

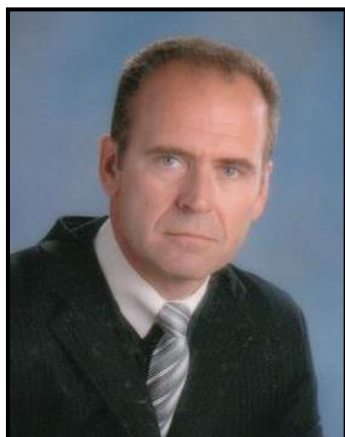


RIELITYCHECK

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

MAY 2014

EDITOR: SHANNON GIBSON



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE President – Frank Restall

The Louis Riel Teachers' Association

Annual General Assembly was held on Wednesday April 16th. Thank you to all members who took time from their busy schedules to attend the assembly and participate in the business of our Association. The important business meeting of the Association was completed in less than an hour thereby providing ample time for fellowship and food. The strength of our Association continues to be the active involvement of our membership! A report of the 2014 AGA appears later in this newsletter. Please mark your calendars...the 2015 LRTA AGA is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th, 2015!

On the heels of our own AGA is the 95th Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Teachers' Society Provincial Council. The meeting will take place Thursday, May 22nd to Saturday, May 24th at the Fairmont Hotel. Twenty one delegates and two alternates from the Louis Riel Teachers' Association will join delegates from other Associations around the province in shaping the future direction of the Society. Resolutions have been tabled for debate, the budget that determines your MTS fees for 2014 - 2015 will be passed and elections to the Provincial Executive will take place.

During the AGM, the LRTA delegation will be actively campaigning to have our Collective Bargaining Vice-president, James Bedford, re-elected to the Provincial Executive in order that he may continue his work on behalf of all MTS members.

The 23 LRTA representatives elected by LRTA members to attend AGM and work on your behalf include: **Carl Antymniuk, Brittany Barber, Cheryl Bazin, Hélène Beauchemin, Amber Britsky, Marcela Cabezas, Marilyn Carter, Jaclyn Condon, Rachelle Desmarais, Sean Fitzmaurice, Bob Gaudes, Becky Litchfield, Tara Law, Bernard Mazerolle, Lindsay McDonald, Melissa Meyers, Valérie Remillard, Frank Restall, Jodi Samms, Catherine Striffling Sue Wilton, Scott Wood, Wendy Zamonsky.**

Have you marked the LRTA Retirement Reception at the Legacy Center on June 11th in your calendars? Come out and say 'good-bye' to colleagues who are retiring from our profession. The LRTA Retirement Reception is always a wonderful social opportunity for members

Continued on p. 2

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

P. 2 President's Message
P. 3-4 Annual General Assembly Highlight
P. 4-5 Those Who Can, Teach
P. 6-8 Equity & social Justice

P. 9 LRTA Retirement Reception
P. 10 LRTA Calendar 2014-2015
P. 11 Announcements & Celebrations

Continued from p. 1

President's message:

to wish the retirees well and to touch base with other colleagues before the start of summer.

Although the LRTA Retirement Reception is the last Association social event of the year, special thanks must be extended to Alison Ward and her entire Social Committee for hosting the Association social on April 24th. The Committee worked diligently to ensure that a great time was had by all. The social was a great success!

Appreciation



The LRTA Appreciation Dinner on April 30th was also a great success. The Appreciation Dinner permits the Association to honour and pay tribute to LRTA members, MTS Staff and others who give of themselves for the betterment of the collective. Thank you to Lorrie Restall and everyone else who contributed to this special evening.

Appreciation is also the subject of another article in this issue. The Association is reprinting Peter Mansbridge's article "Those Who Can, Teach". The article appeared on March 6th of last year and was written during tumultuous days of struggle between the Ontario provincial government and the teacher unions. Mr. Mansbridge's appreciation of what we do is clearly evident and I encourage all members to make this article a "must read".

The 2014-2015 Association calendar is complete and is contained in this issue. The Association is asking that no school activities be scheduled on Council meeting days – or on Wednesday, September 24th, 2014 (New Member Celebration), Wednesday, April 15th, 2015 (AGA), Wednesday, April 29th, 2015 (LRTA Appreciation Dinner) and Wednesday, June 10th, 2015 (LRTA Retirement Reception).



In less than two months, this school year will draw to a close. The year-end places many demands upon members and that time is soon approaching. Strive to maintain balance in your lives, and now, more than ever, take care of yourself and take care of each other!

Frank Restall

President, Louis Riel
Teachers' Association

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHT

James Bedford – Vice-President Collective Bargaining

The Louis Riel Teachers' Association AGA was held on April 16th, 2013.

The 2014-2015 LRTA Executive will be comprised of:

<i>President</i>	<i>Frank Restall</i>	<i>LRTA</i>
<i>VP Collective Bargaining</i>	<i>James Bedford</i>	<i>Dakota Collegiate</i>
<i>VP Professional Development</i>	<i>Marcela Cabezas</i>	<i>Collège Jeanne-Sauvé</i>
<i>Secretary Treasurer</i>	<i>Jodi Samms</i>	<i>Glenlawn Collegiate</i>
<i>ÉFM Chair</i>	<i>Valérie Rémillard</i>	<i>Collège Jeanne-Sauvé</i>
<i>Employee Benefits Chair</i>	<i>Carl Antymniuk</i>	<i>Samuel Burland School</i>
<i>Equity and Social Justice Chair</i>	<i>Cheryl Bazin</i>	<i>Collège Jeanne-Sauvé</i>
<i>Public Relations Chair</i>	<i>Candice Sundell</i>	<i>Samuel Burland School</i>
<i>Social Chair</i>	<i>Marilyn Carter</i>	<i>Frontenac School</i>
<i>Members-at-Large (3)</i>	<i>Tara Law</i>	<i>École Julie-Riel</i>
	<i>Lindsay McDonald</i>	<i>École Varennes</i>
	<i>Scott Wood</i>	<i>Glenlawn Collegiate</i>
<i>LRASA Representative</i>	<i>Alice Young</i>	<i>George McDowell School</i>
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Sue Wilton</i>	<i>Lavallee School</i>

Your LRTA fees for 2014-2015 will be \$100. Fees are deducted from your October and November pay cheques in equal installments.

Policy A-2 Funding for Candidates for Provincial Executive was amended such that all candidates for the MTS Provincial Executive receive equal funding and that funding shall be \$500.

Policy B-6 Candidates' Election Statement and Distribution was amended such that candidates are permitted an opportunity to address the assembly.

Policy B-6 Candidates' Election Statement and Distribution was amended such that election materials be submitted to the Nominations Committee Chair the second Wednesday prior to Spring Break.

Policy B-8 Implementation of Benefit Plans was amended such that the first paragraph referring to reaffirmation of benefit plans at AGA was deleted.

Policy B-18 Association Directory was deleted.

Policy B-19 Association Directories for Substitutes was deleted.

Continued on p. 4

Continued from p. 3

Thank you to Lorrie Restall and Darlene Karalash, AGA recording secretaries, and to Joe Laxdal, Elsie Yip, Jenna Fowler, Pam Deverdenne, Brittany Barber and Wendy Zamonsky, scrutineers for the 2014 AGA. Also, thank you to election moderator, Past President Sue Wilton, and to Vice President Bob Gaudes for ensuring an effective screen presentation.

And finally, and most importantly, thank you to all of the LRTA members who came out to the AGA to take care of LRTA business and to enjoy the fellowship afterwards. Your participation and support in making this one of the smoothest and shortest AGA's in recent memory is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing even more members next year.

Reminder! Next year's LRTA AGA – Wednesday, April 15th, 2015

Those who can, teach

By Peter Mansbridge on March 6, 2013 1:31 PM [43](#)

By Mark Bulgutch and Peter Mansbridge

Anyone familiar with my educational background will know that my relationship with teachers was cool. Not cool as in hip and trendy. But cool as in frigid and icy. The fact that I didn't finish high school is my fault. I had teachers who tried to get through to me. Mr. Bank, Ms. Bruce and Mr. Westinghouse were among those who tried, oh how they tried. But some challenges, like me, were just too much.

I put that on the record to make it clear that although a lot of people trace their success to a teacher who provided a spark, I don't. Still, I cringe when I hear and read all the teacher-bashing that's out there. I live in Ontario where the provincial government and the teacher unions have been locked in serious battle for several months. I'm not taking sides in the dispute. Not at all.

But my goodness, the things some people say about teachers. Based on what I hear on radio talk shows, and comments on the internet, there are way too many people who truly believe that teachers are grossly overpaid and under-worked.

What a strange attitude. Never mind that teachers are grooming the next generation of Canadians, the ones who will grow up to support our pensions in our old age. Maybe we can't think big-picture. The little-picture is pretty simple. Teachers are grooming our children. Yours and mine. Do we really want to trust the most precious parts of our lives to underpaid and overworked drones?

Continued on p. 5

Continued from p. 4

I keep seeing comparisons to what teachers make to the average industrial wage. And guess what? Teachers make more than the average. Of course they do. They've gone to school for at least four years of post-secondary education. The average teacher has been working for 11 years. They should be making reasonably good money. They're raising families too.

Then there's the under-worked part. That argument usually starts with July and August. Teachers get the whole summer off. No doubt about it; that's nice. But they need the break. I know there are lazy teachers. Just as there are lazy bankers, letter carriers, doctors, and yes, lazy journalists. But overwhelmingly, teachers are not lazy. In Ontario, the teachers stopped participating in extracurricular activities as part of their fight with the government. What an uproar that caused. School plays, sports teams, newspapers, chess clubs, fashion shows, and on and on. None of them possible without teachers freely giving their time. Critics are anxious to count the summer against the teachers, but they never count all those extra hours in their favour.

And sure, classes go from about 9am to 330pm, but anyone who thinks a teacher works six and a half hours a day, doesn't know many teachers. Preparing for class takes time. Talking to kids after school takes time. Meeting with parents takes time. Marking takes time. I can't imagine reading through 60 essays on why Hamlet is so sad and writing helpful comments in the margins.

We send teachers children from broken homes, from abusive homes, from negligent homes. We send teachers children from homes where both parents work, or where the only parent works, or where no parent works.

We send teachers children who leave home without breakfast and whose grasp of mathematics is grounded in the reality that welfare money sometimes runs out in 28 days or 29 days, and can't be stretched to cover 30 or 31.

We send teachers children who are new to Canada, children who stare blankly ahead unable to understand a single word that is being spoken.

And we ask that those teachers turn each of those children, each of our children, into productive little citizens. We ask that even though there are 28 or 29 other students in the classroom, even though there are students misbehaving, even though some parents don't support teachers by re-enforcing lessons or by making sure homework is done, or even by insisting that the student listen to or respect the teacher.

So argue the fine points of teacher contracts all you like. I'm not saying teacher unions are always right. I'm just saying running down teachers is wrong.

** In a nod to full disclosure it should be noted that both Mark and I have daughters in the teaching profession. While we are obviously proud of what they do, it's equally important to note our views expressed above were shaped long before our daughters started working. In fact, some of these thoughts can be found in speeches I made years ago. Finally, thanks to the many people who have reacted so positively to this column.*

Safer & Accepting Schools

LGBTQ Mini Glossary



Ask us
about
running
workshops in
your region!

Attention administrators, teachers, and education support workers: If you want to order anti-homophobia, anti-biphobia, anti-transphobia, anti-heterosexism, and intersectionality workshops for your school or school board, contact Egale at saferschools@egale.ca or 1.888.204.7777 (toll-free). Don't know what those words mean? See MyGSA.ca/SiteGlossary



Egale Human Rights Trust is Canada's only national charity promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) human rights through education, research and community engagement.
www.egale.ca, www.MyGSA.ca or call toll free 1.888.204.7777

Continued on p. 7

LGBTQ ^{mini} GLOSSARY: POCKET LIST OF DEFINITIONS

SEX: The biological classification of a person as male and/or female. Sex is usually assigned by a physician at birth and is based on a visual assessment of external anatomy.

GENDER: The social classification of people as masculine and/or feminine. Whereas sex is an externally assigned classification, gender is something that becomes evident in a social context.

LGBTQ: An acronym for "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Two-Spirit, Queer and Questioning" people.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION: A person's capacity for profound emotional and sexual attraction to another person based on their sex and/or gender.

LESBIAN: A female who is attracted emotionally and physically to other females.

GAY: A person who is attracted emotionally and physically to someone of the same sex and/or gender—gay can include both males and females, or refer to males only.

BISEXUAL: A person who is attracted emotionally and physically to both males and females.

PANSEXUAL: A person who is attracted emotionally and physically to individuals of any sex, gender identity, or expression.

GENDER IDENTITY: A person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with the sex assigned at birth. **Gender expression** relates to how a person presents their sense of gender to society. Gender identity and gender expression are often closely linked with the term transgender.

TRANSGENDER: A person who does not identify either fully or in part with their birth-assigned sex—often used as an umbrella term to represent

a diverse range of gender identities and expressions. Transgender people may identify as straight, gay, etc.

TRANSSEXUAL: A person whose sex assigned at birth does not match their gender identity. A transsexual woman needs to live and experience life as a woman and a transsexual man needs to live and experience life as a man. Some transsexual people may physically alter their body (e.g., sex reassignment surgery and/or hormone therapy) and gender expression to correspond with their gender identity.

TWO-SPIRIT: Some Aboriginal people identify themselves as Two-Spirit rather than lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender—historically, Two-Spirit persons were respected leaders in their communities (e.g. healers and visionaries). Two-Spirit persons were often accorded special status in their community based on their unique abilities to understand both male and female perspectives.

QUEER: Historically, a derogatory term for homosexuality. Although still used as a slur by some, the term has been reclaimed by some members of LGBT communities, particularly youth. In its reclaimed form it can be used as a symbol of pride and affirmation of difference and diversity, or as a way of challenging rigid identity categories.

QUESTIONING: A person who is unsure of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

ALLY: An individual who speaks out and takes action in support of LGBTQ people. Allies believe in the dignity and respect of all people, and are willing to stand up in that role. Allies do not identify as members of the group they are advocating for; (e.g. a straight person could be an ally for LGBTQ communities, while a lesbian could be an ally for trans communities).

A social justice lens checklist

by Marianne Neill, CASJ—Peace and Global Education Action Group member

Here is a checklist that you can use to assess whether programs, resources, events, and so forth meet the criteria of the social justice lens. If not, you may want to identify alternatives that do satisfy these criteria. Note that some criteria may not apply to the specific item you are evaluating. A scenario using the social justice lens follows the checklist.

Access

- ☐ values a welcoming and inclusive approach to all people equally
- ☐ values openness to the ideas and opinions of others as equal participants
- ☐ teaches the value of multiple perspectives
- ☐ demonstrates respect for democratic processes and civil society
- ☐ values community and co-operation
- ☐ responsive to all others equally

Agency

- ☐ develops understanding of one's right to create change
- ☐ encourages belief in one's ability to affect one's own reality
- ☐ nurtures action and empowerment of everyone equally
- ☐ develops ability to think critically about social problems
- ☐ develops leadership skills
- ☐ values recognition and respect for the agency of others

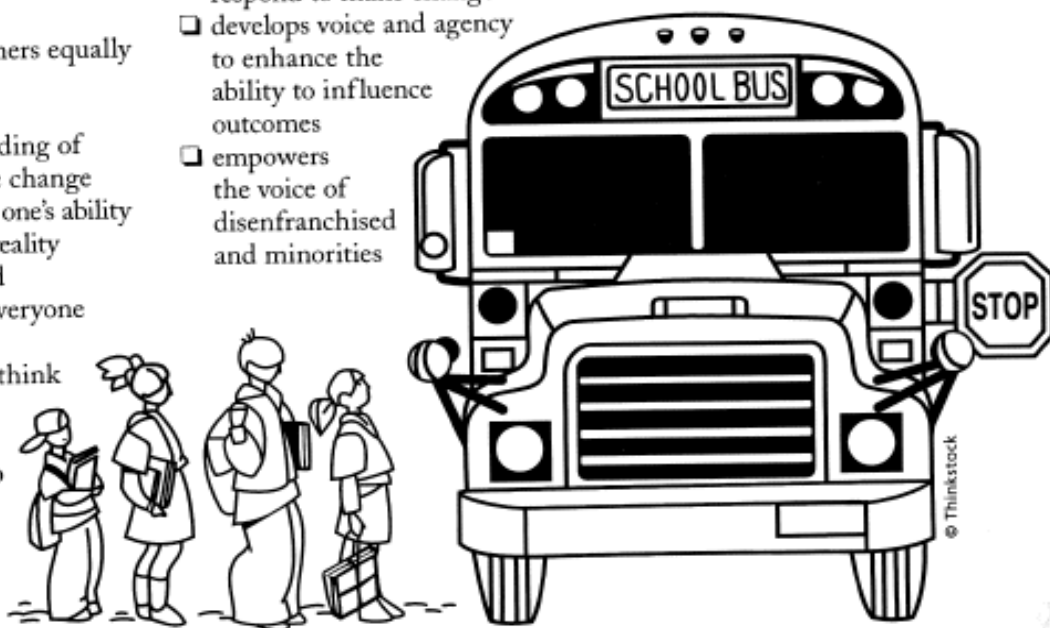
- ☐ actively encourages leadership in working towards positive change that benefits everyone
- ☐ encourages people to find their own voice
- ☐ empowers people
- ☐ values participatory democracy
- ☐ contributes to the development of ability to participate in the world
- ☐ contributes to the development of ability to change the world

Advocacy

- ☐ builds skills needed to effect systemic change using various strategies
- ☐ develops an understanding of one's position and privilege in society
- ☐ develops awareness of social realities
- ☐ develops analytical ability
- ☐ develops awareness of how to respond to make change
- ☐ develops voice and agency to enhance the ability to influence outcomes
- ☐ empowers the voice of disenfranchised and minorities

Solidarity action

- ☐ promotes transformative work for the betterment of others
- ☐ nurtures an understanding that an injury to one is an injury to all
- ☐ values co-operation and coalition-building
- ☐ works across differences to find common ground
- ☐ advocates broad interconnections and common goal-setting and actions
- ☐ shows recognition of the strength in unity
- ☐ shows effectiveness in mediating and resolving conflict to build alliances
- ☐ encourages collaboration with disenfranchised or minorities
- ☐ nurtures ability to take action with empathy



LRTA

Retirement Reception

June 11th—4:30-8:30



Ralph Bartel
Nesta Becker
Kelly Bekeris
Danièle Carrière
Darlene Gerrior
Janet Karan
Donna Loewen
Christine Lussier
Hinda Meltzer
Terry Parsons
Kim Penley
Gaetane Tremblay
Ann Walker



LRTA Calendar 2014 – 2015

September

Tuesday, 2 nd	Opening Day
Wednesday, 10 th	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 17 th	LRTA Council Meeting
Wednesday, 24 th TBC	LRTA New Member Celebration
Friday, 26 th	LRTA Terry Fox Torchlight Run

October

Friday, 3 rd	LRTA Executive Retreat
Wednesday, 15 th	LRTA Council Meeting
Friday, 24 th	SAGE
Wednesday, 29 th TBC	Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar

November

Wednesday, 5 th	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 19 th	LRTA Council Meeting

December

Wednesday, 3 rd	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 17 th	LRTA Council Meeting
Monday, 22 nd through Friday, January 2 nd	Winter Break

January

Wednesday, 7 th	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 21 st	LRTA Council Meeting
Wednesday, 28 th	LRTA Benefits Seminar

February

Wednesday, 4 th	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 11 th TBC	Pre-Retirement Seminar
Wednesday, 18 th	LRTA Council Meeting

March

Monday, 2 nd through Friday, March 6 th	Operation Donation
Wednesday, 4 th	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 18 th	LRTA Council Meeting
Monday, 30 th through Friday, April 3 rd	Spring Break

April

Tuesday, 7 th	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 8 th	LRTA Council Meeting
Wednesday, 15 th	LRTA Annual General Assembly - ATC
Wednesday, 22 nd TBC	Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar
Wednesday, 29 th TBC	LRTA Appreciation Dinner - ATC

May

Wednesday, 6 th	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 13 th	LRTA AGM Binder Meeting
Wednesday, 20 th	LRTA Council Meeting
Wednesday, 20 th through Saturday, 23 rd	MTS AGM

June

Wednesday, 3 rd	LRTA Executive Meeting
Wednesday, 10 th	LRTA Retirement Reception
Wednesday, 17 th	LRTA Council Meeting

Draft March 27, 2014. Subject to change.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS!

Congratulations to Corinna Muzyka (teacher at Frontenac) and Travis Fulton who had their second little boy named Avery.

Breccan Wilson, her husband Rich and big brother Calan welcomed a daughter and little sister Solia Neve Fontaine into the world on Monday, April 6th. Solia weighed 8 lbs. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and measured 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long. Everyone is at home relaxing and getting to know their newest family member.

Do you have any special announcements to share, such as any coworkers who have recently married or had a baby? Please send the good news to Shannon Gibson at Shansyg@me.com

Reminders: If you have recently changed your personal information such as name and or address, please contact the LRTA office at 204-929-5782 and have them update your information.



LRTA

LOUIS RIEL
TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION