

President's Message

In the previous few months, there has been an increase in opportunities to voice your opinion on education matters. The provincial government started it off with a two-day summit on literacy and numeracy in January. The Manitoba Teachers' Society has recently concluded a round of regional meetings to obtain members' input on priority issues. This is being followed by a series of round table discussions entitled "Let's Talk Teaching" – again sponsored by MTS. Our local "Let's Talk Teaching" session will take place at Stonewall Collegiate on Monday, March 19 beginning at 4:45pm – both dinner and good conversation are on the agenda – register on MyProfile. In addition, the Partners for French Education are in the midst of two "community information and consultation sessions to learn about important changes at the Bureau de l'éducation française (BEF) and the potential impact on the quality of French language education for students in our province." Why the sudden flurry of activity? It is no secret that the Society has fundamental disagreements with recent legislative and policy decisions by the current provincial government. Being a member-based organization, the Society is intent on moving forward with input from, and the support of, its members. We work as a collective; we act as a collective. The Society needs to bring a clear voice to the table as it deals with the government. As a member, you are invited to participate in that conversation.

Updates on Critical Issues

Funding cuts, wage freeze, provincial bargaining, and French education; those are the banner headlines on the MTS website. Some of you have been asking me about what is next on all of these issues. You can read the MTS responses and updates [here on their website](#).



Save the Date: ITA AGM – April 24.

It's that time of year again. Despite recent weather, you know Spring is around the corner when you start seeing reminders to attend our Annual General Meeting. More information will be forthcoming, but for now, save the date: **April 24, 2018, 4:30PM** – Stonewall Collegiate Music Room.



Short Term Disability: Case Studies

In previous newsletters, I have outline the costs and benefits of Short Term Disability Insurance (STDI). To illustrate what having STDI might mean to an individual member, I am sharing these case studies provided to me by the Manitoba Teachers' Society.

Teacher A

- 50 years old; 25-year veteran; permanent contract
- married; two children in university; mortgage and car payments
- used up sick leave last year due to car accident; 20 days sick leave available
- has a heart attack; needs triple by-pass surgery
- recovery time: 14 weeks; 70 working days
- without STDI; total income from EI (after sick days run out): \$5470.00
- with STDI; total income from short term disability (after sick days run out): \$ 22,993.00

Teacher B

- full time, permanent teacher, 10 years experience
- first year in division
- married with one child; newly pregnant with second child; 20 sick days available
- complications with pregnancy; must spend 5 months on bed rest
- mortgage, day care expenses, car loans
- without STDI; total income from EI (after sick days run out): \$6564.00
- with STDI; total income from short term disability (after sick days run out): \$27,591.60

Note also that the EI numbers quoted above are before taxes, the STDI payments are not taxable.

Write Your MLA

Thank you to the many members who have approached me and let me know that they have written their MLA regarding the recent actions by our provincial government. Every voice is an important one; the government needs to hear from its citizens. For those of you still intending to write but wondering exactly what to say, remember that MTS has published a guidebook to help you get started.

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

