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- **BE SURE TO TAKE A BREAK NEXT WEEK!**
Your family and your students need a rested, re-set and whole you.

ALMOST THERE!

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 1-800-262-8803

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: AND SO IT BEGINS...

Well...what a week. Crazy month actually. In what is traditionally a brain-numbing time of budgets, mill rates and math, March instead has the education system abuzz with more questions than answers. And I think it is very important to focus on that fact.

Fact: We knew changes were coming, and now we know what they are. To know which aspects of one’s organization are being attacked is an advantage. Charging ahead with placards and numbers to rally at the leg will have its moment, but as the MTS PR team clarified at a recent President briefing, “we will be there, but not yet.”

Fact: MTS is processing the scope of proposed change and mapping out a tactical approach. 3 major documents released simultaneously requires time to sort through. Specific MTS staff have been dedicated to Bill 64 (and all bills that may affect us).

What do I need to know right now? There will be no impact this school year or next. The initial “implementation” date is to by July 1, 2022. There will be a plan, and we will support you in it. Focus on giving yourself a break next week, submit your e-vote for the AGM, and regroup for this last push through the final months.

Do I need to read all the documents? Only if you choose. MTS/ITA staff will provide a summary of important items coming soon. It never hurts to be informed, but do not feel overwhelmed by the breadth of information. See the links Page 2. Check the MTS website often.

Change [MYPROFILE](#) TO A NON-ISD EMAIL to receive updates.

Fact: The opposition has delayed Bill 64 until fall. This time must be used by teachers, students, and parents to speak on Bill 64. See Page 2 for the MTS BILL 64 toolkit.

Fact: Leverage is everything: What do we have in our corner? 16,000+ members, 38 union locals, robust media channels (social media, The Sub, the MTS website) , an established, credible reputation with news media, high public regard for teachers enhanced by our incredible pandemic response, a national network of teacher organizations (CTF) and labour affiliates, and a provincial government faltering in popularity. Locally, Interlake schools entrenched in and supported by the communities they’ve helped build.

It is likely the Education Modernization Act will initiate “seismic change”. It has good and bad things. When a plan is presented, we will know our roles in it, and we will do what we always do. And that is come together for kids and families and get the job done.

Breathe, reach out, stay connected, grounded, and be well. Enjoy spring break. You need to be whole; not the whole world to everyone.

BARGAINING UPDATE: ITA and ISD meet in the coming days. We will keep you posted.

ISD Final Budget – [LINK](#) Funding for the AFM position and TIP campus will continue for next year.

BECOME PART OF THE BILL CONVERSATIONS:

Bill 16 – Labour Relations Amendment Act

- Alters binding arbitration process, the only means of labour conflict resolution for teachers in MB.

Bill 45 – Public Schools and MTS Amendment Act

- Would bring about Provincial Bargaining. When it receives royal assent/proclamation, all local negotiating will cease. MTS will begin bargaining for all Locals (except DSFM).

Previous Bill 57 – Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act

- It has recently come to our attention that this Act states that **a public sector body (school division) must disclose to the public (on their website), the name, position, and compensation of each person who is compensated \$75,000 or more.**
- A list is posted to the ISD website, and includes your full name, position and salary if you make >\$75,000.
- Under Section 3.2(1): *“On application by an employee..., the minister may cause the disclosure about the employee to be made without identifying the employee if in the minister's opinion the employee's safety would otherwise be unduly threatened.”*
- If this is a safety concern for you, please contact me at president@interlaketeachers.ca.

Bill 64 – The Education Modernization Act. 300+ pages that will change education in MB. It does not parallel the recommendations document, and in fact often contradicts the recommendations of the commission.

Make an oral presentation - Register by calling the Office of the Clerk (204) 945-3636 and state your name and the bill number to which you wish to speak. Presenters are allowed 10 min to present, and an additional 5 min to respond to questions from members of the committee. Everyone who applies must be allowed to speak.

Written Submissions – Send to: Clerk of Committees Room 251 – 450 Broadway Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8, fax (204) 945-0038, or email to: committees@leg.gov.mb.ca. State name and bill number.

FOLLOW THIS LINK to the **complete process outlined in the Jan/Feb MB Teacher**, pg. 18 – 21

Links to the major recent documents:

1. **Bill 64**
2. **Report of the Commission on K-12 Education:** Our Children’s Success; Manitoba’s Future
 - 10 Imperatives/75 Recommendations
3. **Better Education Starts Today** MB Gov document
 - Pillar 1: Governance & Accountability
 - Pillar 2: Learning & Outcomes
 - Pillar 3: Future-Ready Students
 - Pillar 4: Excellence in Teaching & Leadership

MTS DISCOUNTS HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED!!! They were not being used in high volume. The Society will study better avenues to support members in similar ways. Stay tuned.

RAISE YOUR VOICE ON BILL 64

Bill 64 proposes the elimination of democratically elected school boards, the creation of a provincial education authority, school division amalgamations reducing the 37 divisions to 15 “regional catchment areas” plus DSFM, and limiting principals and vice-principals from being in the same bargaining unit as teachers.



Bill 64 also speaks volumes in what it does *not* say. On matters of fundamental importance, such as the purpose of public education and the principles of equity, inclusion and justice, the legislation is silent. Rather than advancing public education in Manitoba with students in mind, the legislation focuses on control, compliance, and standardization in schools.

This MTS toolkit gives you background on the legislation, how it impacts teachers, and most importantly, how you can **#raiseyourvoice** as a Manitoba educator in opposition to Bill 64.

- [Click here for the Bill 64 FAQ](#)
- [Top Issues](#)
- [Presenting to a Bill Committee](#)
- [Tips for writing a submission](#)
- [How to write a letter to the editor](#)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERLAKE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

- The 2021 ITA Annual General Meeting e-vote is up and running.
- Members received an email with the official ballot.
- The 7 items of business and info are posted at (www.interlaketeachers.ca).
- [ITA members will have until Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 4pm to e-vote.](#)
- Submit questions to president@interlaketeachers.ca.

BENEFITS: TRAF Pension Sustainability Seminar Recap: Did you know?

- The current active to retired member ratio is about 1:1.
- TRAF side is 100.6% funded (there is enough money for all current and projected retirements) MB gov side is 60% funded. They still pay out when you retire, they just borrow from elsewhere in the budget.
- Approx. 9.68% of your salary goes to pension.
- Total pension you could expect to receive (based on averages) is 1,000% of what you contribute
- You can make additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) or calculate your projected pension. (Last year's rate of return was around 6 - 7%). Go to www.traf.mb.ca and sign up for **TRAF Online Services**.

Virtual Maternity/Parental Leave Seminars: Sign up for one of **April 27, May 25, & June 15, from 4:30 – 5:30 pm.** Contact **Ashleigh Deeley Michaluk** at 204-831-3065/1-866-494-5747 (ext. 232) or email: amichaluk@mbteach.org

- [Maternity & Parental Leave information video](#)
- [Maternity & Parental Leave booklet](#)