



## President's Message

I am beginning to think we should label this decade as the decade of feedback. Whether it be an online purchase, a service appointment, or even going to the dentist, a few days after the event a customer satisfaction survey is sure to arrive in our inbox. It is easy to hit “delete” on these emails. It is often difficult to imagine the better world we will create by leaving a constructive critique of the butter dish we recently purchased. Recently the Interlake School Division ran a short survey and MTS is about to run a slightly longer one (see article below). I would like to make the case that we should not hit delete on these surveys because they are categorically different from the customer feedback forms which spew forth from industry. The ISD and MTS surveys are run by people who actually care about what you have to say and will make decisions based on your feedback. In short, your response to these surveys affects you. Unfortunately, this is not always obvious. I was recently privy to the results of the latest MTS member survey. MTS will use the data in discussions with government and other labour groups. Because of this, I am prevented from sharing any of the results with you. So, there's the catch. Completing a work-related survey can feel like completing an online poll. We fill it out, click “submit” and then nothing seems to happen. I can assure you that this is not the case with our polls. A significant and thorough analysis goes into processing every MTS survey. And, if enough ITA members complete the survey, the ITA Executive receives the local results. These local results help us with discussions at the workload committee to bargaining to board liaison. Sometimes we can share the results with you, sometimes the cards are kept closer to the vest, but always the results are scrutinized and utilized to work at improving the working lives of teachers.

## MTS Workload Survey

The biennial MTS workload survey is coming soon to your school. To be clear, this is different from the local ITA/ISD workload survey we did last year. The results of this current survey will feed data to MTS as they work with the new provincial government. Local results will help our ongoing work. As discussed above, it is therefore vitally important that we get a high completion rate. A high completion rate validates the data and strengthens our position. When your school rep asks you to complete the survey, please help us out by taking the time to do so. When I talk about our April AGM, I say it is the one hour out of the year when your Association needs you; well...we need an additional fifteen minutes. The results of the survey are aggregated on a divisional basis and are not linked to any school or teacher. Individual submissions are confidential and anonymous. I thank you in advance for your help.

## MTS Provincial Committees

There are many ways of engaging with the Manitoba Teachers' Society. One of the least threatening is to volunteer for one of the provincial committees. Committees meet three or four times per year and are a great way of gathering insight into the workings of MTS and making an impact at the same time. MTS has the following standing committees, Aboriginal Voice and Action, Collective Bargaining, Curriculum and Teaching, Disability Benefits, Education Finance, Equity and Social Justice, Group Benefits, Professional Development, Professional Conduct, Teacher Education and Certification, Workplace Safety and Health, and Young Humanitarians. Please contact your local president, John Bock, for more information should any of these interest you.

## Do you have what it takes to TLLT? (from mbteach.org)

Passion, lifelong learning, experience, leadership, and creativity. What do these words have in common? They describe the work of the Teacher-Led Learning Team (TLLT). The Manitoba Teachers' Society is seeking outstanding classroom teachers, principals, resource teachers, counsellors, clinicians, coaches, and consultants representing all grade levels and subject areas from across the province to design and deliver workshops for school and divisional professional development days.

TLLT is a two-year appointment, renewable to a maximum of six consecutive years. Successful candidates will deliver up to three workshops per year for which the Society covers leave time and associated expenses. TLLT members are required to attend training seminars and design days at McMaster House. Release time (for school days) and associated expenses are paid.

Summer Seminar: August 29, 20 & 31, 2017

Fall Seminar: October 13 & 14, 2017

Winter Seminar: November 24 & 25, 2017

Deployment Debrief & Reflection Day: May 12, 2018

TLLT Candidates are MTS members who:

- are in good standing, actively working in the public school system;
- have a variety of teaching experiences;
- have demonstrated leadership and communication skills;
- have training and/or experience in the professional development of adult learners;
- have the ability to commit to a minimum two-year term, including training & design days; and
- are willing to travel within Manitoba for deployments.

### Quiz Night

**February 2, 2017**

**Parochial Hall in Stonewall**

**7:00PM**

**(doors open at 6:30)**

**Enter as a team of (up to) 8  
or as an individual.**

**\$10.00 per person**

**Entry Deadline January 25**

**Email Cheryl Kooning to enter**