

## Bonne et Heureuse Année ~ Happy New Year

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful break and enjoyed special time with family and friends. As well, I trust that you were able to take time for yourself, reflect upon the year that just passed and the one upon which we are now embarking.

First and foremost, for this new year, please resolve to strike the perfect balance between your professional responsibilities and your personal responsibilities. The Association strongly believes that members must fulfill personal responsibilities to themselves and to their families. Your health and well being, as well as your family's health and well being, should always be front and centre when you make decisions and plan for the new year.

**2015** concluded with important achievements for members and for the Society. In December, the provincial government announced that it will give the Manitoba Teachers' Society greater governance over its own business by providing the Society with control of its own constitution. This will occur through amendments to the Manitoba Teachers' Society Act. As well, at the same time, the provincial government announced changes to the regulations to ensure teachers' maternity and parental leaves count for up to a full year's credit toward pay increments. Teachers in Manitoba will no longer lose pay and pension benefits to have children. Effective January 15, 2016, the government has closed the "Mommy/parent gap". Both announcements have a huge impact for individual members and for the Association/Society as a collective.

The new year of 2016 had a positive beginning with an early public schools funding announcement. The Manitoba will provide an additional \$32.5 million in funding for 2016-2017 which is above the rate of economic growth.

"That's welcome news to everyone who cares about students' education", says Norm Gould, president of The Manitoba Teachers' Society. "This announcement recognizes that classrooms are more challenging and diverse than ever," says Gould. "Once again, public schools can count on stable funding at the rate of economic growth that is responsive to the needs of teachers, students, parents, and communities across the province."

At the start of this new year, I would like to take this opportunity to provide a couple of reminders to members. The LRTA is asking all members to register with the MTS "My Profile" site ASAP. If you haven't done so already, please register or, if you have already registered, please check the site to ensure that your information is up to date. From home, visit [www.mbteach.org](http://www.mbteach.org) or click the link <https://memberlink.mbteach.org/Register.aspx>. The Louis Riel Teachers' Association needs all members registered no later than **Louis Riel Day, Monday Feb. 15**.

As well, please remember that The Louis Riel Teachers' Association Annual General Assembly is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. All worksites were asked to not schedule events for this particular day so that all members would be able to attend. The Association requests that each member highlight the AGA on his/her calendar and attend this one meeting. The strength of our Association continues to be the active involvement of the membership!

While some things evolve with time, some things do not. The Louis Riel Teachers' Association exists to bargain collectively for members, 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. However, the major responsibility of the Association is, and always will be, to advocate member concerns and to help our members resolve issues.

The LRTA completed a very busy year of working on behalf of members and we look forward to building upon our member advocacy in 2016. I wish each of you the very best in the year to come.

Take care of yourself and take care of each other!

# Le coin des



La dernière réunion du Conseil des écoles des ÉFM 2015-2016 se déroulera à Winnipeg comme suit :  
**Le samedi 7 mai 2016 de 9 h à 14 h à McMaster House**

**Événement importants à souligner :**

## Ateliers

### **Commission des traités (24 et 25 février 2016)**

Atelier de 2 jours pour faciliter la compréhension du contexte historique des traités et relations du traité et de la pertinence du traité aujourd'hui. Animé par Renée Gillis et Aimée Craft. Frais d'inscription de 50 \$. Pour plus de détails et pour vous inscrire visiter le <https://memberlink.mbteach.org/>

### **Comment développer une culture de justice sociale à l'école? (11 mars 2016)**

Tous nos élèves méritent une école avec une vision de justice sociale et un futur durable! Quoi faire? Pourquoi le faire? Qui approcher? Combien de temps? Etc. Ces questions et même plus seront discutées pour vous donner une approche possible pour votre école. Animé par Estelle Lamoureux. Frais d'inscription de 50\$. Pour plus de détails et pour vous inscrire visiter le <https://memberlink.mbteach.org/>

### **Vous pouvez pouvoir diriger? Leçons pour les nouvelles dirigeantes et nouveaux dirigeants et pour celles et ceux qui désirent le devenir. (18 et 19 avril)**

Introduction aux concepts de base de la direction d'école. Animé par Dan Turner. Certificat: Administrateur, niveau 1 & 2. Pour plus de détails et pour vous inscrire visiter le <https://memberlink.mbteach.org/>

### **Journée ÉFM au Festival du Voyageur**

Venez passer la journée avec les ÉFM le samedi 13 février dans la tente La Prairie. Du plaisir pour tous! Les membres ÉFM recevront 10% de rabais à l'achat de laissez-passer et de marchandise du Festival.

### **48<sup>e</sup> Assemblée générale annuelle des ÉFM 2016**

Vendredi 29 avril 2016 à l'hôtel Canad Inns Destination Centre Polo Park

### **Adhésions à vie et honorifiques aux ÉFM**

La date butoir pour la réception des mises en candidature de récipiendaires d'une adhésion à vie ou honorifique aux ÉFM est le 26 février 2016 à 16 h.

Lorsque vous soumettez le formulaire qui se trouve sur le site des ÉFM, nous vous prions de préciser les informations à l'égard de la personne que vous nommez qui répondent aux critères énoncés dans les Statuts des ÉFM. Veuillez faire parvenir vos mises en candidature aux ÉFM, à l'attention de Françoise Kornelson, par télécopieur au 204-831-0877 ou par courriel à [fkornelson@mbteach.org](mailto:fkornelson@mbteach.org)

Site des ÉFM : <http://www.efm-mts.org/les-efm/>

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# Points of Confusion

Vice President Professional Development—Marcela Cabezas

Familiarizing oneself with the PPDF Guidelines found at [www.lrta.ca](http://www.lrta.ca) and on the Divisional website can help avoid confusion and disappointment when applying for PPDF. Aside from encouraging you to read the PPDF Guidelines, hopefully, this article will help eliminate some of the points of confusion by posing the five most commonly asked questions regarding the use of PPDF funds.

***Question 1: The PPDF system says I am entitled to \$800 of PD money this year? Is this accurate?***

Answer 1: No. By default the system indicates a member is eligible to receive up to \$800 for PD in any given year. Page 6 of the PPDF Guidelines states that, "A teacher may be funded for up to three activities per school year. The maximum funding for yearly activities will be \$800.00 (excluding substitute costs.)" Funding for all PPDF applications is subject to availability of funds. To clarify, there is not \$800 in the PPDF Fund specifically with your name on it. Think of the PPDF Fund like a "joint savings account", rather than a personal savings account. As LRTA members, we all have access to the same funds to better ourselves professionally. How much you choose to access from that fund depends on you and, of course, how much is left in the PPDF "joint savings account."

***Question 2: I heard that I can get \$1700 to go out of town for PD. How does that work?***

Answer 2: No sooner than every three years, a \$1700 lump sum allotment is available to LRTA members for out of town PD, provided that funds are remaining in the "joint savings account." As per page 6 of the PPDF Guidelines, "To qualify a teacher must not have accessed any PPDF (including substitute costs) in the current school year; if approved no other funding will be granted in that school year."

If you are new to teaching or new to the Division, you can access this allotment in your third year of employment with the Division.

***Question 3: Out of town funds for Term 3 have run out. Can I apply to Term 2 for an event that takes place in Term 3? How about using in-town funds for an out of town event?***

Answer 3: No. PPDF Funds are divided into four terms. Funding must be drawn from the term in which the PD event occurs. As well, monies are further divided into funds for Winnipeg PD and for out of town event. As such, one budget line cannot fund the other.

***Question 4: Something has come up and I need to cancel my PPDF application? How do I do that?***

Answer 4: If the event has *not yet* taken place, please contact me at [pdlrta@shaw.ca](mailto:pdlrta@shaw.ca) and I can cancel it for you. Please include the name and date of the event and/or the application number in your message. Contacting me is important as your cancelation could mean that another member is able to have their application funded or attend the very same event in your stead if a maximum number of applicants was reached for your particular PD event.

***Question 5: How do I get reimbursed?***

Answer 5: Reimbursements are processed at the Division Board Office. All PPDF applicants must complete the online "PD Report Form" found in the PPDF system after they have attended their PD event. In town PD event applicants need only submit a copy of their receipts to the Board Office to the attention of the PPDF Secretary. Out of Town PD event applicants should complete the "Out of Town Reimbursement Form" and submit it to the PPDF Secretary along with copies of receipts and supporting documents.

**For any other PPDF related questions, please call me at the LRTA office 204-929-5782 or e-mail me at [pdlrta@shaw.ca](mailto:pdlrta@shaw.ca)**

# Book Review

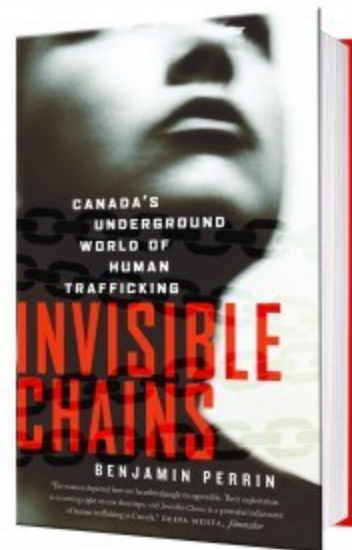
Equity and Social Justice—Cheryl Bazin

## Interested in Social Justice Learning and Discussion? Other LRTA members are meeting!

Contact Cheryl Bazin  
cheryl.bazin@lrsd.net  
For more information, dates and times

### INVISIBLE CHAINS by Benjamin Perrin

The global problem of human trafficking is only beginning to be recognized in Canada, even though it has been hidden in plain sight. In *Invisible Chains*, Benjamin Perrin, an award-winning law professor and policy expert, exposes cases of human trafficking, recording in-depth interviews with people on the front lines—police officers, social workers, and the victims themselves—and bringing to light government records released under access-to-information laws.



Just outside Toronto, a 14-year-old Canadian girl was auctioned on the Internet for men to purchase by the hour.  
A young woman was taken by slave traders from an African war zone to Edmonton to earn greater profits by exploiting her in prostitution.  
A gang called Wolfpack recruited teenagers in Quebec and sold them for sex to high-profile men in the community.

Also included is pertinent information such as “Fourteen ways to spot a domestic sex trafficking victim” and a ten step action plan that you can adopt as your own with ideas such as: Raise Awareness, Take a Stand, buy Fair Trade Products.

Visit Joy Smith’s Foundation website at: <http://www.joysmithfoundation.com/> for further information

## Fuel Up! Information

Public Relations—Cynthia Taylor

PUBLIC  
RELATIONS  
PROJECT



We know the Role of Education is difficult especially for us as educators.

We know that there are a variety of factors which make our ability to communicate harder; one being lack of nutrition.

We know that students are able to engage when they have **fuel** for their brains!

The goal of Fuel Up! Feeding our Schools is to promote teachers and the care they have for their students and their school community.

**This project will allow teachers to apply for up to 500.00 for breakfast/lunch amenities for their school community. Up to 7 schools will be assisted. Is it as easy as 1, 2, 3!**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Step 1: | Complete Application - copy on page 5 of Reliety Check as well as through LRTA website (PDF)                                 |
| Step 2: | Applications due by Friday Feb. 12, 2016 /Submit to cynthia.taylor@lrsd.net (PDF) or via Internal Mail (Glenlawn Collegiate) |
| Step 3: | February—March Recipients notified/ Monies distributed   |



# Fuel Up! APPLICATION

AVAILABLE ON  
WEBSITE  
(PDF)



FUEL UP!



PUBLIC RELATIONS PROJECT SPONSORED BY LTRA AND MTS

## Section 1 Contact Information

School		Date	
Teacher/ Teachers involved in application (LRTA Members)		Email address of main contact person	
Administrative support of initiative			

## Section 2 Application Information

Population of school		Funding required: (Max 500.00 per school)	
Breakfast or Lunch		Where will the program take place? • Location • Create a pantry ETC...	
New or Existing program		If existing – how long? Years and/or Months to be included	
Grade level for support or grades:		Numbers of students who will participate:	

## Section 3 Criteria

	Yes	No	Additional Comments
The Breakfast/ Lunch Program is open to all students.			
The Breakfast / Lunch Program includes a variety of healthy foods (3 of the 4 Food Groups).			
The Breakfast / Lunch Program will promote healthy eating through role modeling and informal nutrition education.			
The Breakfast/Lunch Program will accommodate individual needs of students in regards to food sensitives and allergies.			
The Breakfast/ Lunch Program staff will prepare, store and serve food and beverages using safe food handling practices in accordance with divisional and provincial regulations.			

## Section 4 – Final Details

- As this is a Public Relations project, photos of LTRA member applicants/school are REQUIRED
  - Possibilities: Photos with LRTA staff, Connection to Division as well as Community News, featured in Relixity Check (April or May), LRSD School Homepages
- If application is chosen, please submit all receipts to Cynthia Taylor
  - Via Email at [cynthia.taylor@lrsd.net](mailto:cynthia.taylor@lrsd.net) or Internal Mail – Glenlawn Collegiate



The LRTA is now on Twitter!  
Follow us @preslrta to receive  
important updates regarding  
matters that affect your  
Association and your Society.

## Contact Us

**LRTA office**  
204- 929-5782

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

**Collective Bargaining**  
Bernard Mazerolle  
[cblrta@shaw.ca](mailto:cblrta@shaw.ca)

**Professional Development**  
Marcela Cabezas  
[pdlrta@shaw.ca](mailto:pdlrta@shaw.ca)

All matters will be dealt with  
in confidence.

**Manitoba Teachers'  
Society**  
Can request Staff Officer  
assistance  
204-888-7961

### Reminder:

If you have recently changed your name, please contact the LRTA office at (204)  
929-5782 or [seclrta@shaw.ca](mailto:seclrta@shaw.ca) and have your file updated.

## Calendar of Events



### LRTA Calendar 2016

#### January

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup>

LRTA Executive Meeting  
LRTA Council Meeting  
LRTA Benefits Seminar

#### February

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup>

LRTA Executive Meeting  
Pre-Retirement Seminar – ATC  
LRTA Council Meeting

#### March

Monday, Feb 29<sup>th</sup> through  
Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> through  
Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

Operation Donation  
LRTA Executive Meeting  
LRTA Council Meeting  
Spring Break

#### April

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup>

LRTA Executive Meeting  
LRTA Council Meeting  
Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar  
Annual General Assembly – ATC  
LRTA Appreciation Dinner

#### May

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> through  
Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup>

LRTA Executive Meeting  
LRTA AGM Binder Meeting  
LRTA Council Meeting  
MTS AGM

#### June

Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup>

LRTA Executive Meeting  
LRTA Retirement Reception  
LRTA Council Meeting