



"Use Your Teacher Voice"

President—Frank Restall

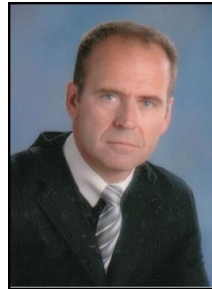
The strength of our Association continues to be the active participation of our membership. From our newest members, whom we welcomed at the LRTA function in September, to our most experienced members, who might be considering retirement, the LRTA relies upon each and every one of our 1200 members for support, direction and active involvement.

Last month I wrote of many different ways that LRTA members should be involved in their Association/Society and how this involvement would amount to a few minutes per week when spread out over the year. This month, I would like to highlight three of those ways members should be involved that occur over the next three months. Each way is very important and time sensitive.

At the end of February, the **MTS Workload Survey** will be distributed by Council Reps. to all LRTA members. This is a very important survey which occurs only once every 4 years. The information generated from the survey is invaluable to MTS and to the LRTA and, as a collective, we need each and every one of us to complete the survey.

The survey information provides MTS with an overview of the workloads/stressors/challenges of members provincially as well as other information your Society is unable to attain in other ways. To truly represent the concerns and needs of the 15000 members of MTS with government and other entities, all MTS members must complete and submit the survey.

For LRTA, the survey provides data which is useful in preparing the Association's Collective Bargaining package. 2018 will see the expiration of the current Collective Agreement and the survey data can be used by the LRTA Bargaining Committee to create proposals to try and address the needs of our members. **Everything in your current collective agreement, (Discretionary Days, Extra-curricular Leave, Meal Period, Sick Leave, the Salary Schedule, Freedom from Violence as well as Maternity and Parental Leave, to name just a few) had to be bargained into the agreement.**



The data from the MTS Workload Survey can be used to try and address member needs and concerns here in LRTA. The survey is confidential and takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes to thoroughly complete. 1200 surveys will be distributed in LRTA and we need to receive all 1200 surveys back. Such a response rate will speak volumes on its own! A chain is only as strong as the weakest link! Please, don't be the weak link in the membership.

The analogy of a "chain" applies to the provincial Society as well. In March, the LRTA is asking all members 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. If challenges arise provincially and the Society needs to contact all members, "My Profile" will be the vehicle for communication. The majority of LRTA members have already registered but we need all 1200 members registered so that your Society can work effectively on your behalf. Once again, complete the "My Profile" in March (or earlier) and please, don't be the weak link!

Finally, for April, the active involvement of members attending the **Annual General Assembly (Wednesday, April 19th)** 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 19th, 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.

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The AGA is also your chance to vote on any proposed changes to our Constitution, Bylaws and Policies. The LRTA budget for 2017-18 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 19th. 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 complete the MTS Workload Survey, register on "My Profile" and attend the AGA.** A chain is indeed only as strong as the weakest link!

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!



**The
Manitoba
Teachers'
Society**

NEWS *release*

For more information:

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Phone: (204) 888-7961, ext. 221, toll-free (800) 262-8803, cell (204) 299-6409

Email: rjob@mbteach.org

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For immediate release

February 1, 2017

Students shortchanged by public school funding announcement

The Manitoba government has announced an additional \$13.1 million in funding for public schools for 2017-18.

"An investment in education is an investment in our province's future. A government's aspiration for our children's education isn't found in a Throne Speech or press release, it's found in its budget, says MTS President Norm Gould, "and this announcement does not meet the needs of our children. All Manitobans know that our children need more support – not less."

"Manitoba's public schools have long been funded at the rate of economic growth. Today's announcement doesn't even meet the rate of inflation, let alone the economic growth of the province."

In a recent poll conducted by MTS, 90% of Manitobans believe the Manitoba government should increase education funding or maintain the current pattern of support Manitoba students deserve and have benefitted from.

"A 1% increase represents the lowest funding in years and sits at less than half the rate of inflation for the province at a time of rising enrolment throughout Manitoba – and at a time when school divisions are developing their budgets and priorities for 2017-18." says Gould.

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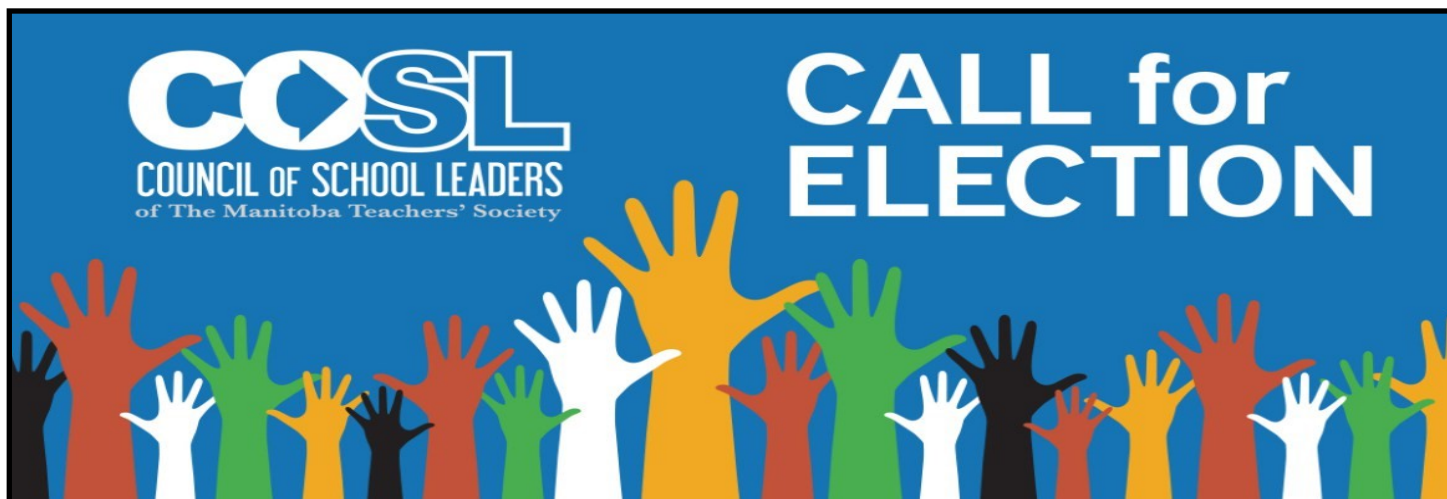
Nominating your students is a SNAP!

They're kids with a cause – compassionate, creative and courageous. You can see them at every grade level, students who love serving in their schools and communities. Honour your students today with a YOUNG HUMANITARIAN AWARD nomination!

Nomination deadline for submissions is April 7, 2017, at 4:00 pm.

Join us at our MTS YHA AWARDS Wednesday, May 24, 2017, 7:45 pm at the Fairmont Winnipeg.

Nomination forms are available at www.mbteach.org



An election will be held for two COSL Leadership Team positions. Both positions are three-year terms commencing immediately after the 2017 COSL AGM. The Leadership Team is the executive and administrative body of the Council of School Leaders. It is responsible for conducting the affairs of COSL between Board meetings.

Nomination and Declaration of Candidacy Forms are available from Christen Winning, Executive Assistant at 204-831-3051/toll free 1-800-262-8803 or email: cwinning@mbteach.org.

Deadline for receipt of nominations is 4:00 p.m., February 28, 2017. Any nomination received after this date will not be considered.

If you have any questions contact Roland Stankevicius, COSL Chief Returning Officer, The Manitoba Teachers' Society at 204-831-3069/toll free 1-800-262-8803 or e-mail: rstankevicius@mbteach.org.

Last day for receipt of nominations is February 28, 2017.

Election information posted to COSL website is March 1, 2017.

Online voting period is March 13 – 20, 2017.

Call for Nominations 2017-2018 LRTA Executive



The Nominations Chair is calling for nominations to the Louis Riel Teachers' Association Executive for 2017-2018. Nominations will be accepted beginning March 1, 2017. Nomination papers must be accompanied by the signatures of two members and forwarded to Alison Ward at the LRTA Office at Dr. D. W. Penner School by 12:00 noon, March 15, 2017.

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 in good standing with MTS, 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 19th where the election takes place. The Executive for 2017-2018 assumes office on August 1, 2017.

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.

**THE WILLINGNESS
TO VOLUNTEER IS A
SELFLESS ACT.**

2017-2018 LRTA Executive



It is time to commence the building of the LRTA 2017 - 2018 Executive. All positions are one year terms so every position is vacant. Elections will take place at the Annual General Assembly on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at the Louis Riel Arts and Technology Centre.

The Table Officer positions are:

**PRESIDENT,
VICE PRESIDENT – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING,
VICE PRESIDENT – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, and
SECRETARY-TREASURER**

The Committee Chair positions are:

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
PUBLIC RELATIONS	SOCIAL
MEMBER AT LARGE (3)	LRASA REPRESENTATIVE

Nominations will be accepted until Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 12:00 noon.

Nomination forms are available through your Council Rep or the LRTA website.

Once completed, forms are to be sent to Alison Ward – LRTA Office, Dr. D. W. Penner School - 929 5780 (fax).

Election Procedures

- 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 opportunity to address the Assembly on April 19
- 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, Alison Ward, by noon (12:00 p.m.), Wednesday, March 15, 2017. **It is highly recommended that you send in your election statement as early as possible to facilitate translation and printing.** Materials arriving after March 15, 2017, 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.**

EDUCATORS!

Safe and Inclusive Space Posters

These posters will be making their way to each school and to each of you.

Please visit the LRTA website for information and resources.

<http://www.lrta.ca/>



**My Story.
My Profession.
My Survey.
#mysurveycounts**



FEBRUARY 2017 MTS WORKLOAD SURVEY

We Need All LRTA Members To Respond!

All LRTA members, regardless of their position in schools, are highly encouraged to fill out the MTS Workload Survey which will be distributed near the end of February. The purpose of the survey is to provide objective data collected from members like yourself to help inform the LRTA's collective bargaining committee about your workload pressures (i.e., time, class or case size, exceptional students, and stressors). This data is used by the LRTA in two ways. It provides information which assists:

- (1) Collective bargaining by providing data which is useful in preparation of your Association's opening negotiations package (note: Your Association will generally start negotiations in 2018); and
- (2) In the event of a bargaining impasse, this information can be used at interest arbitration.

The bottom line is that this information is used to help improve your collective agreement and obtaining as many responses as possible from LRTA members is extremely important to ensure reliable results.

The survey is paper based and should take about 15 minutes of your time to complete. The surveys are completed anonymously as your Association only requires aggregate research data. If you have questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to call the LRTA Office (204 929 5782) for clarification or additional information.

MTS and your LRTA thank you in advance for participation in this very important activity!



Employment Benefits

Benefits Chairperson—Scott Wood

Getting married? Having a child? Planning on retiring soon?
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Yes, we want to celebrate with you, but also we want to make sure your Benefits Plans are in order.

A change in your life circumstance can have major implications for your coverage in the Benefits Plans. In most cases, you have 90 days after a “major life event” to update your coverage. These events include a change in marital status and birth or adoption of a child. If you do not update your coverage in the 90 days you may find you no longer have adequate coverage from the plans!



And while you are checking on your plans—HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR BENEFICIARY RECENTLY? As your life changes, so might the person who should be your beneficiary on any of the plans (especially life insurance). These plans are legal documents, so whomever is listed as beneficiary will be granted your benefits by the courts—if 25 years ago you thought your roommate and you would be together forever, you might find out that your current spouse has a difference of opinion! Call the Payroll Department to check if you do not know who your beneficiary is.

Please visit www.mpsebp.ca for current information about all of our Benefits Plans, including access to the forms required to make most plan changes. BUT DON'T FORGET TO CALL US TOO!

Victor and Mary Wyatt Bursary Application

Vice President Professional Development —Marcela Cabezas

The Victor and Marie Wyatt Bursary Committee will begin accepting applications as of Thursday, February 15, 2017 for bursaries from teachers and administrators to pursue studies related to public school education. This bursary is for courses which were taken from January 2016 to December 2016.

The Victor and Marie Wyatt 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.
- 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 will be considered. This does not include such things as parking, dental or medical insurance, or cost of books and supplies.
- 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.
- Maximum eligible tuition: \$1500.00
- Bursary applications will not be accepted in two consecutive tax years (i.e. 2015 applicants can apply again in 2017).

Victor and Mary Wyatt Bursary Application

Continued

Applications must include:

- Proof of course completion – Academic Transcript
- Proof that the course(s) fee(s) have been paid – T2202A Certificate

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.

The Winnipeg Foundation will review the information received from the Committee and issue a cheque directly to the recipient.

The Victor and Marie Wyatt Bursary Application form can be found at <http://www.lrta.ca/PD.page> to the right of the screen.

Applications must be submitted by **Friday, April 28, 2017.**

Send completed form and all information to:

Louis Riel Teachers' Association
Attn. Vice President of Professional Development
LRTA Office, 121 Hazelwood Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2M 4E4

For further information, contact the Vice President of Professional Development at (204) 929-5782 or pdlrta@shaw.ca.

Follow us @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.

Contact Us

LRTA office
204- 929-5782

President
Frank Restall
preslrta@shaw.ca

Collective Bargaining
Bernard Mazerolle
cblrta@shaw.ca

Professional Development
Marcela Cabezas
pdlrta@shaw.ca

All matters will be dealt with
in confidence.

Manitoba Teachers'
Society
To Request Staff Officer
Assistance 204-888-7961

Calendar of Events

February

Wednesday, 1st
Wednesday, 8th
Wednesday, 15th

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

March

Monday, Feb 27th through
Friday, March 3rd
Wednesday, 1st
Wednesday, 15th
Monday, 27th through
Friday, March 31st

Operation Donation
LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Council Meeting
Spring Break

April

Wednesday, 5th
Wednesday, 12th
Thursday, 13th
Wednesday, 19th
Thursday, 27th

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

May

Wednesday, 3rd
Wednesday, 10th
Wednesday, 17th
Wednesday, 24th through
Saturday, 27th

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

June

Wednesday, 7th
Wednesday, 14th
Wednesday, 21st

LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Retirement Reception
LRTA Council Meeting

Subject to change.