

President's Message

Welcome aboard to our new members and welcome back to our returning staff of the Interlake Teachers' Association. To each of you, we as an executive say THANK YOU for making our schools such a great place to come back to every fall. Our schools and students start out shiny and refurbished, and I am amazed by the type of people who become teachers, as they can always come back with a refreshed outlook about a new year. We hope you had a restful and restorative break, and that the first few weeks weren't too much of an adjustment back into the reality of another round of the school game.

I've come to realize that part of me, of course, wishes summer would never end, but that there is another part of me that looks forward to the routine of bells, binders, co-workers, class schedules, students, and parent-meet-and-greets, combined with a unique sense of comradery that starts to drift its way into my thoughts mid-August. It is truly remarkable to me how the summer months seem to erase like an Etch-A-Sketch, the previous year's events. In a re-energizing way, we all start fresh in September; teachers, students, and parents alike. We each get a chance to begin again, this annual race towards common goals and outcomes, successes and lessons learned, and many other emotions that arise for all of us so very differently.

I encourage you this year, to keep in focus, a few helpful reminders along the way:

- You are one of the most influential figures in the lives of your students, their parents and the community. This statement is not meant to scare, but to motivate and encourage. Take time to reflect on both success and steps back as the year goes on; they all play a role in the journey.
- You have a knowledgeable and experienced ITA executive, senior administration and ISD staff, who will support you if there is any reason that causes you to feel you can't be the teacher you want to be. Any concerns you feel you may need help with, direct them to me at: president@interlaketeachers.ca.
- Remember one of the goals of the division is wellness. Chase your passions when it comes to your volunteer work outside the classroom. Don't do more than you can do, so that you can be well and you and your students can enjoy the experience.
- Please go to the MTS website, www.mbteach.org and sign up or confirm your information is correct on MyProfile.

I wish you an excellent year with more successes than steps back to reflect on, and look forward to meeting you during school visits.



State of the Union: Here are a few MTS/Political Highlights...

Court Challenge:

On July 20, we were notified **the injunction against Bill 28**, the Public Services Sustainability Act, (PSSA), filed by the Partnership to Defend Public Services (PDPS), Manitoba's labour movement of public sector workers, **was not granted**. MTS has instructed local associations to proceed with bargaining as we normally would. In May, the ITA requested to open bargaining with ISD which they declined, citing they are waiting for guidance from the Provincial Government. Most locals in Manitoba received this same response. Our Collective Agreement has run out as of June 30, 2018, but we stay under the terms of the existing CA until we have a new one. With the upcoming trustee election close at hand, the ITA executive is working with our Staff Officer and I will have more information in upcoming issues. Further, it was recently announced by MTS that our legal challenge against the constitutionality of Bill 28 and has had trial dates set commencing **November 18, 2019 running through December 5, 2019. Note the year!**

New Education Minister:

Kelvin Goertzen has been named Manitoba's Minister of Education and has said that the Manitoba government is exploring significant changes to the education system, with the possibility of merging school divisions into a more regional model. The Manitoba Government will launch a consultation process in January that will last about five or six months to examine the structure of education. **He says they want to hear from school boards, teachers and the general public, and added his department will also continue an examination of the curriculum because our students are not currently getting what they need.**

Your ITA Executive for 2018-19:

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

*** Yes, there are two executive positions currently open. If you are interested contact me for more information. Our executive and how they can help you will be highlighted in upcoming editions.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Regional Meetings (President Norm Gould and MTS staff will present the state of provincial bargaining, the court challenge and other current topics). Meetings begin September 18th. Supper is provided but members must register at <https://memberlink.mbteach.org/Event.axd?e=897>. We are in the Lakewood Region, but you can go to any of the meetings, as long as you register. So choose one that is closer or more convenient. I sent out the dates last week by email.
- MTS Night with the Bombers, September 21st. Tickets are Buy one get one free.
- Orange Shirt Day, September 30th. (See www.mbteach.org for material and resources)
- World Teachers' Day, October 5th.