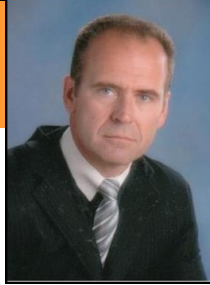




President's Message

Frank Restall



The Louis Riel Teachers' Association Annual General Assembly (AGA) was held on Wednesday, April 17th.

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 attendance of so many members clearly demonstrated the importance of the meeting and the concern of colleagues during these times. The Association Executive has been set for next year and the Association is very appreciative of the efforts of so many in working together to ensure the success of the meeting. Be rest assured, the Association is in good hands with the leaders elected. A report of the 2019 AGA appears later in this newsletter. Mark your calendars...the 2020 LRTA AGA is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020! Please save the date!

A very special occasion that just passed was the LRTA Appreciation Dinner on April 25th. 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 everyone who contributed to this special evening.

Later this month, and on the heels of our own AGA, is the 100th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Manitoba Teachers' Society Provincial Council. The meeting will take place Thursday, May 23rd through Saturday, May 25th at the Fairmont Hotel. Twenty-four delegates and two alternates of the Louis Riel Teachers' Association will join delegates from other Associations from 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 2019 - 2020 will be passed and elections to the Provincial Executive will take place.

During the MTS AGM, the LRTA delegation will be actively campaigning to elect James Bedford as President of the Manitoba Teachers' Society and to re-elect LRTA member Cynthia Taylor as a Member-at-Large on the MTS Provincial Executive. James' and Cynthia's experience, leadership, integrity and respect will serve them well as they continue their work on behalf of all MTS members across the province. "Committed to Building a Stronger Society!"

All MTS members across the province and here in LRTA must be actively involved in making submissions to the Manitoba Government K-12 Education Review Commission K12educationcommission@gov.mb.ca. At the time of writing, the Commission is not planning on visiting classrooms nor speaking with teachers. Therefore, if the Commission

won't go to classrooms, it is every LRTA member's responsibility to personally respond and bring the classroom to the Commission. Explain the impact of such issues as class size and composition, poverty, curriculum and assessment, French-language education, etc. For further detail and information, please refer to the K-12 Ed Review article which appears later in this edition. Please take the time to shape the future of education!

Have you marked the LRTA Retirement Reception at the Legacy Center on Wednesday, June 12th 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 to wish the retirees well and to touch base with other colleagues before the start of summer.

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. Given the busy nature of this time, it is appropriate to remind all members of the Code of Professional Practice. Please remember that any concerns about a member's professional practice must be directed first to that member in private.

As the end of year becomes busier, please remember that if an individual in the school community has a concern about his/her young person in a LRTA member's class or a concern about a LRTA member, that community individual should be referred to contact the member directly as a first step. Only after contact with the teacher is made and only if the concern is not satisfactorily resolved, the individual may then speak with the Principal or Vice-principal of the school as the next step. This next step is supposed to occur only after the individual informs the teacher that s/he intends to do so.

The 2019-2020 Association calendar is complete (subject to change) and is contained in this issue. The Association is asking that no school activities be scheduled on Council Meeting days – or on Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019 (New Member Celebration), Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020 (AGA), Thursday, May 7th, 2020 (LRTA Appreciation Dinner) and Wednesday, June 10th, 2020 (LRTA Retirement Reception).

Strive to maintain balance in your lives, and now, more than ever, take care of yourself and take care of each other!



Le coin des

Le coin des ÉFM par Fiona Cook



Chandails du 50e des ÉFM

Les chandails du 50e des ÉFM sont encore disponibles à être commandés en ligne. Suivez le lien : <https://www.unionproud.com/shop-2/mts-50th-french-design/>

Programme de mentorat

Le programme de mentorat vous offre l'occasion de vous jumeler à un ou à des retraités.es afin de vivre des expériences culturelles et communautaires enrichissantes et en français! Pour vous inscrire ou pour plus de renseignements, contactez Roland Dion au 204.257.3629 ou à rdion@mymts.net

Réseaux d'apprentissage régionaux (RAR)

Un RAR est un groupe d'enseignants qui veut développer et entretenir un réseau de relations professionnelles entre eux. Ils peuvent avoir accès aux fonds pour subvenir à leurs besoins pédagogiques et leur perfectionnement professionnel. Pour plus d'informations : <https://efm-mts.org/reseaux-dapprentissage-regionaux/>

46^e Conférence pédagogique annuelle des ÉFM

La conférence aura lieu le vendredi 25 octobre 2019 au Collège Louis-Riel.

Appel d'atelier

Les ÉFM sont à la recherche de personnes intéressées à animer un ou des ateliers à leur 46^e Conférence pédagogique annuelle qui aura lieu le vendredi 25 octobre 2019 au Collège Louis-Riel. Si ceci vous intéresse, vous n'avez qu'à remplir une « Grille de renseignements » qui se trouve sur le site des ÉFM. <https://efm-mts.org/conference-pedagogique-annuelle-des-efm-2019/> Choisissez de sauvegarder le document et le remplir. Lorsque vous aurez rempli le formulaire, suivre les directives pour le transmettre.

Suivez les ÉFM sur Facebook, Twitter et Instagram



[ÉFMdepartout](#)



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Manitoba's Commission on K to 12 Education

VP Collective Bargaining—Scott Wood



The Provincial Government has established a Commission to review Manitoba's Education system. Public meetings have been scheduled throughout the province, surveys are available, and the Commission is accepting written submissions.

The Manitoba Teachers' Society has submitted a formal brief to the Commission on behalf of all teachers in Manitoba. This brief, available on the MTS Website (www.mbteach.org), outlines eight areas of concern for Manitoba teachers and provides recommendations to the Commission that will lead to improvements in these areas.


The eight areas identified by MTS are:

- Poverty
- Class Size and Composition
- Curriculum and Assessment
- Improved Access to Clinicians and Student Support Services
- Development of Teaching and Leadership Standards
- Professional Learning and Development for Teachers
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Actions #62 and #63
- French-Language Education.

MTS has provided researched, evidence-based recommendations for the Commission to consider. All members are encouraged to take a good look at these recommendations and how they reflect current practices in your classrooms.

With all this in mind, members should be considering how they want to personally respond to the Commission. The survey is open and available to members through the Commission website <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/consultation.html>. At this time, no deadline has been given for the survey. Written submissions can be provided through the same website, with the deadline being May 30th. When completing the survey or a written submission, the areas addressed by the MTS brief may provide guidance and a starting point for your comments.


The key to any response to the Commission is to keep in mind that you, by virtue of your training and experience, are an expert in the field of Education as a Manitoba Public School teacher. Remember to speak passionately and proudly, and of course professionally. The Commission has asked to hear our voices. Let's make sure our voices are heard.



Help Shape Our Education System!

Manitoba's Independent Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education invites you to participate in the review of our education system.

manitoba.ca/educationreview
K12educationcommission@gov.mb.ca
PHONE: 204-945-4135
TOLL FREE: 1-877-491-2657



MTS Issues

VP Collective Bargaining—Scott Wood



CURRENT ISSUES IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

With the potential of a Provincial Election looming, the Manitoba Teachers' Society has compiled a summary of current issues facing Public Education in Manitoba. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these issues, and feel free to use these topics when potential election candidates come to your door to ask for your support.

THE PUBLIC SERVICES SUSTAINABILITY ACT (BILL 28):

Bill 28 was passed by the Manitoba Legislature in June 2017, but has not been proclaimed. If proclaimed, it will impose wage freezes on all public sector employees, including teachers, for two years, followed by maximum increases in salary of 0.75% and 1.0% in the next two years.

MTS joined a coalition of public sector unions to challenge this Bill. The main argument is that it shows a disregard for the collective bargaining rights of workers. In essence, the government is dictating what we are allowed to ask for at the bargaining table. This has resulting in increased challenges in reaching renewed collective agreements in Manitoba.

MANITOBA COMMISSION ON KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12 EDUCATION:

In January 2019, the Minister of Education announced the formation of the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education. The mandate was to provide a comprehensive review of all things to do with public education. Recently, the Commission has released a survey and opened public consultations on Education (more information here: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/consultation.html>). This Commission could potentially change the face of public schools as we know them.

PROVINCIAL BARGAINING:

The current Provincial Government is planning on introducing legislation that will change how teachers in Manitoba bargain their Collective Agreements. Currently, each Association bargains locally with the School Board. The proposed legislation would mean all Collective Agreements are bargained, most likely directly with the Government, at a single Provincial table.

MTS supports Provincial Bargaining provided that certain conditions are met, including the protection of our rights under the Labour Relations Act and that bargaining must be free, fair, and open scope.

AMALGAMATIONS:

School Division amalgamations has been a topic of concern for many communities. The current Minister of Education has said that amalgamations must form part of the review of Education. Questions continue to be asked about the benefits and improvements available through amalgamation, whether there will be loss of service or decreased resources, and what savings can actually be found in this process.

MTS Issues (Continued)

SCHOOL BOARDS:

School Boards are currently elected locally and have a mandate to deal with local educational issues. Nova Scotia, acting on a recommendation from their report into Education written by Dr. Avis Glaze, has replaced elected school boards with a single advisory council. Dr. Glaze has been appointed to help lead Manitoba's Educational Review, and her work in Nova Scotia will be examined as part of the Commission's mandate to review School Board governance. MTS supports locally elected School Boards that have the ability to raise revenue for programs and services. See the Manitoba School Boards Association for more details on their views: <https://www.mbschoolboards.ca/>.

PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS:

Principals and Vice-principals are important members of our Association and MTS. They are the lead teachers in their buildings; the *principal teacher*. In other provinces, most notably Nova Scotia, principals and vice-principals have been taken out of their unions and exist outside of the Collective Agreements. What role will principals and vice-principals play in education, and what are the impacts of such a move for students, teachers, principals, and public education?

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS:

Some provinces have mandated a College of Teachers as a regulatory body overseeing investigations, discipline, certification, and professional standards for teachers. Members pay annual registration fees above and beyond their Association fees. MTS does not support the creation of a College of Teachers as this would create a parallel system of management, add additional fees to members, impose mandated professional learning on members, and create a new system of discipline for misconduct.

EDUCATION FINANCE:

Manitoba's public school population has grown approximately 1% in the past year. The increase to funding for public schools was 0.5%. Funding is not being provided at the rate of inflation or the rate of growth in school divisions. How can the funding model be improved to provide necessary support for public education in all parts of Manitoba?

More information can be found through the MTS website by using the following links:

<http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2019/03/18/k-12-education-review/>

<http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2019/01/28/2019-20-funding-announcement/>

<http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2018/02/22/updates-on-critical-issues/>

LRTA RETIREMENT RECEPTION

SAVE THE DATE!

THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH, 2019
4:30-8:30PM

LRSD LEGACY CENTRE

LIST OF RETIREES IS
FORTHCOMING

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH
YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Annual General Assembly Highlights

The Louis Riel Teachers' Association AGA was held April 17th, 2019. The 2019-2020 LRTA Executive will be comprised of:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Marcela Cabezas | Collège Jeanne-Sauvé |
| VP Collective Bargaining | Scott Wood | Glenlawn Collegiate |
| VP Professional Development | Jay McGurran | Marion School |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Kate Hallett | Lavallee School |
| Employee Benefits | Jaclyn Porteous | Hastings School |
| Equity and Social Justice | Jaclyn Richard | École Henri-Bergeron |
| Public Relations | Cynthia Taylor | Glenlawn Collegiate |
| ÉFM | Josée Trudeau | Collège Beliveau |
| Social | Kris Robinson | Victor Mager |
| Members-at-Large: | Mike Moyes | Glenlawn Collegiate |
| | Sean Oliver | Glenlawn Collegiate |
| | Charmaine Rudnicki | Shamrock School |
| LRASA | Jeff Anderson | École Guyot |
| Resolutions/ Nominations | Alice Young | Marion School |

Your LRTA fees for 2019-2020 will be \$160. Fees are deducted from your October and November pay cheques.

Thank you to Gisèle Fontaine Lehmann and Lisa Croft, AGA recording secretaries, and to scrutineers Elsie Yip, Annette Topping, Nissa Chmilowski, Camille Porter, Kelly McDonald and Joanne Dumas. Also, thank you to Scott Wood for ensuring an effective screen presentation.

And finally, most importantly, thank you to all the LRTA members who came out to the AGA to take care of LRTA business! As an Association is only as strong as its membership, your participation and support is greatly needed and appreciated!

Reminder! Next year's LRTA AGA – Wednesday, April 22, 2019



WRITE TO THE REVIEW

POWERFUL WRITING TIPS

Who am I writing to? Take time to *generously* consider the perspective of the commission before you begin your own writing.

- Ask yourself: why does the commission believe their work is important? What do they hope will come out of a review to Manitoba's educational system?
- For any government, education is a significant investment and is viewed as such. If thinking from this perspective, what "returns" might the government hope for from this investment? In what ways does cost-efficiency become a factor in their thinking?
- Why might it be important for the government to have Manitoba become the "most improved" province? What kinds of measures of improvement in education should the government consider?

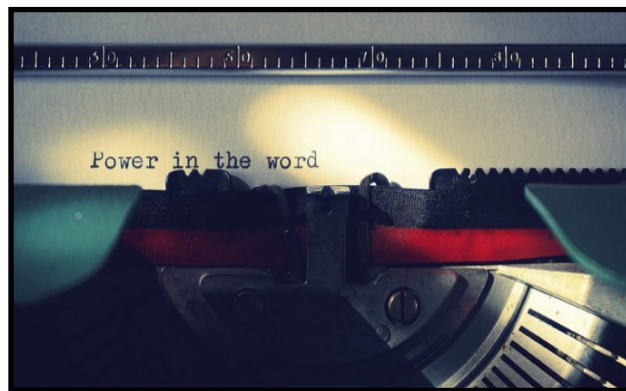
Readers from the commission are more likely to consider the arguments of writers who acknowledge and show understanding of the commission's purpose and perspectives.

Sentence starters

Thank you for inviting Manitobans to participate in the K-12 commission

I believe education will be improved in Manitoba by . . .

The province will gain the highest returns on



Am I mapping my persuasive argument onto the commission's priorities and language? *Connect your argument to the commission's six areas of focus and consider using similar language to what they have used in their public discussion papers or surveys.*

Sentence starters

Thank you for inviting Manitobans to participate in the K-12 commission

I believe education will be improved in Manitoba by . . .

The province will gain the highest returns on

- The commission will likely receive thousands of written submissions. From a practical point of view, that is a lot of data to sort through! Your job as a writer is to make it as easy as possible for the commission to see how your argument fits into their focus areas.
- The commission will likely look for key words or phrases as they read through the responses. Indicate how certain concepts could be understood or put into action.

Take your own ideas and connect the dots to the

WRITE TO THE REVIEW (CONTINUED)

AM I PUTTING STUDENTS AT THE HEART OF MY SUGGESTIONS?

Focus on how to support the learning, achievement, and well-being of students in the K-12 system.

- Avoid taking a stance that could be perceived as “protectionism”. Anything that is worth saving or anything that is worth changing must be justified in terms of how it will improve students’ experiences and increase their success both in school and beyond.
- Give the commission other ways to imagine how students can demonstrate success, achievement, and improvement, beyond standardized scores that rank Manitoban students to students in other provinces or other parts of the world.
- Be clear, but don’t water down an idea. Back up big ideas with evidence and/or research if possible.

Big ideas are welcome, but make sure to connect your big ideas to achievable actions and measurable outcomes.

Sentence starters

The students in my class thrive when . . . Some of the students in my class need . . .

Students who have experienced _____ are most likely to _____ because . . .

Through pedagogical documentation/class profiles/project based learning/ _____ . . .

AM I BEING CONCISE AND ACTION-ORIENTED? *Keep your response to 1-2 pages of clear, focused, purpose-driven writing.*

- Less is often more. Clearly articulating one or two points is more effective than trying to fit everything you want to say about education into a single response.

- Write like a reader. Specifically, write like a reader who might have to read thousands of these responses. Make it easy for the reader to find your main points and follow your argument.

- Bullet points can be effective.
- Edit. Let go of unnecessary words. Read your work aloud.
- Suggest concrete actions and achievable solutions. Look for what we can *do* to improve education.

Animate your suggestions with achievable and aspirational actions. Think: What could we do right now? What could we do in the near future? Why would those actions make a difference? How would we know they made a difference?

Sentence starters

To put this suggestion into action, we need to . . .

Consider the following points . . .

Taking this action would likely result in _____.

We could measure this by _____ ...

WEBSITES WITH PERSUASIVE WRITING IDEAS:

http://digitallyspeaking.pbworks.com/f/Handout_PersuasiveLetterOrganizingTemplate.pdf

https://www.wikihow.com/Write-Persuasive-Letters#Sample_Letters_sub

<https://penlighten.com/persuasive-letter-format>

https://www.cengage.com/bcomm/book_content/0324375530_lehman/model_documents/persuasive_request.pdf

http://www.readingrockets.org/content/pdfs/suasiveletter_camping.pdf

Draft Calendar 2019-2020



DRAFT LRTA Calendar 2019-2020

September

Tuesday, 3rd Opening Day
 Wednesday, 11th LRTA Executive Meeting
 Wednesday, 18th LRTA Council Meeting

October

Wednesday, 2nd LRTA New Member Celebration
 Friday, 4th LRTA Executive Retreat
 Wednesday, 16th LRTA Council Meeting
 Thursday, 17th Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar
 Friday, 25th MTS PD Day

November

Wednesday, 6th LRTA Executive Meeting
 TBD Pension Sustainability Seminar
 Wednesday, 20th LRTA Council Meeting

December

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

January

Wednesday, 8th LRTA Executive Meeting
 Wednesday, 22nd LRTA Council Meeting
 Wednesday, 29th LRTA Volunteer Night

February

Wednesday, 5th LRTA Executive Meeting
 TBD Pre-Retirement Seminar – ATC
 Wednesday, 19th LRTA Council Meeting

March

Wednesday, 4th LRTA Executive Meeting
 Wednesday, 18th LRTA Council Meeting
 Monday, 30th through Friday, April 3rd Spring Break

April

Wednesday, 8th LRTA Executive Meeting
 Wednesday, 15th LRTA Council Meeting
 Thursday, 16th Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar
 Wednesday, 22nd LRTA Annual General Assembly – ATC

May

Wednesday, 6th LRTA Executive Meeting
 Thursday, 7th LRTA Appreciation Dinner
 Wednesday, 13th LRTA Council Meeting
 Wednesday, 13th AGM Binder (Following Council)
 Wednesday, 20th through Saturday, 23rd MTS Provincial Council

June

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

Subject to change. Draft April 4, 2019.

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 - Spring 2019

MAY

Wednesday May 1 LRTA Executive Meeting
 Wednesday May 13 LRTA Binder Meeting
 Wednesday May 15 LRTA Council Meeting

Wed May 22—Sat May 25 Provincial Council 2019

Saturday May 25 1919 General Strike Parade

JUNE

Wednesday June 5 LRTA Executive Meeting
 Wednesday June 12 LRTA Retirement Reception
 Wednesday June 19 LRTA Council Meeting



@preslrta

Contact Us

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204-929-5782

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 Frank Restall
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Professional Development
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All matters will be dealt with in confidence.

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