

FEBRUARY 2022

# RIELITY CHECK

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOUIS RIEL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION [www.lrta.ca](http://www.lrta.ca)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Marcela Cabezas*



February is complicated. Thankfully, as the sixth month of the school year, February means that we are now closer to the end of the school year than we are to the beginning. Winter Break is in the rear-view mirror and Spring Break is a highly anticipated oasis on the horizon ahead. For high school teachers, the start of second semester marks a new beginning of sorts. And I'm told for early years teachers, February marks a time of needed fun with I Love to Read Month, Valentine's Day celebrations, and 100 Day activities. All of this is good news for those battling the "February Tired" phenomena. We can take solace in the fact that there is more daylight than a short time ago though it may prove challenging to see the sun if your window is half covered by snow like mine is at the office. Perhaps the universe is presenting me with one of those "glass is half-full/half-empty" challenges. Who knows?

This month also marks Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week. As teachers we often feel unseen and underappreciated by society. The pandemic has helped to highlight how challenging our jobs are and the devotion of our members. I want you to know that we see you and are in awe of your passion and commitment to your students and your colleagues. It is my hope that your school communities celebrated the incredible work you do.

Despite the many lessons we have learned because of the pandemic and the battles fought over Bill 64, our provincial government continues to underfund public education.

Their announced funding for the 2022-2023 school year ignores the twenty-six recommendations made by MTS in the weeks prior to the announcement. These recommendations proposed tangible changes that would directly serve the students in our classrooms and begin the sorely needed work of improving student learning conditions which are the working conditions of our members. Instead, the province has created various working groups, committees, councils, and task forces to review a myriad of concerns ranging from poverty and education, inclusive education, curriculum advisory, and the education funding model. While this might sound promising, the conversations will only benefit our students if government arrives prepared to listen and to let go of its own bias and political agenda.

As provincial funding has a direct impact on school divisions, LRSD will be holding a public consultation meeting on Tuesday, February 22nd to present its draft budget. If you are like me and wear multiple hats when it comes to LRSD: employee, parent of students in the division, and taxpayer, I encourage you to attend if time permits.

The pandemic has provided additional challenges to a public education system that was already compromised. It is vital that teachers add their voices to the mix to ensure both parents, taxpayers, and government can fully appreciate what it is like to teach in the public education system.

Thank you for your commitment to the kids and to each other.

Together, we are stronger.

Marcela

# EDUCATION FUNDING

Vice President Collective Bargaining - Scott Wood



On February 4, 2022, the Provincial Government announced an increase in school funding for the 2022-2023 school year. The announcement included an increase of \$120 million for Manitoba schools, giving an average spending per student of \$15,412.

This announcement, however, does not tell the whole story. This increase, calculated at 1.34%, falls far short of the rate of inflation seen in Manitoba over the past year. It also does not account for the increase in student population being felt in most parts of Manitoba.

Breaking down the numbers, the announcement calls for \$18 million to be directed to public schools, with another \$23 million being given to the Property Tax Offset Grant. This Offset Grant is made necessary due to the freezing of Education property taxes for another year, limiting the ability of local school divisions to raise much needed funding from the schools.

In short, the money being promised does not meet the ever-increasing needs of the school system. Any increases below the rate of inflation (currently sitting above 4%) means less support being available for each student in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Teachers' Society submitted recommendations ([Ed Funding Submission](#)) to the education minister in advance of the announcement to highlight key areas such as nutrition, mental health, class size, and Indigenous education that require urgent support. The funding announcement did acknowledge needs in the area of Indigenous education and mental health, but provided little financial support specifically to these projects.

The provincial government plans to overhaul the education funding system prior to the 2023-2024 school year announcement one year from now. Based on this announcement, and the previous five years of "increases" that are not keeping up with rising costs, there is a lot of work to be done to ensure a funding system that is stable, adequate, equitable, and sustainable in Manitoba.

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# **4th Annual Menses Madness**

**LRTA's Equity and Social Justice Committee challenges members to donate menstrual hygiene products during the month of March.**

**•Tampons**

**•Pads**

**•Liners**

**•Menstrual cups**

**Donations can be sent to the LRTA office at Dr. D.W.  
Penner School**

**Products will be donated to Teen Stop Jeunesse and  
St. Mary's Food Bank**

**If you would like to learn more about the equity issues  
surrounding menstrual hygiene, email: [charlene.sacher@lrtd.net](mailto:charlene.sacher@lrtd.net)**



# OUT OF TOWN PPDF REQUESTS

Vice President Professional Development- Jay McGurran



The PPDF will now accept applications for in-person, Out-of-Town personal professional development opportunities. Consideration for these requests will be limited to events that occur in Term 4 (May 1st, 2022 to June 30th, 2022) and Term 5 (July 1st, 2022 to August 31st, 2022).

The **PPDF Guidelines** will continue to act as the main document to assist members in their application.

Applications for Out-of-Town requests will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis and subject to budget availability. In addition to the PPDF Guidelines, the following will apply to all Out-of-Town applications;

- Canadian destinations only
- PPDF will not cover the cost of event or trip cancellations
- PPDF will not cover costs outside of the event dates in an approved application
- Members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with **LRSD Employee Leave Information**
- Members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with Government of Canada requirements for **Travel Inside of Canada** and Government of Manitoba requirements for **Travel to and from Manitoba**
- Members are obligated to comply with all **Public Health Orders** where the professional development event takes place and upon their return

The PPDF General Committee will review all Out-of-Town applications and determine whether the request is approved or denied based on the merit of the application. Prior to a formal approval, the member will be contacted by the Professional Development Chair to ensure that all supplemental conditions are satisfied. Members are reminded to wait until formal approval before making any financial commitments for Out-of-Town professional development events. Further, members will be encouraged to purchase insurance\* on all costs related to their event. Finally, members who have already been approved for an In-Town PPDF event\*\* will not qualify for an Out-of-Town PPDF event.

For more information or clarification, please contact me at [pdlrta@shaw.ca](mailto:pdlrta@shaw.ca) or 204-929-5782.

\*As per PPDF Guidelines, insurance costs are not eligible for reimbursement.

\*\*In-town PPDF events includes in person professional development, online professional development, Tuition Fees, and MTS PD Day.

## PPDF TERM OPENING DATES

Term 1 (Sep. 7, 2021 to Dec. 31, 2021)	Open for Tuition Fees Only
Term 2 (Jan. 1, 2022 to Feb. 28, 2022)	Now Open
Term 3 (March 1, 2022 to April 30, 2022)	Now Open
Term 4 (May 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022)	Now Open
Term 5 (July 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022)	Opens February 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2022 at 8:00 am

Click [here](#) to access the PPDF Guidelines for more details about how the PPDF can support your autonomous professional development needs. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [pdlrta@shaw.ca](mailto:pdlrta@shaw.ca) or 204-929-5782, and please stay connected with your Council Rep for regular updates.



## **WOMEN IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

### **VIRTUAL EVENT**

**Saturday, March 5, 2022 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Reminder: If you have recently changed your name, please contact the LRTA office at 204-929-5782 or [seclrta@shaw.ca](mailto:seclrta@shaw.ca) and have your file updated.

## **CONTACT US**

**LRTA Office**  
204-929-5782

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All matters will be dealt with in confidence.

Call MTS at 204-888-7961 to request assistance from a Staff Officer

@preslrta



## **LRTA CALENDAR 2021-2022**

### **MARCH**

WEDNESDAY, 2ND LRTA EXECUTIVE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 16TH LRTA COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, 28TH -  
FRIDAY, APRIL 1ST SPRING BREAK

### **APRIL**

WEDNESDAY, 6TH LRTA EXECUTIVE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 13TH LRTA COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, 14TH MATERNITY/PARENTAL LEAVE  
SEMINAR  
WEDNESDAY, 20TH LRTA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### **MAY**

WEDNESDAY, 4TH LRTA EXECUTIVE MEETING  
THURSDAY, 12TH LRTA APPRECIATION DINNER  
WEDNESDAY, 18TH LRTA COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 18TH MTS AGM BINDER MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 25TH -  
SATURDAY, 28TH MTS AGM

### **JUNE**

WEDNESDAY, 1ST LRTA EXECUTIVE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 15TH LRTA COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, 16TH LRTA RETIREMENT RECEPTION