

**President—Frank Restall**

## **Congratulations! Have a Wonderful Summer!**

As always, June is a time for reflection. Being President of our Association these last nine years has been an enriching and fulfilling experience for me. This year, like so many previous, has been eventful, demanding and always very rewarding. I have always believed in the importance of the work members do and the importance of supporting members in their work!

Looking back, it is hard to believe that time has once again passed so quickly. From before the students arrived last September through the end of this month, the Association has been very active. This is evident by the Association's establishment of a variety of different committees and the numerous meetings that occurred to give voice to the concerns of members over the year.

In areas of governance, the LRTA's AGA and the MTS's AGM were resounding successes for the Association. The LRTA Annual General Assembly was very well attended and this was truly appreciated. The LRTA delegation at the MTS AGM this year was an active, involved and cohesive unit that truly represented the well-being of members locally and around the province. LRTA is identified as a leader in the provincial arena as we strive to best represent our members and to ensure the collaborative strength of the Society.

I also know the entire LRTA membership joins me in congratulating James Bedford, who was elected as the President of the Manitoba Teachers' Society for a two-year term, and Cynthia Taylor, who was re-elected to the Manitoba Teachers' Society's Provincial Executive for another two-year term. The Society is very fortunate to have these two experienced, dedicated and industrious LRTA

members working on behalf of the 16,000 members of the province.

In addition to governance, the Association strived to advocate for members on an individual basis and to provide support to all members whenever the need arose. While different individuals played important roles at different times over this past year, the successes of the Association can be attributed to the collective efforts of the entire membership. Therefore, some well deserved words of appreciation are in order:

I would first like to thank all the members of the LRTA for the excellent work you have done for your students and your colleagues this past year. The work you do is so important! We prepare the future today and it is an incredible undertaking. Please take time to look over the positive events of the past year and celebrate them.

LRTA Council Representatives, who represent the members of the LRTA, have done a great job this year. So much of the Association's work requires Council's participation as it allows the LRTA to advocate for members and to keep our colleagues throughout Louis Riel informed. Council Representatives are vital links to our members and participation at our Council meetings is always strong. Simply put, the LRTA has the best Council in the province!

LRTA Executive members are colleagues who put their names forward to be elected at our Annual General Assembly. They assume duties to ensure that the on-going needs of the Association are met. The efforts of the Executive are appreciated by all and I am confident that our new members to Executive will only build upon our sterling record of advocacy!

Fellow retirees, congratulations and best wishes for happiness and health as you close one chapter of your life and venture on your next journey. Your contributions have greatly impacted the lives of the students you worked with.

New members, it has been many months since the LRTA New Member Celebration and I am certain your year has flown by. Thank you for your energy, your ideas and your commitment. Now take some time in the summer to catch your breath!

Thanks also to the Trustees and the Superintendent's Department for their collaboration on issues that were significant to members. The channels of communication are always open and accessible, and the Association values the positive relationship we have built over the years.

As I retire, to each and every member of the LRTA, thank you for your steadfast support, your encouragement and your dedication. It has been my honour and privilege to serve as your President and I am very proud to have had the opportunity to work on your behalf and to work for you. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

**IN THE LAST FEW DAYS OF THIS YEAR (AND FOR THE FUTURE!), REMEMBER; TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER!**

*Frank Restall*



PROFESSIONAL  
LEARNING  
SERVICES  
**2019/2020**

**SAVE THE DATES!**

A catalogue of MTS Professional Learning Services for 2019/2020 is available.

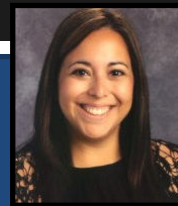
[http://www.mbteach.org/pdfs/pd/PLS\\_Catalogue\\_2019.pdf](http://www.mbteach.org/pdfs/pd/PLS_Catalogue_2019.pdf).

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# MTS AGM HIGHLIGHTS 2019

VP Professional Development—Marcela Cabezas



## ELECTION RESULTS

LRTA is proud to announce that James Bedford was elected President of the Manitoba Teachers' Society for a two-year term. This is the first time in the history of the Society that a MTS president hails from Louis Riel.

LRTA member Cynthia Taylor was re-elected to the MTS Provincial Executive for another two-year term. Both James and Cynthia were unanimously endorsed by the LRTA Council of Representatives.

Nathan Martindale, from Winnipeg Teachers' Association, was elected to the office of MTS Vice President for a two-year term.



## AGM RESOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS

- A Provincial Bargaining Model was adopted by the delegates to enable the Society to engage in negotiations with the Province should legislation to that effect ever be enacted.
- A resolution was passed granting members whistleblower protection for those who report wrongdoing, defined as "conduct which is unlawful, dangerous, involves gross mismanagement of funds or assets or is contrary to the constitution, bylaws or policies of the Society or its related entities... Members reporting reasonably held concerns in good faith shall not be subject to repercussions or reprisal by the Society or its related entities."
- The continued implementation of the recommendations of the Women in Education Leadership Commission (WELCOM) was affirmed through various resolutions put forth at this AGM. A Leadership Learning Series will be offered by MTS for the 2019-2020 year. Grants for the Implementation of WEL Recommendations will be available for 2019-2020.
- A resolution was passed affirming the position of the Society that clinicians are important members of the Society and that any attempt to separate them from the Society shall be met with opposition.

## TEACHERS JOIN IN SOLIDARITY PARADE

Delegates to the MTS Annual General Meeting joined with hundreds of others to participate in a parade to commemorate the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.

As the Society celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, much of the AGM was in celebration of the formation of the union and its many accomplishments for teachers, students and public education over the past century.





# K –12 Commission Submission from LRTA



May 16, 2019

Dear Commissioners,

The Louis Riel Teachers' Association represents approximately 1200 public educators in the Louis Riel School Division, the third largest school division in the Province of Manitoba.

Our members identify a number of areas that affect their working lives with the students in our community. Each of these areas of concern, as outlined below, present opportunities for the Commission to make a real difference in the Education system of Manitoba. These items are not presented in a priority order as we firmly believe in the importance of all items on this list.

## **Class Size and Composition:**

Our teachers face ever increasing challenges in their classrooms. The removal of the Smaller Classes Initiative has meant that teachers in early years classrooms have larger numbers of students to work with each day. In particular, teachers report that student engagement has suffered due to their decreased time working with individual students.

In addition to increasing numbers, our classrooms are also more diverse than at any time in the past. Many of our schools see increasing numbers of students who do not have English or French as a first language. Students with individual learning needs require additional supports to be successful in the class. Therefore, it is essential that class sizes be capped and that the necessary supports for students with individual learning needs be provided.

## **Student Support Services:**

Early identification and assessment of learning disabilities in students has life-long benefits. Reading and writing are essential skills for every path in life, and our students deserve the best start possible. Students who do have learning challenges require early intervention and on-going support throughout their school careers, as well as support in transitioning out of school. Enhancing supports available through specialized clinician services will improve educational outcomes for our students in the long term.

We also see increases in the number of students presenting with mental health needs at all ages in our schools. Promoting mental wellness and providing intervention for students who are struggling are key parts of our Student Support Services in schools. These services should be increased to deal with the increasing needs.

Workloads are high. There are not enough clinicians to ensure all students receive timely support within schools. Student achievement can be improved if adequate supports are available in all schools at all times.

## **Assessment:**

Classroom teachers are the best judge of individual student performance in their classrooms. Our teachers often speak of the time it takes to assess and report on student progress in their classrooms. Provincially mandated assessments and reporting have an impact on all other assessments performed by a classroom teacher. The time it takes to perform provincially mandated assessments consumes classroom time which is at a premium. Our teachers want assessment to be focused on where it works the best—in their classrooms, every day.

# K-12 Commission Submission from LRTA



## Professional Development:

The teachers and clinicians in the Louis Riel School Division are constantly working to improve their personal knowledge and methodologies through professional development. LRTA members have access to a personal professional development fund that allows for autonomous learning with financial support. This type of learning is essential to developing strong teachers, which in turn enhances student achievement. We strongly support a continuation of access to funding for autonomous, member-driven, professional development.

## Poverty:

Poverty is a major limiting factor in educational achievement. It is difficult for students to focus on doing their best in school when they are wondering when they might get to eat their next meal. Although the Louis Riel School Division includes some prosperous areas, this does not mean that our students are immune to the effects of poverty. While there are some programs to support students living in poverty (breakfast programs; transit tokens; subsidies for sports and activity fees), too often these programs are reliant on temporary funding such as grants or they come from general school funds, resulting in shortages in other areas. Having to choose between feeding students or purchasing classroom materials is a decision that is regularly made.

There is substantial research available to support the fact that poverty has a pervasive impact on the education of all students. The effects of poverty, and the resulting inequalities in school communities, are far-reaching. Schools can support students living in poverty, but the reality is that we cannot eradicate poverty in our communities without clear and substantial government intervention.

As the Commission continues its review of the Manitoba Education system, we encourage the Commissioners to closely examine these areas. We expect that these themes will be repeated throughout the surveys and submissions completed by Manitoba teachers as these ideas are not unique to the Louis Riel School Division; they are universal ideas to support educational outcomes for all Manitoba students.

Thank you for your time in considering this submission. We look forward to the recommendations of the Commission and their focus on student learning and well-being.

On behalf of LRTA Members,

Frank Restall

Marcela Cabezas

Scott Wood

President

Vice President

Vice President

# PRIDE EVENTS 2019



**GET LOUD AND PROUD!  
JOIN MTS AT ONE OF THESE  
SPIRITED PRIDE EVENTS.**

**Winnipeg Pride Parade & Festival**  
Sunday, June 2, 2019  
Rally 10 am/ Parade at 11 am

**Brandon Pride**  
Saturday, June 15, 2019  
Rally 11:00 a.m. / March 11:30 a.m.

**Portage Pride Parade**  
Saturday, May 11, 2019  
Rally 10 am/ March at 11 am

**Steinbach Pride Parade**  
Saturday, July 6, 2019  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Starting place will be at the K.R. Barkman Park and the walk will end at Steinbach City Hall. The parade time has not yet been officially set, but in past years it has been 11 am. Watch our social for details.

**Morden Pride Parade**  
Saturday, June 22 2019  
2:00— 4:00 p.m.

**Flin Flon Pride**  
August 17, 2019  
Pending confirmation, the march will start at Green St. to Main St. starting at 11:00 a.m.

**Thompson Pride**  
September 21, 2019  
Time TBA



## LRTA Retirement– Class of 2019

# CONGRATULATIONS 2019 LRTA RETIREES

KENNETH BARTEL  
BARBARA BELL  
FRANK BOJARSKI  
HILARY CAREY  
LAURETTE CHARTIER  
JANE DREXLER  
MICHELLE FACHE  
SUZANNE GOSSELIN  
MICHAEL MCGOVERN  
JOHN POULTER  
WENDY SCHALK-COOKE  
JULIA SINGLE  
ELYSSA WEISENSEL

HARRY BELL  
MICHELLE BERGER  
MITCH BOURBONNIÈRE  
CATHERINE CERASANI  
KATHERINE CULLEN  
DAVID FACHE  
ROBERT GAUDES  
DAVID GOWRILUK  
FRANK RESTALL  
LOUISE SAMBORSKI  
DIANE SHERWOOD  
MARILYN THORINGTON  
ALICE YOUNG

# Calendar 2019-2020



## DRAFT LRTA Calendar 2019-2020

### September

Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Opening Day  
Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting

### October

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

### November

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
TBD Pension Sustainability Seminar  
Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting

### December

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

### January

Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> LRTA Council Meeting  
Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> LRTA Volunteer Night

### February

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

### March

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

### April

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

### May

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

### June

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> LRTA Executive Meeting  
Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> LRTA Retirement Reception  
Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> LRTA Council Meeting

*Subject to change. Draft April 4, 2019.*

**SEPTEMBER 30 2019**

You can order your MTS orange shirt at  
[mts.unionproud.com](https://mts.unionproud.com).



**EVERY  
CHILD  
MATTERS**

## Contact Us

**LRTA Office  
204-929-5782**

The LRTA Office is  
closed for the  
summer effective  
June 28<sup>th</sup>.

If you are in need of  
assistance, please  
contact MTS directly  
at 204-888-7961.