at École Varennes.

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

The Louis Riel Teachers' Association represents all administrators, clinicians, coordinators, substitutes and teachers of 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 17th where the election takes place. The Executive for 2013-2014 assumes office on August 1, 2013.

### ***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.

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

The Executive and Council 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. Some Executive positions require less of a time commitment than others and may be ideal entry points.

### ***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.





**It is time to commence the building of the LRTA 2013 - 2014 Executive.** All positions are one year terms so every position is vacant. Elections will take place at the AGA on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 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 20, 2013, 12:00 noon. Nomination forms are available through your Council Rep or the LRTA website and once completed, forms are to be sent to Barry Wittevrongel – 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, Barry Wittevrongel, by noon (12:00 p.m.), Wednesday, March 20, 2013. **It is highly recommended that you send in your election statement as early as possible to facilitate translation and printing.** Materials arriving after March 20, 2013 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 3.



***Victor and Marie Wyatt Bursary Application  
for courses taken between January 2012-December 2012  
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. 2011 applicants may apply again in 2013)
  - 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](http://www.lrta.ca) under 'Bursaries'.**

**Deadline for submission: Friday, April 26, 2013.**

**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



**LOUIS RIEL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
SOCIAL!**

**April 18th, 2013**

St. Boniface Country Club

7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

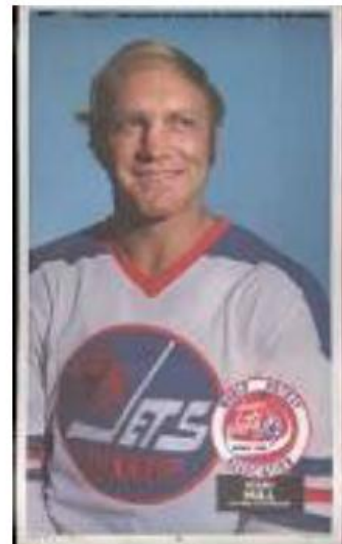
Cash Bar, DJ,

Snacks and Prizes!

**BRING YOUR  
"A" GAME!**



See Your LRTA Rep.  
for Tickets!  
\$5 each



**All Staff Welcome!**

**WEAR YOUR  
SPORTS GEAR AND  
SHOW OFF YOUR  
SKILLS!**