

MAY 2023

RIELITY CHECK

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOUIS RIEL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION www.lrta.ca



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Marcela Cabezas



May is always a busy time at the LRTA office. From the standard springtime calls and emails from members regarding staffing queries to retirement notification procedures and everything in between, the pace is hectic. It also the time of year where we prepare our delegation for the three-day long MTS Annual General Meeting (AGM) known as Provincial Council. This year's MTS AGM had nearly 1/3 new delegates in attendance. Approximately 330 delegates from across the province came together to discuss a wide array of issues impacting members from across the province. LRTA invested time in preparing our 24 delegates to speak to the issues as our group's job was to represent the voices of the 1200 members of the LRTA. I was pleased at how vocal and brave our delegation was in speaking both for and against resolutions debated at the AGM. You would have been proud of them. As well, our delegation committed a lot of time and effort in supporting our member Cynthia Taylor in her bid to be elected Vice President of MTS. We are very proud of the resounding support she received from across the province!

The month of June is all that is left this school year. Thirty days which are jam packed with all sorts of activities, final assessments, report cards, and milestone celebrations. June is Pride month. MTS members will proudly participate in the Winnipeg Pride march on Sunday, June 4th and at [other similar events](#) across the province. We look forward to seeing how each Louis Riel worksite displays the Progress Pride Flags the LRTA purchased for them in recognition of the diversity of our members and school communities. Recent occurrences in Brandon remind us of the importance of raising our voices when democracy and the personal safety of our members, students, and school communities are threatened.

As occurs each year, the LRTA looks forward to awarding scholarships to a student from each of our LRSD high schools who is considering entering the profession in the future. At the same time, we are happy to host a retirement reception on June 15th to celebrate our colleagues who are leaving the profession this year. Members are welcome to join us by sending their RSVP. Additionally, we are celebrating the Association's own 20-year milestone on June 17th with a family friendly carnival at Glenwood Community Centre. We hope members can join us for the fun!

These continue to be challenging times in public education. This is evidenced by the powerful statements shared by members such as yourselves in the MTS [#RealTeacherTalkMB](#) campaign which is all over social media and billboards in the city. It reminds us of the importance of sharing your story, particularly as we inch closer to a provincial election. A reminder that MTS will be creating lawn signs to raise awareness amongst the electorate to consider public education when casting their ballot this October 3rd. You can request your sign through the LRTA by using the [embedded link](#) before June 19th. Similarly, MTS has prepared an [election toolkit](#) to help members when folks come knocking at the door to ask for your vote. Your mobilization in the fight against Bill 64 made all the difference then. Your active engagement in the election will be critical in electing MLAs who understand the challenges and realities we face in our schools each day. Get out and help make the change in any way you can.

As always, your Association is here to support you in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Yours,

Marcela

FINISHING YOUR POST-BACC, MASTER'S, OR DOCTORAL PROGRAM? INCREASE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS!

Vice President, Collective Bargaining – Scott Wood



The Association often gets inquiries from members about Article 4.01 (C)—Increased Qualifications. This clause comes into play when a member upgrades their education, typically through the completion of a Post-Baccalaureate, Master's, or Doctoral program. Completion of upgrades will result in moving one class on the salary scale (ie from Class 5 to Class 6) according to the rules set out by the Professional Certification Unit of Manitoba Education.

It is the responsibility of the individual member to engage in correspondence with the Superintendent's Department after the completion of any increased qualifications. Typically, the first available document to members is a statement from the university/college that course work has been successfully completed and that the member is eligible for graduation. A copy of this document should be forwarded to the Division as soon as possible as the date of salary increase is tied to when the notice is first received by the Division. This should take the form of a formal letter that includes a reference to Article 4.01 (C), and is addressed to the Assistant Superintendent, Staff Services.

After this documentation is submitted, the next step is to contact the Professional Certification Unit (<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/profcert/salarycl.html>). You will need to complete a reclassification request form and provide proof of your graduation to receive the higher qualifications.

Once the Professional Certification Unit has confirmed your qualifications, you must follow up with the Division to ensure that your documents are received. The Division will not increase your class on the pay scale until the Professional Certification Unit confirms the increase in qualifications.

You will officially move up a class on the pay scale on the first of the month following the first document provided to the Division. For example, if you submit your university documentation on September 20th, the Division will recognize your increase on October 1st. However, the Division will not actually increase your pay until the final documentation from the Professional Certification Unit is received. Continuing with the above example, if the documentation from the Professional Certification Unit is received on November 25th, you will see the increase on your pay effective the December pay period, but also will get retroactive pay to October 1st.

The key point is to submit your first documentation as early as possible. If you wait for the professional Certification Unit to send their documents to the Division, you may find that you are giving up a month or more of increased pay.

If you have any questions about the application of Article 4.01, please contact the LRTA Office at 204-929-5782.

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MTS AGM HIGHLIGHTS 2023

President – Marcela Cabezas

The 104th Annual General Meeting, also known as Provincial Council, was held Thursday, May 25th – Saturday, May 27th. LRTA had a full delegation of 24 representatives to this year’s AGM. Opportunities to discuss and debate 38 resolutions occurred covering various topics, along with the passing of the MTS budget and setting of next year’s membership fee. Additionally, five members at large of the Provincial Executive were elected.

The MTS member fee for 2022-2023 will increase to \$1123, an increase from last year’s fee of \$1098.

Cynthia Taylor Elected MTS Vice President

Elections for the President and Vice President of MTS were also held at this year’s AGM. Nathan Martindale was elected as President of MTS. He previously served four years as MTS Vice President.

Elected Vice President of MTS is LRTA’s Cynthia Taylor. Having previously served as a member at large for six years on the MTS Provincial Executive, Cynthia was resoundingly supported by the Provincial Council assembly at the ballot box. We are enormously proud of her victory and wish her immense success in this new role!

Both Nathan and Cynthia begin a two-year term in their respective roles.

MTS Equity Scan

Further to the MTS EDI Scan, it was resolved that Provincial Executive will incorporate recommendations into a three-year strategic organizational plan. The aim of this is to ensure meaningful changes to the Society are achieved and to create a mechanism for ongoing review and reporting on EDI outcomes and progress.

1922 Award

Border Land Teachers’ Association member Peter Wohlgemut (they/them) is the first-ever recipient of the 1922 Award for Service to the Teaching Profession. Wohlgemut has been teaching for 31 years and has demonstrated exceptional work in union activism, holding numerous roles in their local association, as well as serving on the Provincial Executive and MTS Committees. As part of the queer community, Wohlgemut has been a fierce advocate for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, including their work in organizing the first Pride march in Altona.

MTS Provincial Executive Elections

The complete Provincial Executive for 2023-2024 is:

Nathan Martindale, President *Winnipeg Teachers’ Association*

Cynthia Taylor, Vice-President *Louis Riel Teachers’ Association*

Members at Large Elected:

Lindsay Brown *Seven Oaks Teachers’ Association*
Sonja Blank *Mountain View Teachers’ Association*
Sean Giesbrecht *Pembina Trails Teachers’ Association*
Shawna Dobbelaere *Western Teachers’ Association*
Serena Klos *Sunrise Teachers’ Association*

Returning Members at Large:

Chris Darazsi *River East Transcona Teachers’ Association*
Jay Ewart *Evergreen Teachers’ Association*
Kristen Fallis *Winnipeg Teachers’ Association*
Cathy Pellizzaro *Thompson Teachers’ Association*
Cathy Pleskach *Interlake Teachers’ Association*
Joel Swaan *Garden Valley Teachers’ Association*

PROPOSED PPDF GUIDELINE CHANGES

Vice President, Professional Development – Jay McGurran

Below are the recommended changes to the PPDF Guidelines for the 2023/24 Association year. The recommendations were developed by the PPDF Guideline Review Committee and have been approved by the PPDF Committee.



Recommendation 1

Set the total budget for the 2023/24 school year at \$600,000 and allocate as follows:

1. Out-of-Town \$ 300,000
2. In-Town \$ 100,000
3. Substitute Fees \$ 140,000
4. Tuition Fees \$ 40,000
5. MTS PD Day \$ 220,000

Rationale: By setting the budget at \$600,000, we will continue to spend down some of the surplus in a fiscally responsible manner. This suggested amount is approximately \$170,000 more than the average yearly allocation and will continue to support the increase in demand for in-person, Out-of-Town events.

Recommendation 2

To create a stand-alone application program for Tuition Fees.

Rationale: This will allow for greater efficiencies in the SMA System and allow members to submit applications at any point throughout the year.

Recommendation 3

To create a stand-alone application program for MTS PD Day.

Rationale: This will allow for greater efficiencies in the SMA System and allow better tracking of applications that do not impact members allocations.

Recommendation 4

To amalgamate PD applications that occur from May to August into one PPDF Term.

Rationale: The majority of applications for funding over the summer months fall into the Tuition Fee reimbursement category. Typically, access to PD funding slows considerably during Term 4 and 5. By aligning these two Terms into one, the PPDF Committee will be able to more efficiently process the applications.

Recommendation 5

Creation of "Category D – Out-of-Town Funding".

Rationale: By creating a clear category for Out-of-Town funding, the Guidelines will become more succinct and clearer as to what members are allowed to access in any given year. This classification aims to clear up any misunderstandings that relate to accessing In-Town and Out-of-Town funding in the same year.

Recommendation 6

Clarification to Section III.D.4. Current PPDF Guidelines "An applicant may be responsible for costs pertaining to the cancelation of an event (registration, substitutes, etc.)." Proposed wording "A member may be responsible for costs pertaining to the cancellation or alteration of an event."

Rationale: By adding "alteration of an event" this informs members that costs may also be incurred if there are changes to their event.

Recommendation 7

Increase the Out-of-Town per diem to \$100.

Rationale: The cost of dining continues to rise and full day per diem rate was deemed low.

These proposed changes were presented to LRTA Council on May 17, 2023. The 2023/24 PPDF Guidelines will be voted on at the LRTA Council meeting on June 21, 2023. All approved changes will take effect on September 5, 2023. Members with any questions can contact Jay McGurran at vp-pd@lrta.mbteach.org or 204-929-5782.

LRTA Congratulates the 2023 Retirees

GUY ANDERSON
THIERRY ANJOUBAULT
CAROL BITCHOK
DIANE BURKE
WAYNE DAVIES
KIMBERLY EARL
DARLENE KASKOW
DIANE LAMOUREUX
BERNARD MAZEROLLE
PAULA MEYER
WENDY NAROZNIAK
CINDY PETRIW
JOAN STANKO
SHANNON TIMLICK
PATTI VADEBONCOEUR
DEAN WILSON

HEATHER ANDERSON
JAMES BEDFORD
DAVID BLAIR
BRIAN CAMERON
MONIQUE DITTER
RON HARDER
BERNICE KOZODY-SCOTT
ANDREA LÉGER
VERONICA MCBRIDE
CAROLE MORIN
RENÉ PERRIN
MICHEL ROY
TANNIS STEIMAN
KAREN TOLE-HENDERSON
CHERILYN WILSON
ELAN WOODS

*List includes members who have given permission to print
name as of May 31, 2023

LOUIS RIEL TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

Anniversary Carnival

Celebrate 20 years together!

ALL ARE WELCOME

FOOD TRUCKS, BOUNCY CASTLE, BUBBLE SOCCER,
PERFORMANCES & MORE

When

JUNE 17, 2023

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Where

GLENWOOD CC

27 OVERTON ST.

SCAN to RSVP

**FREE
ENTRY**



June

Wednesday, 7th
Thursday, 15th
Wednesday, 21st

LRTA Executive Meeting
LRTA Retirement Reception
LRTA Council Meeting

Reminder: If you have recently changed your name, please contact the LRTA office at 204-929-5782 or office@lrta.mbteach.org and have your file updated.

See MTS at Pride! Get loud and proud! Join us at one of these spirited Pride events.

Dates and details for live Pride parades and marches across the province are rolling in. Here's a list in progress. Keep checking back for further updates.

Pride Winnipeg Parade & Festival Sunday, June 4, 2023

Join us at the Pride Rally and Parade. Gather and listen to speakers share celebrations and advocacy of Winnipeg's Pride Week and celebrate Canada Pride 2023. The rally will begin at 10 A.M. at the Manitoba Legislature building and the parade will begin at 11 A.M. starting at the corner of Memorial Boulevard and Portage Avenue and ending across from Shaw Park.

Pembina Valley Pride March – Morden Saturday, June 10, 2023

Brandon Pride Parade & Festival Saturday, June 17, 2023

Steinbach Pride Sunday, June 25, 2023

Thompson Pride March BBQ & Rally Saturday, June 4, 2023

Flin Flon Pride Saturday, June 11, 2023

CONTACT US

LRTA Office
204-929-5782

President
Marcela Cabezas
president@lrta.mbteach.org

Collective Bargaining
Scott Wood
vicepresident-cb@lrta.mbteach.org

Professional Development
Jay McGurran
vicepresident-pd@lrta.mbteach.org

All matters will be dealt with in confidence.

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

@preslrta

