



President's Message: The Proof is Evident

With spring break in the rear-view mirror, we now enter the final part of the academic year. For the next few months, Manitoba teachers will now shift their focus to two distinct and important paths.

In our classrooms, we will begin to put our students and what they've learned to the test. Time will be spent preparing the final projects and exams we will use to determine what our students have mastered and haven't, and what they still need in their toolboxes. We will use both failure and success to assess our own journey this year. We will spend just as much time assessing the tools we used and the learning experiences we provided, as we will grading outcomes achieved, and evidence of knowledge and skills gained.

As a collective, our profession is searching for evidence of a different sort. Does the Province truly plan to engage those who will be most impacted by education reform, during the review process? Manitoba's Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education will be in its fifth month by the time at least one of the integral stakeholders will be asked for input; our students. On April 1, a letter was sent to all superintendents in the province, inviting student participation in the review. ISD has been asked to invite three, Grade 10-12 students and one supervising teacher to attend a forum on Friday May 3rd. The student delegates should be *"interested in sharing their views on the existing K to 12 education system and their ideas about the future of K to 12 Education in Manitoba. It will be valuable to hear from students from a variety of backgrounds, experiences and circumstances – those who are experiencing a high degree of success and those who have experienced obstacles. **The role of the teacher will be to encourage and support students in engaging in constructive and collaborative conversations.**"* So keep the students on task, but stay seen and not heard. Got it!

At this point of the process, the Province has not directly invited teacher input, outside of the general invite to the public to submit letters to the commission. In fact they continue to make changes that impact teachers without *"collaborative conversations"* with members of the profession at all. Also on April 1, while **inviting** student collaboration, the government was **informing** educators of the closing of the Manitoba Curriculum Support Centre. MTS turned to social media to generate a rally outside the centre during spring break. For many, the lack of consultation feels more like a lack of consideration for teachers as professionals. [LINK](#)

One doesn't have to search hard to see the obvious. If teachers want to participate in the review, they need to be proactive. Although we are leaders, innovators and experts in our field, it seems we will be picked last to play. The Manitoba Teachers' Society continues to encourage educator impact through letter submission. Saturday May 4, 9am-12pm, the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Education and the Manitoba Writing Project are sponsoring a letter writing event for educators to collaboratively create letters to send to the Commission. RSVP by April 26 to costak@myumanitoba.ca. For more information, see the bulletin on the next page, or the ITA website (www.interlaketeachers.ca) or contact Jennifer Watt at Jennifer.watt@umanitoba.ca.

How to Send Your Written Submission:

A written submission is an excellent opportunity to get your voice on the record about the realities of Manitoba's classrooms and the challenges you face in your specific school or division, as well as offer recommendations on ways to improve our public education system. Members have asked if ITA will send a letter as a collective. The most impact however, will be felt if the commission has thousands upon thousands of unique and personal impact statements to read. Let's give them more paper and countless everyday stories from people in the field, than they know what to do with. **The deadline for receipt of written submissions is May 30, 2019.**

To ensure the Commission considers your submission, please include:

- Your name and contact information; and
- References for any supporting documentation referred to in your submission.

Submissions may be sent to:

K12educationcommission@gov.mb.ca

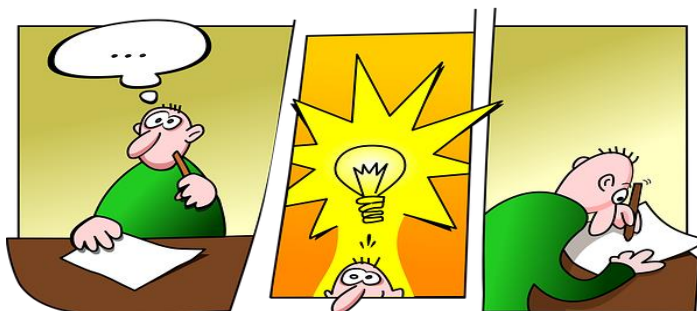
Fax: 204-945-0221

Manitoba's Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education

470 – 800 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, MB R3G 0N4

www.pixabay.com



WRITE TO THE REVIEW

SATURDAY, May 4, 9AM-12PM
Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba
Fort Garry Campus, 71 Curry Place
Education Building Room 200



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

There is an immediate and urgent need to create a space and forum for researchers, educators, and educational partners to respond to the fast-approaching deadline to contribute to the Manitoba K-12 Education Review. The Review Commission is accepting written submissions until May 30, 2019.

We are asking you to join us on Saturday, May 4 for a "Write to the Review" event. The morning event will include:

- Brief presentations by a panel of leaders and advocacy experts who will outline key concerns and offer suggestions for crafting statements and writing effective letters.
- Forming small writing groups with others who share concerns, interests, and ideas to collaboratively write letters to the Commission.
- Identifying possibilities for ongoing public education and engagement.

Refreshments will be provided. Please bring a laptop if you can.

The event is co-sponsored by the Manitoba Writing Project and the Faculty of Education's Public Engagement Project (ADG).



FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Jennifer Watt, Co-director of the Manitoba Writing Project jennifer.watt@umanitoba.ca (204)-474-7210

RSVP NO LATER THAN APRIL 26 TO: costak@myumanitoba.ca
*Please indicate any dietary restrictions for breakfast

News Items:

- **Update on Bargaining at the local level** – In late March, ITA submitted our request to open collective bargaining with the ISD Board of Trustees. A reply came early April requesting we submit possible dates for negotiations to commence. We are working with the Society to formulate next steps.
- **Update on Manitoba Educational Review** - The official government website of the Commission is: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/index.html> - indicating the review will take place from Feb-May 2019. However there are no events listed as of April 1, 2019.
- Another educator-initiated forum out there will be hosted by the Provincial Inclusive Education Professors' Roundtable at the U of M Faculty of Education, Room 200 April 16, 6– 8:30pm. (<https://www.facebook.com/barrierfreemb/posts/2277222248983701>)
- Got to MTS [LINK](#) or www.mbteach.org to stay up-to-date on Review info released by the Society.
- Interested in facilitating workshops for the Manitoba Teachers' Society? Consider joining an MTS Teacher-Led Learning Team (TLLT) Find more information [HERE](#). Applications are due April 15.
- What's happening to the east of us? Update on Ontario [LINK](#)
 - In the 2019-2020 school year, there will be 1,558 fewer full-time teachers in Ontario. By the 2022-2023 school year, that number will be 3,475 — about three per cent of Ontario's current teacher workforce.
 - The memo, which was sent by the Ontario Ministry of Education to school board administrators, also clarifies that the positions will be shed through attrition — meaning teachers that quit or retire and are not replaced — as well as bumped-up class sizes.
 - The average class size requirement for Grades 9 to 12 in Ontario will be adjusted to 28, up from the current average of 22.
- MTS has announced the candidates for President, Vice-President, and Provincial Executive. Meet the candidates [HERE](#). The election will occur at Provincial Council May 22-25.

NOTICE of the INTERLAKE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 23rd, 2019 at 4:30 pm in the Stonewall Collegiate Music Room.
Food and beverages will be served. Bring a colleague and your questions.

This is an opportunity for members to speak directly with those in the know. The major players who can answer your state of the union and provincial bargaining queries will be present, so don't miss this opportunity!

ITA AGM AGENDA

Election of the 2019-2020 ITA Executive
Presentation of the 2019-2020 Budget
Guests: MTS President – Norm Gould

MTS Vice-President and 2019 Presidential Candidate – James Bedford

Bargaining update from the MTS Collective Bargaining Standing Committee (CBSC) – John Bock