

Our monthly roundup of news and reminders, upcoming events, deadlines, MTS info, talking points and more. Any questions should be directed to itapres@mbteach.org

Issue No. 4 | March 2023

## Bill 35 - THE EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT ACT (TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT)

The Manitoba Teachers' Society has put the MB Gov on notice that it strongly opposes <u>Bill 35</u> in its current form. In short, the bill would allow anyone to look up any disciplinary action against every teacher. The bill proposes to:

- Create a public registry of teachers which would include certificate date, class and current status, as well as a permanent record of suspension or cancellation for **any reason**.
- Appoint a director of certification.
- Establish competence standards that teachers must meet to be issued a certificate.
- Appoint a commissioner to process misconduct or **incompetence complaints from any source**, **including parents, the public or the employer**.

#### To be clear, MTS is not opposed to teacher regulation,

but there is no place for competency in a bill that is meant to deal with misconduct. Someone outside the education profession should not determine teacher competence. This may lead to "frivolous and malicious complaints" by parents or employers because the definition of misconduct is too broad.

# Read more and <u>SIGN UP HERE TO</u> <u>SPEAK OUT!</u>

# **PROVINCIAL BARGAINING UPDATE**

Members can access Provincial Bargaining information via My Profile at www.mbteach.org

Please ensure you have provided a personal (non-work, so non-ISD email) as your primary email on My Profile. The Society sends the allmember email, the SUB, to this email, and this can include timely information on many items such as Bill 35 and bargaining. When it is time to ratify our first ever Provincial Collective Agreement, this will likely be done by onemember, one-vote via electronic vote. If you have not listed a personal email, you may not get your ballot.

Recent SUB emails and My Profile indicate that both sides have met and exchanged opening packages, there are more bargaining sessions scheduled, and progress has been slow.

## LINK to MY PROFILE



# **Important Dates:**

.<u>Retirement/Resignation dates</u>: Teachers have until April 30 (if hired on or after December 7, 2004) or May 31 (hired before December 7, 2004) to give a resignation notice effective June 30.

## NEW ITA AGM DATE:

Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 - 4:30 pm at the Heritage Arts Centre, 166 Main Street, Stonewall, MB

**Agenda:** State of the Union & Bargaining, setting of fees & budget, elections, pizza, camaraderie & refreshments.

## Nominees for ITA 2023-24 Executive:

President: Cathy Pleskach Vice-President: Susan Hannah Treasurer: Rebecca Good Secretary: Ashleigh Norberg Bargaining: Chris Gamble Benefits: Ross Ledochowski Education Finance: John Bock Equity & Social Justice: Kathy Simcoe Indigenous Voice: Cora-Leigh Mazurat Professional Development: Lindsey Sturgeon Public Relations: Sheila Anderson Workplace Safety & Health: Christie Crow Member-At-Large: Rachel McWilliam

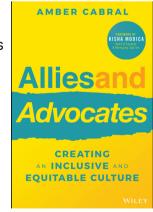
## Hope to see you April 25. Bring a colleague & your questions!

# ITA Lending Library is open for business!!!

ITA recently received a \$600 PR grant from MTS, which was used to purchase 15 copies of Allies and Advocates by Amber Cabral.

The intention is to do a Fall Book Club, so stay tuned for September meeting dates.

If you are interested in borrowing a copy over spring break or summer, please contact Cathy at itapres@mbteach.org





#### THE MANITOBA TEACHERS' SOCIETY

www.mbteach.org | Phone: 204-888-7961 Toll Free: 1-800-262-8803



# Let's hear some #RealTeacherTalkMB:

- MTS wants to know how 6 years of inadequate funding from this government has affected Manitoba teachers and their students.
- Go to:

## EDUCATIONMATTERSMB.ORG

and submit your story. There are over 100 submissions already. Add your story. These will be used to build future MTS communications campaigns and guide MTS staff and Provincial Executive, as we continue to push for public education funding that is equitable, predictable and adequate.



# Students and teachers need support.

Tell government to invest in education. Not just this year–every year.

EDUCATIONMATTERSMB.ORG

# **Upcoming MTS events:**

March 22 - Virtual Event: MTS Indigenous Education Series -Teachers talking to Teachers Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Land-Based Learning No need to register. Link found HERE.

April 14 - Qmunity Event Calling all 2SLGBTQIA+ MTS members to evening of dinner, wine & cheese, 5:30pm McMaster House; Register <u>HERE</u>

MTS Labour School: Applications now open: Are you interested in working for your union but you aren't sure where or how? Go <u>HERE</u> to find out more.

# Equity & Social Justice News:

Many teachers across Canada are balancing their professional and personal lives like a "Kerplunk" game. As professionals, we very often view selfcare as something we will work on, when we find time. We need to shift this thinking and remember to prioritize our own mental health.



Many thanks to Angela Haig, Staff Officer at MTS for the following graphic. Using the Mental Health Continuum, every professional can authentically find and monitor their unique place.

## Susan Hannah

Vice-President

## Mental Health Continuum Model

HEALTHY	INJURED	REACTING	ILL
Normal fluctuations in mood	- Nervousness, irritability, sadness	- Anxiety, anger, pervasive sadness, hopelessness	- Excessive anxiety, easily enraged, depressed mood
Normal sleep patterns	- Trouble sleeping - Tired/low	- Restless or disturbed sleep	- Unable to fall or stay asleep
Physically well, full of energy	energy, muscle tension, headaches	- Fatigue, aches and pains	- Unable to perform duties,
Consistent performance	- Procrastination	- Decreased performance, presenteeism	absenteeism - Isolation,
Socially active	- Decreased social activity	- Social avoidance or withdrawal	avoiding social events
ACT	IONS TO TAKE AT EACH	PHASE OF THE CONTIN	UUM
Focus on task at hand	- Recognize limits	- Identify and understand own signs of	- Seek consultation as needed
Break problems into manageable	- Get adequate rest, food, and exercise	distress - Talk with	- Follow healthcare provider recommendations
problems into	rest, food, and exercise	distress	provider
problems into manageable	rest, food, and	distress - Talk with	provider recommendations



# In PR NEWS!!!

MTS Launches Podcast:

- MTS is slated to release a series of 6 weekly episodes on teacher mental health in March. This podcast allows MTS to provide its 16,000 members across the province with relevant content for teachers.
- Former EAP Counselor and now MTS Staff Officer, Zach Schnitzer and his team are the producers. Schnitzer is a Winnipeg Blue Bomber fan and has a podcast called Let's Go Bombers, a self-proclaimed amateur podcast for fans, by fans.
- "A podcast is time friendly; people can download and listen at their leisure and pick and choose their content," said Schnitzer. This is a platform to give member's voices a chance to be heard. He's eager for member feedback on content.

Sheila Anderson Public Relations Chair

