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## President's Message

When speaking about the ITA AGM, I have frequently stated that this is the one day of the year that your union needs you. It turns out, there are two. On May 25, between 4:30PM and 5:00PM the Manitoba Teachers' Society is holding a Rally to Support Public Education on the steps of the Manitoba Legislature. All of you are invited; the ITA delegates to Provincial Council will be there. The Interlake School Division has seen its provincial funding drop year after year after year. With the election of the new government, not only has inflation eroded the purchasing power of the division, the actual dollars flowing to the division have been cut. And that is why the rally is at the legislature, not 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North. Our board has done its best with these diminishing resources to keep class sizes manageable, but the fact remains we will have roughly 60 more students in the school division than we had two years ago, with 2.3 fewer teachers to educate them. We believe proper funding of education is an investment, not an expense. Very few of you signed up to attend the Faculty of Education so that one day you could be part of a union. No, you did it because you love working with children and you want to do your best, so they can be at their best. We campaign for the working conditions of teachers because that means we are campaigning for the learning conditions of students. I know the timing is tight, but if you can all make it to the legislature on Friday, May 25 at 4:30 PM we would love to have you join us to let the government know we care about kids so much we made it our day job, and that's why we don't care for the cuts. Follow **#kidsnotcuts** on social media; hope to see you there.

## Short Term Disability Vote - Logistics

The Interlake Teachers Association Executive has done its best to put information into your hands regarding the short-term disability insurance plan; it is now time to vote. Voting day is Monday May 7 – School Planning Day. On that day, your ITA School Representative will conduct the polling at a time and place that makes sense in each school; please contact your school rep for the details. Colony teachers, your day is May 10. If you are not in school on voting day, please contact your school rep on the succeeding days to cast your ballot. All balloting must be concluded by Friday, May 11. School reps will not be counting the ballots, instead, all ballots will be collected and counted centrally by the ITA Secretary and two Members who are not on the executive. Results of the vote will be known the following week.

**VOTE** 

**AGM a Success**

Thank you to all who attended our AGM last week. We have a new executive, a budget, a new constitution, a set of bylaws, and some policies. Beyond all the voting, I know our Association is strong. It has been many years since we worried about achieving quorum at our meetings; with 76 members in attendance, this year was no exception. I thank you deeply for the concern you share for our collective and the support you have shown for our executive. We are moving into interesting times and you have a strong leadership team at both the local and provincial level to defend your rights and advance your interests. On a personal note, thank you for the considerate words that were spoken about me at the AGM. It has been an honour to work on behalf of the teachers of the Interlake these past eight years. The work of the Association is critical, and I look forward to acting in the role of Past President in the upcoming school year. As for the interesting times in which we find ourselves, I have volunteered to remain on the Manitoba Teachers' Society Collective Bargaining Standing Committee, so I won't be too far away from the action. I will be reporting regularly to your new executive, and they will, no doubt, let you know what you need to know, when you need to know it.

**Your 2018/2019 ITA Executive**

President .....	Cathy Pleskach	Equity & Social Justice.....	Larissa Friesen
Vice-president .....	Susan Hannah	Professional Development .....	Ashley Kutcher
Secretary .....	Rebecca Good	Public Relations .....	Vacant
Treasurer.....	Vacant	Workplace Safety & Health.....	Christie Crow
Past President .....	John Bock	Field Services.....	Leslie Fuerst
Collective Bargaining.....	Maria Nickel	Indigenous Voice & Action .....	Cora-Leigh Mazurat
Education Finance .....	Dan Gregovski	Member at Large.....	Sheila Anderson
Benefits.....	John Kooning	Member at Large.....	Ross Ledochowski