

President's Message

Welcome back ITA teachers and clinicians, and welcome aboard to those of you new to our local. By now, many of you have class lists memorized, have ushered your students into new routines and maybe entered a few things into power school. However, as a union of colleagues, it is hard not to find ourselves looking at the unknown on the horizon. What is next for educators in Manitoba?

Being in a state of flux (change) or unknowing is difficult for teachers. We are planning junkies who won't stay home sick because its easier to be at work. We spend time during holidays preparing classrooms and lessons to meet the varied needs of our clientele. Most teachers crave a sense of routine, especially once the weather starts to turn. So, when the next steps for our own profession are not immediately evident, it can be difficult to recognize the importance of our role amongst 16,000 educators in Manitoba, who are all committed to improving education.

The Manitoba Teachers' Society created the Political Action Committee to achieve this. In fact, they are so committed to profiling the profession and the needs of students, it will remain in place for the next four years to be ready for the next election call. The Society set out to get people talking about education, highlighting the steps the next government must take to help students succeed.

Addressing poverty, class size/composition, curriculum/teacher development, and reconciliation/French language education were highlighted in the Society's submission to the K-12 review ([LINK](#)). The **"My Classroom: Our Future"** campaign ([LINK](#) to videos), shares the concerns of our colleagues as they work everyday like you, to provide safe and viable learning places.

It is safe to say the recent Provincial election did not produce the outcome that teachers in this province were looking for, and it is not because a specific party won or lost. But rather, this is because something that we live and breathe, not just do, was not the hot ticket item. There was no mention of education in any of the debates, and this was not lost on MTS President, James Bedford, nor the MTS political staff. So, what's next? There may be more questions now than answers, but here are the facts we do know moving ahead:

- The K-12 Review of Education was completed, and the commissioners will now be responsible for producing their recommendations. These will be released in March 2020.
- The Commission received 2270 written, 8900 online, and 1260 teacher submissions.
- The Human Rights Challenge to Bill 28 ([LINK](#)) will be heard in Nov/Dec 2019.
- Provincially, some locals will go to arbitration with their boards in Nov/Dec 2019.
- Locally, ITA & ISD have exchanged opening letters and will begin to set dates. We are working with MTS and for now, continue to work under the Collective Agreement (CA) ending June 30, 2018. ([LINK](#))

"What can I do now?" Share your passion for teaching in your community. It's empowering when you tell your story, your way. What do your students need to help them to their successful ending?

Important Membership Information:

- **Have you signed up for My Profile?** This is your personal membership profile with the Manitoba Teachers' Society. You can sign up for events and PD, including MTS PD Day & SAGE events, for which registration is now open. It is how the Society communicates with members. You can also choose to receive the e-version of the MB Teacher magazine. Click [My Profile](#) or go to www.mbteach.org now to stay informed and connected. Be sure to update your home and personal information. THANK YOU!
- **Did your personal status change over the summer?** Did you know that if you were married or separated, experienced a significant life event such as a birth or death, or even your spouse getting a new job, that these can impact your MTS Benefits? There is only a short window after a significant life change for you to notify MTS. For more information please contact your Benefits Chair, John Kooning at Teulon Collegiate, jkooning@isd21.mb.ca.
- **Are you planning on retiring or leaving ISD this year?** There are two times a year you can be released from your contract. The deadline for a December 31st release/retirement is November 30th. The deadline for June 30th is April 30th (if hired on or after Dec. 7, 2004), or May 30th (if hired before Dec. 7, 2004).
- **Are you considering adding to your family?** There will be a Maternity/Parental leave Seminar on Monday, October 21st, 2019, 5-7pm at the Lord Selkirk Comp. hosted by ITA. Presenter: Arlyn Filewich, MTS staff officer (and all-knowing re: Maternity everything). Dinner is provided and it is open to all members considering parenthood and their partners.
- **Do you have questions regarding your union, rights or workload?** Call your President, Cathy Pleskach (204) 792-8406, or email president@interlaketeachers.ca. My job is to work for you and direct you to information or people that can help. Contact an MTS Staff Officer directly at: (204) 888-7961 or Toll Free: 1-800-262-8803. All conversations are confidential.
- Have you been to the MTS (www.mbteach.org) or ITA (www.interlaketeachers.ca) websites?
- **Do you require sick leave or another form of leave?**

Sick Leave: ITA members receive 20 sick days per year. These are pro-rated for part-time (50% would receive 10), and can accumulate up to 130 days. If you are that teacher who would rather come to work sick, reconsider. You get the time; please take the time. **STDI** (Short Term Disability Insurance) bridges the gap between sick days used and **LTDI** (Long Term Disability Insurance). LTDI commences after 80 working days away. Your students need the best you. If you need any help with sick leaves, please contact me. You can also contact **The MTS Disability Benefits Plan**, Phone: (204) 957-5330, Toll Free: 1-866-504-9373 to start a claim.

Other Leaves: I have various form letters for leaves as per the CA, such as Maternity/Parental, Sabbatical, Leave for Other Purpose, etc. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

- **Did you know you get...?**

Compassionate Days: 3 days per year, not considered sick days.

Bereavement Days: 3 days per year but are part of your sick days.

Family Medical Days: 3 days per year but are part of your sick days.

- **Did you also know...?**
 - **Extracurricular time** you spend supervising students for teams, clubs etc. is **voluntary** under the CA. Therefore, if you want to, do what you love and are able. Members **earn 1 day paid leave of absence per 50 hours, up to 2 days per year**. Any hours over 100 hours can not be used. 1 day may be carried over one year, and portions of 50 hours may be carried over. Please contact me for specifics.
 - Members receive **2 personal days per year** (pro-rated for part-time) and 1 can be carried over to the next year.
 - Blue cross covers up to \$850 in private psychology. **Must be a licensed psychologist**.
 - MTS Fees for 2019-2020 are **\$1012**, and ITA Fees are **\$130** (\$0.60/day for subs).
 - MTS membership allows you to access its **EAP (Educator Assistance Program)**. Contact them by Phone: **(204) 837-5801** or Toll-free: **1-800-378-8811**, or you can contact Leanne Laroche by email at [**llaroche@mbteach.org**](mailto:lvaroche@mbteach.org)
 - The **MTS LifeSpeak Wellness Platform (LINK)** is where you can find hundreds of expert-led video modules on many wellness topics. Hey people, **instant lesson plans** here to align with the ISD Continuous Improvement Plan! Work smarter, not harder.
 - MTS membership comes with a variety of discounts. (See **Discounts HERE**) If you require a card, please contact Cathy at [**president@interlaketeachers.ca**](mailto:president@interlaketeachers.ca).

Upcoming Dates:

- **Sept 27 – MTS Bomber Game:** MTS members can buy one-get one free tickets at [**http://www.bluebombers.com/mbteach19**](http://www.bluebombers.com/mbteach19) and use the promotional code **MBTEACH19**.
- **Sept 30 – Orange Shirt Day:** To honour residential school survivors. Wear your orange shirt because you can. Contact our Indigenous Voice & Action (IVA) chair, Cora-Leigh Mazurat, or our Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) Chair, Kathy Simcoe for ideas for your classes.
- **Oct 21 – Lakewood Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar:** Presented by MTS Staff Officer Arlyn Filewich and sponsored by ITA. 5-7pm at Lord Selkirk Regional High School. Dinner provided and spouses/partners welcome. Reply to [**president@interlaketeachers.ca**](mailto:president@interlaketeachers.ca).
- **Oct 23/24 – FAB 5 Beginning Teachers’ Conference:** Info at [**www.mbteach.org**](http://www.mbteach.org) or [**LINK**](#).
- **Oct 24 – Sunrise Teachers’ Association (STA) Pension Sustainability Seminar 5-7pm:** Register at [**www.mbteach.org**](http://www.mbteach.org) under [**My Profile**](#). Our friends of the STA have invited any ITA members who wish to attend. Members may attend their regional meeting (March) or the MTS open meeting (February) as well. Note: These are not pre-retirement seminars.
- **Oct 25 – MTS PD Day:** Register at [**www.mbteach.org**](http://www.mbteach.org). Note: This is the only day on our calendar for autonomous professional development. Chase what you wish to learn.

NOTICE: Many of the actions involve a visit to [www.mbteach.org**](http://www.mbteach.org) and [**My Profile**](#).** Please take a moment to visit the MTS site and see what it can do for you. If you need help with any of the information, please reach out to me or your school rep. Be well and Happy Fall everyone!

Lakewood Regional

Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar



Presented by: Arlyn Filewich, MTS Staff Officer

For... Members of teacher associations in the Lakewood Region* who are expecting or contemplating an addition to their families – guests and significant others welcome.

Agenda

- 5:00 to 5:30 Supper Provided
- 5:30 to 7:00 Maternity/
Parental Leave Presentation
 - o Leave entitlements
 - o When to apply for EI
 - o When to tell the division
 - o When can the leaves start
 - o Rules surrounding adoption
 - o Extending leaves
 - o Top-up pay
 - o And more...bring your questions.

Monday, October 21, 2019

5:00 PM

Lord Selkirk Regional
High School

(221 Mercy Street, Selkirk)

Register by October 11th through
your local association president:

Cathy Pleskach

president@interlaketeachers.ca

***The Lakewood Region** includes: Evergreen, Interlake, Lakeshore, Lord Selkirk, Sunrise, and Whiteshell Teacher Associations.