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## PRESIDENT MESSAGE: **STANDING OVATION FOR YOU**

When writing these messages, I often try to focus on the big-ticket items or the relevant trends in current educational news. Or I look at the time of year, and what that means to the internal “school clock” of educators. So, when I try to explain where May (and already half of June) has gone, this is the best I can give:

*“Teaching seems to require the sort of skills one would need to pilot a bus full of live chickens backwards, with no brakes, down a rocky road through the Andes while providing colorful and informative commentary on the scenery.”*

--Franklin Habit

Yup, that sums it up. Add peri-post-pandemic mode (a word I use to define the time in between the challenges of the pandemic and the coming post-pandemic fallout.) Add perennial cuts to funding, final assessments and all the things... I continue to be in awe of the real guts of all of it... YOU, the teachers and clinicians of the Interlake. YOU and all you do, are the only explanation as to how the world around ISD students has not crumbled. They would not be where they are without YOU. There is no question, YOU are the only constant in the equation, the determining factor of the experiment, and the entity that must be protected and valued the most. YOU have not wavered; bent a little maybe; but your strength, resiliency, and ability to pick each other up along the way has been immeasurable.

I am grateful for each of you in your distinct roles. Your ITA executive has worked hard to promote and protect member well-being; work for relevant professional development & increased supports; increase member engagement and communication while aligning our work with MTS common goals and values. We are dedicated to continuing the work. In these final days, take stock of what you have accomplished, in spite of all the things. YOU were amazing, and I wish for your summer to be what you need it to be. Stay safe and well!

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS RESULTS:

### What changes are coming that affect you?

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#### The Annual General Meeting of the ITA – May 3, 2022

Thank you to all members who attended the 2022 AGM at the HAC. 56 members attended and cast votes to the following:

- 2022 – 2023 ITA Membership fees are unchanged: **\$130 per FTE** pro-rated, \$0.60/day subs
- 2022 – 2023 Executive:
  - President:** Cathy Pleskach - WCI
  - Vice-President:** Susan Hannah – EWRBB
  - Treasurer:** Rebecca Good – ESCS
  - Secretary:** Kim Deline – Brant-Argyle
  - Bargaining:** Chris Gamble – WES
  - Benefits:** Myles Blahut – TCI
  - Education Finance:** Dan Gregovski – SCI
  - Equity & Social Justice:** Kathy Simcoe – TCI
  - Indigenous Voice & Action:** Cora-Leigh Mazurat – New Haven
  - Professional Development:** Lindsey Sturgeon – SCI
  - Public Relations:** Sheila Anderson – Rosser
  - Workplace Safety & Health:** Christie Crow – Grosse Isle
  - Member at Large:** Ross Ledochowski – TCI
  - Member at Large:** Zach Ward – ESCS

Thank you to departing, long time executive member, **Maria Nickel**, for 18 years of service and dedication to the members of the ITA.

#### MTS 103<sup>rd</sup> AGM of Provincial Council: Results & Resolutions

- 2022 – 23 MTS Membership fee is \$1098 (up \$51 from 2021 – 22).
- **The default delivery mode for the MB Teacher magazine will now be electronic.**  
What you need to do now...
  1. If you wish to receive the paper version, go to [My Profile](#) and select the paper option.
  2. If you want to ensure you get the e-version, go to [My Profile](#) and include a valid, personal email to ensure you do not miss this valuable resource. Personal email is recommended so as not have union documents coming to your employer's email. All members are encouraged to change their My Profile email to a personal email.
- **The Provincial Executive (PX) Welcomes Two New Members:**

**Cathy Pleskach (Interlake)** & Jay Ewert (Evergreen) have been elected to two-year terms to PX

Thank you ITA executive and members for your support! I am excited and committed to not only supporting all ITA members, but now to be a voice for 16 000+ Manitoba Teachers.

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## MTS AGM RESULTS (continued):

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- **Women in Educational Leadership (WEL) Network** to be created that would allow local representatives to meet and collaborate with each other on this work.
- **Qmmunity Events** - The Society will offer Qmmunity events twice a year to build and strengthen connections between the Society and its 2STLGBQIA+ members.
- **Queer and Trans Leadership Symposium** – This will be a national event.
- **MTS to establish a Circle of Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers** to advance the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action within the Society and Locals.
- **Union Learning Grants** – A program to facilitate access to labour and union professional learning opportunities, with priority to equity-seeking groups.
- **Youth Service Grants** – The Society will offer Youth Service Grants (replaces the Young Humanitarian Awards), to allow young people access to funds needed for their initiatives.
- **For complete details regarding all changes, click [HERE](#).**

### **Benefits: MTS HumanaCare** – Have you registered yet?

- You DO NOT need Blue Cross to access.
- 1 in 15 MTS members have already accessed.
- Members can access up to \$850 per calendar year for **other** extended health services.
- For the complete list of all your extended health benefits (Blue Cross), click [HERE](#).



The banner features the HumanaCare logo on the left, which includes the text 'HumanaCare Access Code' and 'Powered by snapclarity'. To the right is the MTS logo with the text 'THE MANITOBA TEACHERS' SOCIETY'. Below the logos, a blue box contains the text: '24 HOURS A DAY ANYWHERE IN NORTH AMERICA', '1-800-661-8193', 'www.humanacare.com/mts', and 'Access Code: MTSMFAP'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the blue box.

### **Mental Health Resource Guide for Teachers:**

If seeking help to maintain our physical health makes sense, why don't we give our mental health the same consideration? Click [HERE](#) for the MTS Mental Health Resources Guide for members.

### **Equity & Social Justice:** MTS EDI SCAN BEGINS – **Go to the survey [HERE](#)**

MTS has launched a comprehensive Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Audit (EDI Scan), by procuring the services of consultants Dr. Catherine McGregor and Dr. Grace Wong Sneddon. The work has already begun and will include an *internal* audit of the staffing, leadership, organizational policies, practices, and experiences of the Society, along with an *external* audit of membership.

MTS MUST HEAR FROM YOU! Earlier this month you received a SUB email (the Society's mode of all-member communication). If you did not, please enter a personal email at [My Profile](#).

### **MTS INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE GUIDE!!!**

We're pleased to share the completed toolkit; ***Inclusive Language: A Guide for Inclusive Schools and Workplaces in Manitoba*** – in both English and French. This guide is intended to support respectful schools and workplaces by paying attention to how language is used to ensure safe and caring spaces. Click [HERE](#) to access.

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## Important Dates

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**ITA end of year celebration** - **Thursday, June 16 at Bel Acres Golf Course**, come and go style between 4 – 7pm. Appetizer stations and refreshments provided. Come celebrate with each other, as it is well deserved, as well as visit with ITA retirees from the past three years.

**MTS PRIDE events calendar** – Click [HERE](#) to see a list of events.

**INSERT JULY AND AUGUST HERE AND ENJOY!**

**2022-23:**

**New Teacher Event/Training** - **Thursday, September 22**, HAC.

**School Rep Event/Training** - **Tuesday, September 27**, HAC.

**ITA Golf Tournament** – **September 2022** – Date and details to come.

**National Day for Truth & Reconciliation** – **Friday, September 30**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual – “ITA Takes a Hike”** – **Saturday, October 1** – Bird’s Hill, time TBD

### **Learning Opportunities:**

- **Collaborative Learning Team (CLT) Grants** – Deadline: October 25. These grants support teacher-initiated professional learning that focuses on problems of practice to improve instruction and ultimately student learning. These projects will take the form of action research and/or study groups. Click [HERE](#) for more information.
- **ArQuives Lesson Plans:** 2SLGBTQIA+ resources & lesson plans. Click [HERE](#).
- **Legacy of Hope:** These are Indigenous Education resources & lesson plans. Click [HERE](#).

Questions of concerns, contact your local president at [itapres@mbteach.org](mailto:itapres@mbteach.org)

