

LRTA Annual General Assembly

Wednesday, April 20th

All members must attend this one meeting!

The strength of our Association continues to be the active participation of our membership. From our newest members, whom we welcomed at the LRTA function in September, to our most experienced members, who might be considering retirement, the LRTA relies upon each and every one of our 1100 members for support, direction and active involvement.

The active involvement of members attending the Annual General Assembly (Wednesday, April 20th) demonstrates the recognition by members of the importance of standing as a collective. Being a collective means to stand with and support your colleagues. As a member, your benefits and working conditions are in existence today only because of members willing to stand as a collective and to bargain as a collective in the past. The gains that have been made in the past can be directly attributed to members standing in solidarity.

On a yearly basis, members demonstrate a commitment to the collective by attending the Annual General Assembly (AGA). **The LRTA AGA is on Wednesday, April 20th, 4:30 p.m. at the Louis Riel Arts and Technology Center.** Council Reps have received nomination papers for the Executive position elections. Nomination forms are also available on the LRTA website.

Please consider running for a position.

The AGA is also your chance to vote on any proposed changes to our Constitution, Bylaws and Policies. The LRTA budget for 2016-17 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. However, I would suggest that the most important reason to attend is for you to come together with other members in solidarity and to demonstrate your commitment to the collective and to your Association.

So, whether this is your 1st year or 50th year as a member, the Association requests that you highlight the AGA on your calendar and attend this one meeting on April 20th. Schools were asked at the beginning of the year to avoid conflicts by not scheduling events on the day of AGA.

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 attend the AGA. A chain is indeed only as strong as the weakest link!

The analogy of a "chain" applies to the provincial Society as well. The LRTA is asking all members one last time to support your colleagues in neighbouring rooms, in your school, in your Association and throughout the province by registering with the MTS "My Profile" site. If you haven't done so already, please register from home, by visiting www.mbteach.org or click the link <https://memberlink.mbteach.org/Register.aspx>. The collective needs you to register!

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! Have a wonderful Spring Break!

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 :

IMPORTANT! La réunion de cartable en préparation pour l'AGA des ÉFM aura lieu jeudi 14 avril au bureau de LRTA (121 Hazelwood Crescent) à 4h30. Il est très important que tous les délégués y assistent. Confirmez votre présence auprès de Valérie Rémillard.

valerie.remillard@lrsd.net

48^e Assemblée générale annuelle des ÉFM 2016

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

Ateliers

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/>

Les ÉFM sont à la recherche de personnes intéressées à animer un ou des ateliers à sa 43^e Conférence pédagogique annuelle de 2016. Pour proposer un atelier visiter le lien suivant : <http://www.efm-mts.org/appel-dateliers/>.

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

Fuel Up! Information

Public Relations—Cynthia Taylor

Congratulations to the following schools whose applications for FUEL UP! were granted.

ATC	Dakota
Glenlawn	St. George
Minnetonka	Victor Wyatt
Windsor Park	



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Let Us Eat Cake

Vice President Collective Bargaining—Bernard Mazerolle

“Qu’ils mangent de la brioche (Let them eat Cake)”

Famous words, supposedly spoken by Marie Antoinette on the eve of the French Revolution speaks to the obtuseness of the ruling class of the day.

But if one is to eat cake, one would assume that that one has the time and space in order to sit down quietly, or with friends, and enjoy the treat. For why would we eat cake if not to enjoy it?

Yet, until a duty free lunch was negotiated through arbitration by the Transcona Springfield Teachers’ Association in 1989, no teachers in this province could enjoy the opportunity that so many took for granted: a guaranteed period of time in which teachers could remove themselves from their busy schedule and just rest, relax, recharge and eat a meal. Our legacy Associations soon followed suit: St. Vital Teachers’ Association in 1992 and St. Boniface Teachers’ Association in 1994.

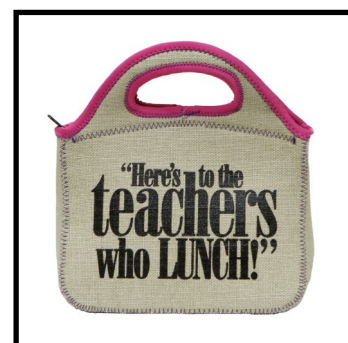
The current LRTA/LRSD collective agreement states:

“Except in cases of emergency or unforeseen similar circumstances, every teacher shall be entitled to an uninterrupted meal period of fifty-five (55) minutes duration between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm daily”.

In practice, what does this mean? Essentially, the spirit of the clause is that teachers are to have a dedicated mealtime period free of scheduled meetings or supervisory duties. Members are not required to participate in meetings, tutor students, or supervise extra-curricular events. What is important to uphold is that members in no way should be coerced to forsake their lunchtime period. Similarly, there should be no retribution or consequences if a member chooses to avail themselves of their duty free lunch.

A truism in collective bargaining is that what was won yesterday will be fought for again tomorrow. Duty free lunch has been in place in our Division for close to a quarter century and the collective memory is fading as to how things used to be. According to the Manitoba Teachers’ Society, seventy percent of all Manitoba Teachers have been hired since 1999. So it becomes imperative upon us to remind ourselves that what we seem to take for granted was in fact negotiated over a long period of time and at great cost. In order to secure duty free lunch for our members, other demands and concerns had to be put aside. Would it not be a waste if we were to see our privilege of a duty free lunch eroded by our own neglect and indifference?

As members, we all bear the responsibility of preserving what has been gained through collective bargaining. The best means at our disposal in maintaining the integrity and continued application of the duty free meal clause is to avail ourselves of that time allotted to us, by being vigilant and vocal when professional duties encroach upon our mealtime and, more importantly, by making time to see to our own well being and that of others. For, in its essence, the duty free mealtime clause is one that addresses the well being of our members. So please, for yourselves and for your fellow members, make a point of using that time with care. You can even have a piece of cake and eat it too.



**Louis Riel
Teachers'
Association**



**Wednesday, April 20th,
4:30 pm**

**Louis Riel Arts &
Technology Centre**

Come out and support your Association! Vote on the 2016-17 budget, proposed changes to the LRTA Policies, Bylaws and Constitution, as well as the 2016-17 LRTA Executive.

Annual General Assembly

**IF YOU ATTEND
BUT ONE
MEETING THIS
YEAR,
MAKE IT THIS
ONE!**

**Free Childcare
Provided!**

Call the LRTA office
(929-5782)

or E-mail

(preslrta@shaw.ca)

to register your
child(ren)!

The Value of Professional Development

Vice President Professional Development—Marcela Cabezas

- “It could inspire change.”
- “It’s an investment in yourself.”
- “It empowers you.”
- “We have a lot to learn.”
- “It inspires our teaching.”
- “To maximize student learning.”
- “It challenges my belief system and continues to feed my desire to make a difference.”
- “To stay current because things are always changing.”
- “It allows us to build capacity to meet the needs of our students.”
- “We must also be life-long learners.”
- “It is our professional responsibility.”

These were some of the many responses given by Professional Development (PD) Chairpersons at who were asked why we, as teachers, should value PD. Some of the quotes may resonate with you more than others. Perhaps you could generate your own list of relevant reasons that fit your personal philosophies about teaching, students, and education.

As we are all aware, PD plays a critical role in our growth as teachers. To such an end, the LRTA, in conjunction with the Division established the Personal Professional Development Fund (PPDF) through collective bargaining. The PPDF exists to assist our members in seeking out professional development opportunities that are teacher-initiated and autonomous in nature. Pending availability of funds, our members can access \$800 per year to attend a maximum of three in-town events. As well, every three years, our members can access up to \$1700 for an out of town PD event, if funds are available. Consult the PPDF Guidelines for the particulars to access these funds.



Here in Manitoba, legislation under the Public Schools Act states that our employer must schedule no more than ten in-service days per school year of which at least five must be used for teacher in-service. This means that teachers are guaranteed at least five days of PD organized by the Division over the course of the school year. In certain Divisions throughout the province, these PD days are organized by a PD Committee which has joint representation from the Association and the Division.

The Public Schools Act as well as the MTS Code of Professional Practice require that teachers be responsible for on-going professional development. Much the same as doctors, lawyers, nurses and other professions require their members to continually learn, so too must we as teachers. In other words, we should endeavour to do PD above and beyond what is being provided to us on in-service days.

PD can take many forms: it can be attending conferences, seminars, or workshops; it can be participating in a teacher-initiated Professional Learning Networks; it can involve collaboration through project work or through critical professional conversations with peers about student engagement, academic success, and/or active citizenship during Midweek Network or at other moments within the school day; it can involve course work; it can involve participation in organizations, such as [Project Overseas](#). The possibilities are endless.

Take a moment to ponder what aspects of teaching you feel most passionately about, what are the questions you need answers for, what issue you want to address in education and then pursue them through professional development. We are here to help and support you in taking your craft to the next level.

LRTA NEWS

PROJECT OVERSEAS - Deb Barry, a LRTA member from Darwin School, has been selected to be a participant in Project Overseas this summer. Deb will be the Team Leader working in Ghana. Congratulations and thank you, Deb!

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER REP. – The Association is very pleased to have Warren McKennitt serving as our Substitute Council Rep this year. Substitute teacher members may contact Warren at john.mckennitt@lrtd.net.

LRTA AGA – Wednesday, April 20, 4:30 pm @ ATC. All members should attend!

PD SURVEY - LRTA members are to complete a MTS PD Survey. **From a home computer**, members are asked to click on the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MTS-LRTA>.

Surveys are anonymous and will gather information to help MTS and the PD Chairs to support current Professional Development planning and advocacy.



@preslrta

Reminder:

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

Calendar of Events

APRIL

Wednesday April 6	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday April 13	LRTA Council Meeting
Thursday April 14	Maternity/Paternity Leave Seminar
Wednesday April 20	Annual General Assembly – ATC
Thursday April 28	LRTA Appreciation Dinner

MAY

Wednesday May 4	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday May 11	LRTA Binder Meeting
Wednesday May 18	LRTA Council Meeting
Wed May 25—Sat May	MTS AGM

JUNE

Wednesday June 1	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday June 8	LRTA Retirement Reception
Wednesday June 15	LRTA Council Meeting

Contact Us

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204- 929-5782

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All matters will be dealt with
in confidence.

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