



## President's Message - AGM another success

Thank you to all who helped with and attended our AGM on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We elected a new executive, approved the budget (fees stayed at \$130 for FTE and \$0.60/day for subs), and we received updates on the Society's work within the K-12 Review and provincial bargaining. With much buzz around education of late, we have not had to be concerned with achieving quorum at meetings. 48 members attended, and many who couldn't, still showed awareness of the current times that we are facing as a collective. Members expressed intentions to attend, but for reasons that included child care and family commitments, regrets had to be given. We will look to provide on-site child care at future meetings, so that more of you can join your colleagues. I thank you for the concern you share for our local association and the support you continue to give our executive. I wish to thank out-going executive members; John Bock, Larissa Friesen, Dan Gregovski and Daria Kaegi; for the commitment they have given and the talents they have shared. We are grateful for your time spent working for the teachers and clinicians of the Interlake.

## Your 2019/2020 ITA Executive:

President:	Cathy Pleskach	Field Services:	Leslie Fuerst
Vice President:	Susan Hannah	Indigenous Voice:	Cora-Leigh Mazurat
Secretary:	Kim Deline	Professional Development:	Lindsey Sturgeon
Treasurer:	Rebecca Good	Public Relations:	Sheila Anderson
Collective Bargaining:	Maria Nickel	Workplace Safety & Health:	Christie Crow
Benefits:	John Kooning	Member at Large:	Ross Ledochowski
Education Finance:	Ashley Kutcher	Member at Large:	Kathy Simcoe
Equity & Social Justice:	Oksana Kosteckyj		

**So what's next...?** We continue to work in an interesting time guided by strong leadership at both the local and provincial level, who are defending your rights and advancing your interests.

**Locally:** Staffing season is in full swing. The perennial shuffling of personnel and the air of uncertainty can be difficult. If you have any questions about contracts, positions or the like, please contact me at [president@interlaketeachers.ca](mailto:president@interlaketeachers.ca). If you are considering a leave or retirement, I can provide you with form letters and information. Members have until April 30 (if hired December 7, 2004 or later) or May 31 (if before December 7, 2004) to give a resignation notice effective June 30.

**Provincially:** MTS staff are attending all the workshops and will meet with the commissioners in person on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The finalized MTS written submission is a 20-page, comprehensive document that includes 17 recommendations. This will be made available to members shortly in its entirety, but focus topics include; poverty, class size/composition, curriculum/assessment, improved access to clinicians/student services, development of teaching/leadership standards, teacher professional learning and development, Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action, and French-language education.

## MTS update and My Profile:

The Society continues to stress the importance of updating your **My Profile** at [www.mbteach.org](http://www.mbteach.org). When the need arises to communicate directly with membership, this is the means they will use. In addition, here are just a few of the current items you can access on the MTS site:

### 1. Collaborative Learning Team Grants for the 2019-2020 year: Deadline is May 15.

The Manitoba Teachers' Society is committed to supporting collaborative learning teams. **These grants support teacher-initiated professional learning that focuses on problems of practice to improve instruction and ultimately student learning.** Grants may be as high as \$5000.00 per group. Here is the [LINK](#), or contact Cheryl Chuckry at [cchuckry@mbteach.org](mailto:cchuckry@mbteach.org)

### 2. The LifeSpeak Wellness Program: [LINK](#)

This program is a digital wellness platform that can provide MTS members and their families with instant access to expert advice and confidential information when and where they need it. It links to hundreds of video modules on a variety of topics. The Educator Assistance Program (EAP) through MTS is working at full capacity. Through the LifeSpeak program, MTS hopes to supplement and enhance its ability to provide accessible support for members.

### 3. Latest Information on the K-12 Review:

The April 16th edition of the ITA News presented ways members could contribute to the Review. (Go to [www.interlaketeachers.ca](http://www.interlaketeachers.ca) for past editions). [www.mbteach.org](http://www.mbteach.org) has the complete list of information and links to the government website, including to the online survey.

- Write to the review, **deadline for submissions is May 30**, or do the online survey. Reminder of the *Write the Review* event, Saturday May 4, 9am-12pm, at the U of M.
- Attend a workshop, (list on page 3). Previous attendees said that the sharing circles have introduced great conversations and debate, passionate speeches from educators, and show proof of a public that is interested in education reform. Your voice and your experiences need to set the tone of such reform, or others will do it for you. It was also noted the Q & A sessions are rather controlled, and in some cases, are not occurring at all.
- Submit an exemplary practice, being mindful of colleagues and the Professional Code.

## Upcoming Important Dates:

**May 22-25** – The Annual General Meeting of the MTS Provincial Council. ITA will send 5 delegates and 3 alternates. Our work will include electing a new MTS President, Vice-President and Provincial Executive, setting MTS fees and approving the new Provincial Bargaining Protocol. This is the mechanism that MTS will use should legislation come from the Province. Bill 26 is such a bill, and was recently on the order list at the Manitoba Legislature. It was not read because of some good old-fashioned filibustering, and is now not likely to reappear until the fall session. Of course, an early election call by Premier Pallister will have an impact. He recently indicated he doesn't wish to put Manitobans through an election while they celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2020.

**May/June** – Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1919 General Strike. Click here for the list of events, including *STRIKE! The Musical* at Rainbow Stage (written by Manitoban Danny Schur). Book a Sympathetic Strike Tour or attend one of many open-air downtown concerts. [LINK](#)

**June 15** – MTS Annual Golf Tournament - Presented by Prairie Spirit and Prairie Rose Teachers' Association at Scotswood Links, Elm Creek, MB. **Entry deadline is May 31**. Here is the [LINK](#) and note, ITA will sponsor half of the entry fee for the first team to register from our association.

## Interactive Public Workshop Schedule – Please Post

The Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education is hosting a series of interactive public workshops to get your views and opinions on the future of Manitoba's education system.

To register, go to: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/consultation.html>

Date	Time	Location
April 24, 2019	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Caboto Centre 1055 Wilkes Avenue, Winnipeg
April 25, 2019	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Westwood School 46 Mallard Crescent, Thompson
April 27, 2019	9:00 am to 11:30 am	Canad Inns Destination Centre Club Regent 1415 Regent Avenue West, Winnipeg
April 27, 2019	1:00 pm to 3:30 pm	Canad Inns Destination Centre Club Regent 1415 Regent Avenue West, Winnipeg  <b>This meeting will be facilitated in French (language interpretation available)</b>
May 6, 2019	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Wescana Inn 439 Fischer Avenue, The Pas
May 9, 2019	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Clarion Hotel & Suites 3130 Victoria Avenue, Brandon  <b>Bilingual (language interpretation available)</b>
May 11, 2019	9:00 am to 11:30 am	Aspen Lodge 200 1st Street SE, Dauphin
May 13, 2019	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Carman Collegiate 121 4th Avenue SE, Carman
May 14, 2019	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Pat Porter Active Living Centre 10 Chrysler Gate, Steinbach
May 15, 2019	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Caboto Centre 1055 Wilkes Avenue, Winnipeg

The following links go to the full Issues Update Document on the MTS site:

English – [www.mbteach.org/mtscms/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/MTS-Issues-Update.pdf](http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/MTS-Issues-Update.pdf)

French – [www.mbteach.org/pdfs/news/MTS PostionOnIssues FRE.pdf](http://www.mbteach.org/pdfs/news/MTS PostionOnIssues FRE.pdf)