



President's Message Marcela Cabezas

As part of a moment of contemplation during a yoga class, my instructor shared with us a story of a Buddhist monk and his students.



While they were out for a nature walk one day, the monk stopped and pointed at a large boulder in the distance.

"See that large rock over there?" he asked his disciples.

"Yes," responded one of them.

"Do you think it's heavy?" continued the monk.

"Yes, it's very heavy!" answered the student.

The monk smiled and replied, "Well... it's not heavy if you don't pick it up."

Everyone has been carrying the weight of the pandemic on their shoulders this year and the load of the many challenges that have come about from teaching and working through it. Additional emotional burdens were added by government through their inability to prioritize our physical and mental health over the course of the school year and their audacity to drop regressive legislation on us at this precise moment in time. Supporting our students, supporting our colleagues, supporting our loved ones; the challenges ranged anywhere from cumbersome to crushing over the past few months.

With the end of the school year fast approaching, I want to remind you of the importance of setting those metaphorical boulders down as you leave your worksite or log off your account from home on June 30th. While I know this is easier said than done, I hope you might give it a try. With those huge burdens set down, you will have a moment to look at them from a different perspective. You might feel a change of balance in your heart and in your mind. You might be able to begin to ponder questions like how you can approach such burdens differently going forward.

Now, more than any other year, your summer break is a time to be contemplative; to take stock of what is missing inside you and to replenish it, to scan what may need mending and to seek to heal it, to channel your energy into the people and activities that bring you joy, balance, and well being.

On behalf of the LRTA Executive, we wish you nothing but the best this summer break.

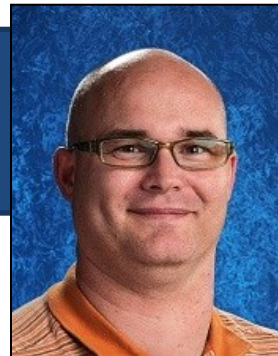
Namaste,

Marcela



“Slam the Door on Bill 64” Discussion Groups

Vice President Bargaining—Scott Wood



Over the last several months, many LRTA members have added to their already considerable workloads by studying Bill 64 and registering to present at the Legislative Committee to be held in the fall.

The LRTA is aware that some members are interested in participating in small working groups to discuss Bill 64 in more detail. These working groups will provide you with an opportunity to further your understanding of the proposed law and/or an opportunity to refine a possible submission/presentation to the Legislative Committee.

These will be informal discussions facilitated by LRTA volunteer members. The role of LRTA is solely to help bring people together; the LRTA will not be organizing or directing any of the meetings.

If you are interested in participating in this type of discussion group, please sign up using the link circulated by the Council Rep in your school, or on this link: [BILL 64](#). This form will be open until noon on Friday, June 25th. Another opportunity to sign up will be made available to members in September for those who would prefer to sign up after the break.

For LRTA members who prefer to do some “light” reading over the summer months in order to better understand Bill 64, the following websites provide a cross section of views of the Bill.

The MTS Toolkit on Bill 64, including frequently asked questions: [MTS Toolkit](#)

Manitoba “Better Education Starts Today”: <https://bettereducationmb.ca/>

Legislative Assembly Text of Bill 64: <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-3/b064e.php>

Manitoba School Boards Association: <https://www.mbschoolboards.ca/localVoices.php>

Manitoba Association of Parent Councils: <https://www.mapc.mb.ca/>

Bill 64 has the potential to be a disrupting force in public education. However, you do not need to be an expert on the bill; instead, remember that all Manitoba teachers are experts in what students need in the classroom.

#raiseyourvoice #slamthedooron64

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PD Reflections and PPDF Update

Vice President Professional Development—Jay McGurran



To say it has been a school year unlike any other, might be the understatement of the century.

This pandemic has tested us in ways we never anticipated and forced us to change how we teach and learn as professionals. And while I would never want to repeat it, there are a few positives that have occurred in the realm of professional development.

The first that comes to mind is the amount of PD that our membership was able to access through online events. While I will certainly carry the flag that affirms professional learning in person is best, the opportunity to go online and participate in sessions from all over the world was a welcome use of the PPDF. This mode of professional learning will have ripple effects for the foreseeable future and could be transformative to the profession.

The second positive, is our membership's commitment to post-secondary learning and their ability to use the PPDF to help support their course work. Almost half of the applications approved this year were to subsidize tuition fees. The feedback from members to be able to use PPDF to contribute to ongoing teacher learning has been overwhelmingly positive.

As we turn our attention to 2021-22, I am pleased to report that the PPDF will become even more robust in the coming school year. The following are changes to be implemented our first day back in September.

- In-town applications will increase from 3 to 5.
- In-town entitlement will increase from \$1000 to \$1250.
- Out-of-town entitlement will increase from \$2000 to \$2500.
- Tuition fee entitlement will increase from \$200 to \$250 for each 3-credit hour course.
- The maximum number of members able to attend an out-of-town PD will increase from 8 to 12.
- Members will be able to access PPDF to support MTS PD Day events.

These changes will allow our membership to access more professional development opportunities, thus strengthening our collective efficacy.

Before I sign off for the summer, I would like to take a moment to thank the members of the PPDF Committee for their efforts over this past year. In a year where their own experience has been so fundamentally challenging, they continued to support their fellow teachers. Your dedication to the ongoing professional development of our membership is nothing short of exemplary, especially under these trying circumstances. Thank you does not begin to express the gratitude of the membership.

Enjoy a much deserved and needed summer break. Take the needed time to recharge your battery and enjoy some time away from the classroom. As the storm clears, know that there are sunny days ahead.

All the best,

Jay McGurran

Indigenous Reads Recommendations

LRTA Indigenous Education Committee—Sean Oliver, Chairperson

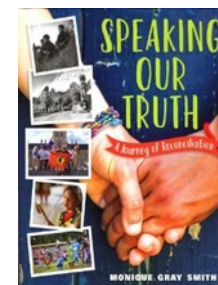


Greetings fellow members,

In honour of June 21st, Indigenous Peoples Day, and Summer Solstice, the LRTA's Indigenous Education Committee members wanted to pass along some recommendations you might consider for summer reading. Most of these titles are available in your local school/public libraries. We hope they serve you as well as they have served us in our continued learning journey. Take care and have wonderful summer!

Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation – Monique Gray Smith

Guided by acclaimed Indigenous author Monique Gray Smith, readers will learn about the lives of survivors and listen to allies who are putting the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission into action. <http://orcabook.com/speakingourtruth/>



This Place: 150 Years Retold - Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm, Sonny Assu, Brandon Mitchell, et al.

Explore the past 150 years through the eyes of Indigenous creators in this ground-breaking graphic novel anthology. Beautifully illustrated, these stories are a wild ride through magic realism, serial killings, psychic battles, and time travel. See how Indigenous peoples have survived a post-apocalyptic world since Contact. <https://www.cbc.ca/books/this-place-1.4983999>

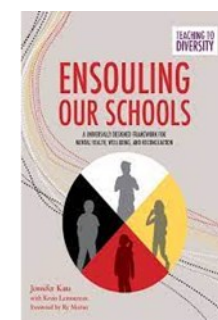


Ensouling our Schools: A Universally Designed Framework for Mental Health, Well-Being, and Reconciliation - Jennifer Katz

A universally designed framework for mental health, well-being, and reconciliation. In Ensouling Our Schools, author Jennifer Katz weaves together methods of creating schools that engender mental, spiritual, and emotional health while developing intellectual thought and critical analysis.

Kevin Lamoureux contributes his expertise regarding Indigenous approaches to mental and spiritual health that benefit all students and address the TRC Calls to Action.

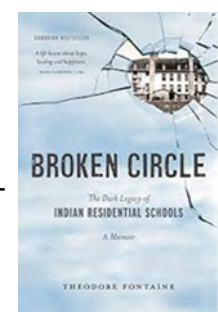
<https://www.portageandmainpress.com/product/ensouling-our-schools/>



Broken Circle: The Dark Legacy of Indian Residential Schools, A Memoir – Theodore Fontaine

Theodore Fontaine lost his family and freedom just after his seventh birthday, when his parents were forced to leave him at an Indian residential school by order of the Roman Catholic Church and the Government of Canada. Twelve years later, he left school frozen at the emotional age of seven. He was confused, angry and conflicted, on a path of self-destruction. At age 29, he emerged from this blackness.

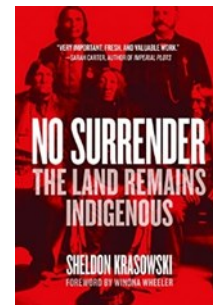
<https://49thshelf.com/Books/B/Broken-Circle>



Indigenous Reads Recommendations continued

No Surrender: The Land Remains Indigenous – Sheldon Krasowski

According to Sheldon Krasowski's research, Canada understood that the Cree, Anishnabeg, Saulteaux, Assiniboiné, Siksika, Piikani, Kainaa, Stoney and Tsuu T'ina nations wanted to share the land with newcomers—with conditions—but were misled over governance, reserved lands, and resource sharing. Exposing the government chicanery at the heart of the negotiations, No Surrender demonstrates that the land remains Indigenous. <https://uofrpress.ca/Books/N/No-Surrender>



The Reconciliation Manifesto: Recovering the Land, Rebuilding the Economy - Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson

In this book Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson challenge virtually everything that non-Indigenous Canadians believe about their relationship with Indigenous Peoples and the steps that are needed to place this relationship on a healthy and honourable footing. Manuel and Derrickson show how governments are attempting to reconcile with Indigenous Peoples without touching the basic colonial structures that dominate and distort the relationship. They offer an illuminating vision of what Canada and Canadians need for true reconciliation. <http://www.lorimer.ca/adults/Book/3010/The-Reconciliation-Manifesto.html>



Indigenous Studies

The University of Alberta is offering the following free online course that may be of interest to members:

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada>.

Course Description:

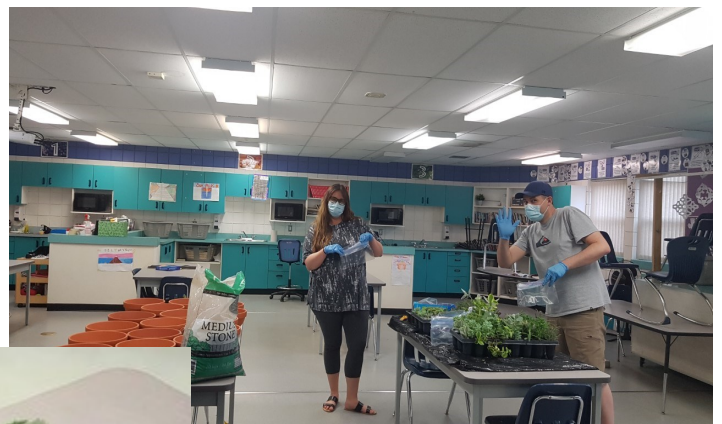
"Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Topics for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions."



LRTA MEMBER WELLNESS GRANT 2020-2021

Creativity and caring were evident in the events planned by this year's grant recipients. We look forward to opening up the grant application process again next fall.

Here are photos from the Highbury LRTA Member Wellness Event that took place in May.



2021 LRTA RETIREES TO BE HONOURED

DEBORA BARRY
ALISON BERGMAN
KAREN BURKETT
PATTI CAMPBELL
GERALD CYR
GISELE DESAUTELS
TAMMY FAVREAU
JENNIFER GIESBRECHT
WARREN HART
SHANNON HUGHESMAN
DARLENE KARALASH
HANNES KIVILAHT
JULIE LABOSSIÈRE
JOYCE LEGANCHUK
DARREN LONEY
JUDY LINTON

ROXANNE MCCOMBER
GRANT MCMANES
MURRAY MENZIES
LESLEY MEUNIER
DIANE NICHOLLS
LOIS ORTEN
KATHERINE PAYNE
RANDAL PAYNE
BRUCE PETO
TIM RONDEAU
SUZANNE SMALLEY
SHELLEY TRACH
PAUL VENTON
RALPH WAGNER
CINDY WALKER
JANICE WAUTIER

Calendar of Events 2021—2022



LRTA Calendar 2021-2022

September

Wednesday, 15th
Wednesday, 22nd

LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Council Meeting

October

Monday, 4th
Wednesday, 6th
Thursday, 7th
Thursday, 14th
Wednesday, 20th
Friday, 22nd

LRTA New Rep Orientation
LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA New Member Celebration
Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar
LRTA Council Meeting
MTS PD Day

November

Wednesday, 3rd
Wednesday, 17th

LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Council Meeting

December

Wednesday, 1st
Wednesday, 15th
Thursday, 23rd through
Wednesday, Jan. 5th

LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Council Meeting

Winter Break

January

Wednesday, 12th
Wednesday, 19th

LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Council Meeting

February

Wednesday, 2nd
Wednesday, 16th

LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Council Meeting

March

Wednesday, 2nd
Wednesday, 16th
Monday, 28th through
Friday, April 1st

LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Council Meeting

Spring Break

April

Wednesday, 6th
Wednesday, 13th
Thursday, 14th

LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Council Meeting
Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar

May

Wednesday, 4th
Thursday, 5th
Wednesday, 18th
Wednesday, 18th
Wednesday, 25th through
Saturday, 28th

LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Appreciation Dinner
LRTA Council Meeting
MTS AGM Binder Meeting

MTS AGM

June

Wednesday, 1st
Wednesday, 8th
Wednesday, 15th
Thursday, 16th

LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Annual General Assembly
LRTA Council Meeting
LRTA Retirement Reception

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

You can order your MTS orange shirt at mts.unionproud.com.



EVERY
CHILD
MATTERS

Contact Us

The LRTA office is closed from July 1st to Sept. 6th.

Should you require assistance, please contact the Manitoba Teachers' Society at 204-888-7961.

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.