

 [interlaketeachers.ca](http://interlaketeachers.ca)

## President's Message

Teachers have always known, albeit sometimes only vaguely, that they were part of a union. The union was there to negotiate a new collective agreement, make sure they were treated reasonably and one a year invited them out to a meeting with pizza. For the most part, teachers have interacted with the union on a personal basis. Members check in when they want to know how personal days worked or how to access maternity leave. Issues such as staffing, payroll, personnel, and employment rights are one-to-one events and are the quiet support unions provide to their members, and, expect for those involved, go unnoticed by most – and that is how it should be. We don't ask you to come out and march in support of a person who is inquiring as to whether she can extend her maternity leave or start a letter writing campaign to assist a member who has asked for a transfer. We are a collective, but the preponderance of our interactions with the union are as individuals. This is especially true for teachers. Because teachers don't have the right to strike, walking a picket line or attending a rally in support of our rights has been out of our consciousness for decades. Well, welcome to a new world. This government has passed, proclaimed, and mused about legislation that infringes on our collective rights and those of other unions. When collective rights are threatened, collective action is in order – and I don't just mean our local collective or even the Society. Public sector unions in Manitoba are a collective of collectives working together and supporting each other. This is a time when every voice counts, and the more we raise our voices, the more they count.

## Action Items

### Rally for Public Education

**Friday, May 25**, 4:30 to 5:00 on the steps of the Legislature

Sponsored by the Manitoba Teachers' Society – all supporters of public education are welcome.

### Rally for Public Services

**Sunday May 27**, 1:00 to 1:30 on the steps of the Legislature

Sponsored by the Manitoba Federation of Labour – all supporters of a free and fair collective bargaining process are welcome.

### Write your MLA

MTS has produced a guidebook for writing your MLA [here](#).

The list of MLA's is [here](#).

## LGBTQ Lesson Plans

As part of our ongoing commitment to equity and the inclusion of LGBTQ Identities in our schools, The Manitoba Teachers' Society has created lesson plans for use in early years, middle years, and senior years classrooms on the following:

[History of Pride](#)

[Identity](#)

[The Sissy Duckling](#)

[And Tango Makes Three](#)

If you are interested in submitting lesson plans and materials to be considered for the MTS website please contact Sarah Gazan at [sgazan@mbteach.org](mailto:sgazan@mbteach.org)

## Long Term Disability Rates Up

Upon recommendation from the Disability Benefits Plan Committee and the actuary for the plan, the Provincial Executive has approved a premium of 1.9% on all salaries and allowances effective March 1st 2018 for the Long Term Disability Plan. The previous premium was 1.39% on all salaries and allowances. On an \$80,000 salary this represents a \$34.00/month increase. The increase is a result of an increasing frequency of claims in the previous fiscal year and this increased frequency continuing into the present year. Overall the number of claims in 2016/17 rose 6%

## MTS Annual Golf Tournament 2018

**Saturday; June 16, 2018; 12:00 noon; Shotgun Start**

**Presented by the Seine River Teachers' Association**

**at La Verendrye Golf Course, La Broquerie, MB**

**\$100/golfer – includes 18 holes, 1/2 power cart, and dinner**

**Individual golfers and foursomes welcome**

**Lots of great prizes available!**

**Entry deadline is May 31, 2018**

**See your local president for entry forms.**

