

President's Message

October is upon us, and with it comes an array of mixed feelings for teachers. Some will initially think "Phew, we made it through September!", while for others, its more of a "Wow, where did September go?" feeling. No matter where you categorize yourself, well done, and thank you for laying solid starts from which to build for you and your students.

Perhaps this is why World Teachers' Day is celebrated in October. After the September sprint, this is a day to honour teachers and reflect on the world they open for us. Educators are unique individuals that share one amazing trait. The instant their feet hit the ground in the fall, they tirelessly give **all** of themselves to their students and communities, making June exhaustion seem a thing of the past. Energized and excited that each year is a fresh start, teachers have this amazing outlook that each new year and class has potential. A former colleague once told me being a teacher is like having an Etch-A-Sketch. You shake it and get a clean slate. May we all carry our energy and passion through the post-sugar days of Halloween, and into the calm before concert season. I hope you can keep the September momentum if it was a good start, and I encourage you to call on supports if it wasn't what you'd hoped. In the Interlake, we spent World Teachers' Day learning and sharing with colleagues. Continue to use the connections you made and remember to call on these folks when you need, as you build on their experiences as well as your own.

My Classroom. Our Future. The Society's on-going campaign will have two new television spots this month, featuring Lindsay Brown of Seven Oaks and Gordon Bortoluzzi of Pembina Trails. Watch for them in both day and evening programming, including the supper-hour newscasts of CBC, CTV and Global. You'll also notice billboards featuring all six teachers on high-traffic routes across Winnipeg and in a variety of locations throughout the province! Please share on social media feeds! You'll find them at <http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2019/08/06/my-classroom-our-future/>

Does union work interest you? Consider joining the ITA executive. We are currently looking to fill the position of **Education Finance Chair**. Email president@interlaketeachers.ca for more details.

Reminders:

- Go to www.interlaketeachers.ca or www.mbteach.org (where you can update your [My Profile](#)). The Society site allows you to switch to the electronic version of the MB Teacher Magazine or register for professional learning such as MTS PD Day, and other valuable training and seminars.
- Monday October 21st is your opportunity to exercise your right to vote for our next federal government. Billions of people around the world do not have this right. The Canadian Teachers' Federation, an organization of which you are a member as a member of The Manitoba Teachers' Society, has sent the message on Page 2 to all Canadian teachers.

Message from The Canadian Teachers Federation - "I teach for a better world"

World Teachers' Day, (October 5th, 2019), highlighted how we are shining a spotlight on the power our profession holds. Teaching for a better world is what teachers do each and every day. We are on the frontlines of the challenges facing society, and are in a unique position to offer solutions. In Canada and around the world, public education is increasingly faced with hurdles to clear in order to prepare our younger generations for the hardships and opportunities that await them.

This year the stars have aligned as we have the chance to celebrate World Teachers' Day amidst a Federal election. Many of the issues being debated by candidates across the country have great importance not only to our profession, but they extend to our students, their families, and beyond the classroom to the average Canadian. The election makes it clear how important a role our publicly funded public education systems play in maintaining a strong democracy, and how a quality public education is crucial to creating the leaders of the future; both of which would not be possible without our teachers.

With the election in full swing, teaching for a better world includes voting for one. The CTF/FCE's "[I Teach, I Vote](#)" campaign is equally a focus on the priorities that can be addressed at the federal level, as well as a call to action. As teachers, we are among the select few in our communities that directly witness and experience the stark realities facing so many, which places us in the best position to give voice to those who are seldom heard.

For this Federal election, the CTF/FCE is urging political leaders of all parties to end poverty, address mental health, support strong unions and labour rights, lead the way on sustainable climate action, and make gender equity a reality. By raising our voices on World Teachers' Day and always, we have the power to bring the most important issues to the fore, whether in conversation with friends, neighbours, candidates or at the ballot box. This year, proudly stand and let everyone know that "I teach for a better world." **Join the conversation at [#worldteachersday](#) [#thankateacher](#)**

Upcoming Dates:

- **Oct 21 – Lakewood Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar:** Presented by MTS Staff Officer Arlyn Filewich and sponsored by ITA. 5-7pm at Lord Selkirk Regional High School. Dinner provided and spouses/partners welcome. Reply to president@interlaketeachers.ca.
- **Oct 23/24 – FAB 5 Beginning Teachers' Conference:** Info at www.mbteach.org or [LINK](#).
- **Oct 24 – Sunrise Teachers' Association (STA) Pension Sustainability Seminar 5-7pm:** Register at www.mbteach.org under [My Profile](#). Our friends of the STA have invited any ITA members who wish to attend. Members may attend their regional meeting (March) or the MTS open meeting (February) as well. Note: These are not pre-retirement seminars.
- **Oct 25 – MTS PD Day:** Register at www.mbteach.org. Channel your professional growth.

Collective Bargaining News:

On October 7th, the Manitoba government announced it had introduced new legislation, Bill 2; The Public Services Sustainability Amendment Act. Finance Minister Scott Fielding suggests Bill 2 “*would help make collective bargaining more flexible and responsive to the priorities of public sector employers and their employees*”. Recall, Bill 28 has not been proclaimed. It would hold public sector employees to increases of 0% in years one and two, 0.75% in year three and 1.5% in year four.

Bill 2 ([LINK](#)) would alter Bill 28 ([LINK](#)) in areas such as the “sustainability period”, i.e. the four year time period (Section 12), amounts of potential increases, (Section 13) which states “*the minister may — in the minister's sole discretion — approve a collective agreement...*” The fate of each collective agreement could be decided by one individual, who with the Act in hand and in council with the Lieutenant Governor, could over-ride legal agreements that had been reached through arbitration, (Section 26). Teachers in Manitoba gave up the ability to strike for binding arbitration. One person in the entire province would decide which public sector unions gets raises and which do not.

Locally, the ITA is in communication with MTS in light of Bill 2, and we remain under their guidance in this bargaining round. Recommendations from the K-12 Review are expected to be put forth in Spring 2020, and we will continue to patiently work in the best interest of teachers in Manitoba.

MTS Response to Bill 2:

“The Pallister government introduced *Bill 2* on the afternoon of Monday October 7th, an 11th hour amendment to *The Public Services Sustainability Act*, its unconstitutional, heavy-handed wage freeze legislation. This comes two-and-a-half years after they passed the law, and just a few weeks before the commencement of the trial (November 18th) sought by Manitoba’s public sector unions, including The Manitoba Teachers’ Society, to stand up for workers and their Charter right to free collective bargaining.

We are currently reviewing *Bill 2* and awaiting a thorough analysis of this proposed amendment by legal counsel, but the Pallister government seems to be making a bad, unconstitutional law even worse. Public sector workers in Manitoba, including teachers, have the right to meaningfully bargain with their employers. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects this right. Accordingly, *The Public Service Sustainability Act*, along with the amendments proposed under *Bill 2*, violates that right and must be repealed so meaningful bargaining can happen.

We will continue to keep you advised and updated on further developments and responses.”

James Bedford & Roland Stankevicius
President, MTS General Secretary, MTS

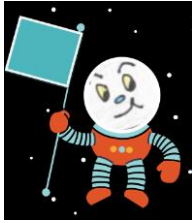
Did you know MTS discounts include the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (MTC)...where you can enjoy 6 plays for \$197.50?

Thanks to MTS and their generous support of Royal MTC, you're invited to enjoy an EXCLUSIVE OFFER.

Enjoy the benefits of subscribing to all six John Hirsch Mainstage plays for only \$197.50+GST and receive 50% off any Tom Hendry Warehouse production – any night! *This offer expires Monday, October 21 at 5pm.*

Click royalmtc.ca/mycorpsub Contact the Box Office with questions, (204)942 6537 or boxoffice@royalmtc.ca.

Calling all students from K – 12 in Manitoba!



ARE YOU CREATIVE?

DO YOU DREAM BIG?

DO YOU LIKE TO DRAW?

DO YOU LOVE SPACE EXPLORATION?

WE HAVE A CONTEST FOR YOU!

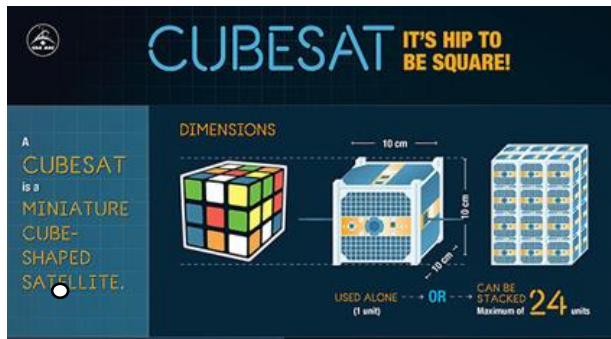
DESIGN A MISSION PATCH FOR MANITOBA'S FIRST CUBE SATELLITE TO SPACE AND NAME THE SATELLITE

THE WINNING DESIGN AND NAME WILL WIN A FAMILY YEAR PASS TO THE MANITOBA MUSEUM AND THERE ARE OTHER SECONDARY PRIZES to be won (KIDS SPACE BOOKS BY DR. DAVE WILLIAMS AND HIS NEWEST BIOGRAPHY ABOUT HIS TIME AS A CSA ASTRONAUT)

Contest rules and entry permission forms can be found on our satellite website:



<http://umstarlab.ca/mbsat/contest.html>



(credit: Canadian Space Agency)



The Photo by Unknown



UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG



INTERLAKE SCHOOL DIVISION

CONTEST RUNS FROM: SEPT. 11, 2019 - NOV. 15TH, 2019