



RIELITY CHECK

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

EDITOR: SEAN FITZMAURICE

JUNE 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT – Frank Restall

Congratulations! Have a Wonderful Summer!

As always, June is a time for reflection. Being President of our Association this past year has once again been an enriching and fulfilling experience for me. This year has been eventful, hectic, demanding and always very, very rewarding. I believe in the importance of the work members do and the importance of supporting members in their work.

Looking back, it is hard to believe that time has passed so quickly. From before the students arrived last September through the end of this month, the Association has been very active. Throughout this last school year, the Association has been very active in establishing a variety of different committees to give voice to the concerns of members over the year.

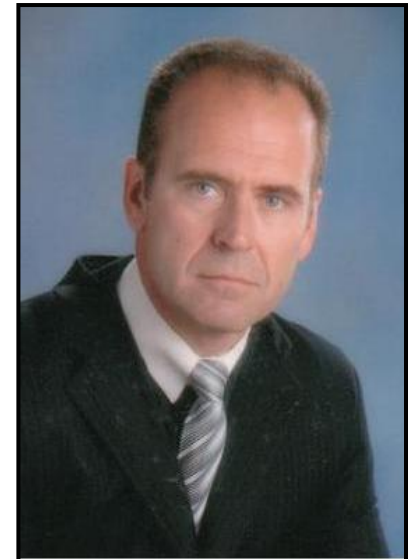
In the area of member wellness and recognition several functions occurred. The “Bring Your ‘A’ Game” social was a great success as were the New Member Celebration in September and the LRTA Retirement Reception in mid June.

In areas of governance, the LRTA's AGA and the MTS AGM were resounding successes for the Association. In addition, the Association strived to advocate for members on an individual basis and to provide support to all members whenever the need arose. While different individuals played important roles at different times over this past year, the successes of the Association can be attributed to the collective efforts of the entire membership. Therefore, some well deserved words of appreciation are in order.

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 Representatives, 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 Representatives 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!

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

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. As well, thank you to the LRTA members who fulfilled roles at the provincial level. 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 you worked with.

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 are always open and 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, honour 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 this year, 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

Please don't hesitate to contact us!



2013 MTS AGM

VICE PRESIDENT: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING – Barry Wittevrongel

LRTA brought forward two resolutions to AGM. The resolution dealing with the provincial election for MTS President was withdrawn. A previous motion regarding the Presidential election from Winnipeg was passed by the AGM. The AGM approved the election of the President at the AGM rather than a province wide election. This motion had the overwhelming support of delegates.

The LRTA resolution regarding the responsibility of locals in collective bargaining passed with substantial support. A staff officer will be present at every local bargaining table and the Society may send representatives to a ratification vote. As well, the Society may send representatives to a vote by a Council or General Assembly to determine pursuing arbitration.

The MTS membership fee for next year will be \$882 (currently \$835). The COSL fee will be \$150 (currently \$140). The Long Term Disability fee will be 1.33% of salary (currently 1.62% of salary).

For more details of AGM 2013 please see the MTS website at:
<http://www.mbteach.org/AGM2013/agm2013main.html>

TEAM LRTA 2013

Carl Antymniuk
Sean Fitzmaurice
Maeve Hawash
Paul Nelson
Alison Ward
Frank Restall

Cheryl Bazin
Jack Fraser
Dallas Henson
Valérie Remillard
Sue Wilton

Lynne Bérard
Bob Gaudes
Tara Law
Jodi Samms
Barry Wittevrongel

Jaclyn Condon
Shannon Gibson
Lindsay McDonald
Catherine Strifling
Rob Wood

CHANGES TO MTS EXTENDED HEALTH

In September, the MTS Extended Health Plan will be changed to a trust with MSBA, the Manitoba School Boards Association, causing all participating Associations to become mandatory and *effectively* reducing premiums by about 40%.

In existing voluntary Associations this will bring about compulsory participation along with lower premiums and more coverage. Note, for voluntary Associations the ability for opting out due to other employer linked spousal coverage will still exist, along with a one-time grandfathering for those wishing to remain, until retirement, as non-participants.

Here's how it will affect premiums

On a given pay cheque, your gross pay will be reduced by an amount equal to the Blue Cross premium. In other words, the school division will remit your Blue Cross premium without you even seeing it. You won't pay tax on the amount remitted to Blue Cross and your net pay will increase. →



...CHANGES TO MTS EXTENDED HEALTH (continued from page 3)

Naturally, people exempt from Blue Cross participation – because their spouse is part of a plan, for instance – will not be affected.

Below is an example that compares how Blue Cross works now, to how it will work in September. For the sake of round numbers, assume a gross pay of \$6000, a maximum tax rate of 40%, a Blue Cross premium of \$100, and no other deductions.

HOW IT WORKS NOW

Gross pay = 6000

Income tax = 40% of 6000
= 2400

Blue Cross = 100

Net pay = 6000
-2400
- 100
3500

HOW IT WILL WORK IN SEPTEMBER 2013

Gross pay = 5900 (\$6000 less the \$100 premium)

Income tax = 40% of 5900
= 2360

(Blue Cross already deducted from gross pay)

Net pay = 5900
-2360
3540

(Effective Blue Cross premium = \$60)

Notice that the *net monthly pay increases* by an amount equal to 40% of the Blue Cross premium. In other words, the Blue Cross premium is *effectively* reduced by 40%.

Because different incomes have different maximum tax rates, you may realize slightly different premium reductions. Based on tax rates for 2012, the table below shows the reductions expected from different taxable incomes.

TAXABLE INCOMES	EFFECTIVE REDUCTION
\$42,707 to \$67,000	34.75%
\$67,000 to \$85,414	39.4 %
Over \$85,414	43.4%

The reduction of gross salary does indeed reduce the salary that is used to calculate pension. (TRAF formula uses average salary for the last 5 years. A lower value then reduces the average) If one were to take the extra \$40.00 dollars on each cheque and then invest it into either a TFSA, or an RRSP the resultant effect will then outweigh the negative impact on the TRAF pension.

For more information please contact Glen Anderson, MTS Staff officer Benefits, at 204 831 3052, toll free at 866 494 5747, or ganderson@mbteach.org



Louis Riel Teachers' Association Retirees

Arbez-Méridgi, Lorraine

Bazay, Gerri

Berriault, Joyce

Bunting, Shauna

Cornick, Glen

Edstrom, Jane

Fries, Brian

Gilewicz, Rolando

Hyska, Brian

Lang, Gertrude

Lesley, Janice

Moir, Lauranne

Penner, Hans

Schellenberg, Marlene

Shpiruk, Rick

Steuart, Robert

Town, Bob

Wiebe, Marilyn

Baydack, Lorraine

Beauchemin, Gilles

Brochet, Edmund

Clayton, Tanis

Coss, Barbara

Fraser, Jack

Friesen, Al

Harkness, David

Jackson, Charlene

Lentz, Catherine

Mitsuk, Pauline

Nowak, Eugene

Rhodes, Cynthia

Scott, Leatrice

Smith, Bonnie

Szarko, Catherine

Warren, Lana

Wittevrongel, Barry





SAVE THE DATE...



The Louis Riel Teachers' Association
30th Annual
TERRY FOX TORCHLIGHT RUN
Friday, September 27th, 2013



LRTA
LOUIS RIEL
TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION

Calendar of Events 2013 – 2014

September

Tuesday, 3rd Opening Day
Wednesday, 11th LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 18th LRTA Council Meeting
Wednesday, 25th LRTA New Member Celebration
Friday, 27th LRTA Terry Fox Torchlight Run

October

Friday, 4th LRTA Executive Retreat
Wednesday, 16th LRTA Council Meeting
Friday, 25th SAGE
TBA Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar

November

Wednesday, 6th LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 20th LRTA Council Meeting

December

Wednesday, 4th LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 18th LRTA Council Meeting
Monday, 23rd through Friday, January 3rd Winter Break

January

Wednesday, 8th LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 15th LRTA Council Meeting

February

Wednesday, 5th LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 12th Pre-Retirement Seminar
Wednesday, 19th LRTA Council Meeting

March

Monday, 3rd through Friday, March 7th Operation Donation
Wednesday, 5th LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 19th LRTA Council Meeting
Monday, 31st through Friday, April 4th Spring Break

April

Tuesday, 8th LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 9th LRTA Council Meeting
Wednesday, 16th LRTA Annual General Assembly - ATC
TBA Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar
Wednesday, 30th LRTA Appreciation Dinner - ATC

May

Wednesday, 7th LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 14th LRTA AGM Binder Meeting
Wednesday, 21st LRTA Council Meeting
Wednesday, 21st through Saturday, 24th MTS AGM

June

Wednesday, 4th LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 11th LRTA Retirement Reception
Wednesday, 18th LRTA Council Meeting

Subject to changes.