

The Apple Core

November 2017

Upcoming Events

GVTA Executive meetings:

- December 5
- January 9
- February 6
- March 6
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5

Held at NPC and begin at 4:00.

All members are welcome

Other Events:

- December 6th, 4:00—ESJ
Book Club, CKs
- December 8th, 9-4—MTS
PD: The Impact of Residential Schools, McMaster House, Winnipeg
- December 11-12th, 9-4—MTS
PD: Managing Conflict, McMaster House, Winnipeg

Welcome, GVTA Members;

On November 7th, GVTA had our Fall General Meeting. MTS President Norm Gould came down to present on Bill 28 (further information is located later in the newsletter). We also arranged for a flu shot clinic (special thanks to Zahid Zehri and his team at Shoppers Drug Mart), free babysitting, awesome snacks, and great door prizes. And yet, only about 10% of our membership attended.

I know that GVTA general meetings are “one more thing”. Please consider though that this “one more thing” is sponsored by the people who plan your professional development, host social and wellness events on your behalf, keep you up to date with benefits changes, and bargain your salary, personal days, family medical leave, and more. We do this work on your behalf, but can not do it all in a bubble. We need an informed constituent base, and we require your support and input. We need to know what’s working for you and what’s not. We are here to serve you; please let us know how we can make our events worth your time. Please talk to any executive member if you have ideas about increasing our meeting attendance.

Please feel free to contact me anytime as the year goes by. I can be reached through division e-mail, privately through gvtapresident@gmail.com, or by phone or text at 204-384-5635. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,
Joel

gvtapresident@gmail.com

204-384-5635

Indigenous Education Report

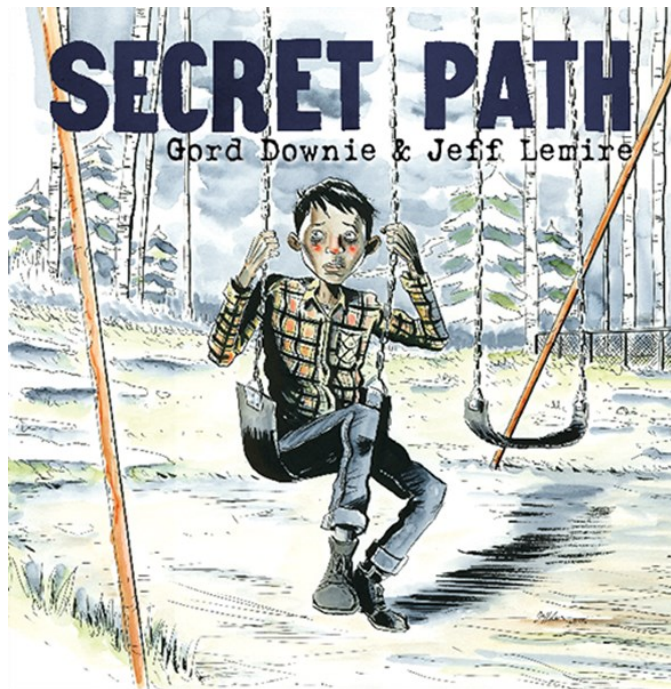
“It is precisely because education was the primary tool of oppression of Aboriginal people, and miseducation of all Canadians, that we have concluded that education holds the key to reconciliation”

-Justice Murray Sinclair

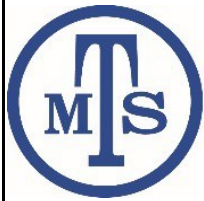
Teacher Resource Review:

Secret Path is a collaboration between Gord Downie and Jeff Lemire, which chronicles the story of Chanie Wenjack, a 12-year-old boy who died after running away from Residential school in the 1960s. The story acknowledges a dark part of Canada’s history – the long-suppressed mistreatment of Indigenous children and families by the residential school system – with the hope of starting our country on a road to reconciliation.

The story is in graphic novel-form, and can be used in the classroom with a variety of age groups. The MTS website also includes lesson plans categorized for Early, Middle and Senior Years.



Garden Valley Teachers' Association members work on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, and the homeland of the Métis nation. GVTA respects the Treaties that were made on this territory.



**The
Manitoba
Teachers'
Society**

Bill 28

The Public Services Sustainability Act

Bill 28 At A Glance

What is Bill 28?

Bill 28, *The Public Services Sustainability Act*, calls for public sector workers to have their wages frozen for two years, followed by a modest 0.75% increment in year-3 with up to a full 1.0% increase in the fourth year.

Assuming inflation continues to increase by a rate of 2%, the net effect of this loss to purchasing power will be compounded year-over-year to the tune of 6.2% at the end of the legislated wage pause. For an average teacher across this province, this translates to approximately a \$15,464 loss to every single teacher.

Why is Bill 28 Necessary?

In short, it isn't necessary. The Pallister government claims that the wage freeze is necessary to get Manitoba's fiscal house in order, stating repeatedly that it will take "all hands on deck" to tackle the deficit.

Since January 2017, Manitoba's public-sector unions have put forward practical solutions that would generate government revenue and negate the need for government to freeze wages and cut the services Manitobans count on.

However, the government opted to ignore these solutions and chose to introduce the heavy-handed legislation that undermines the collective bargaining process.

In response, Manitoba's public-sector unions have come together to create a Partnership to Defend Public Services (PDPS). The Manitoba Teachers' Society is proud to add its name to the list of 26 other unions who represent over 120,000 public-sector workers.

In June 2017, Bill 28 was passed, however the Pallister government chose not to proclaim the legislation. Regardless of when the act is proclaimed, the impact of the government's new law is already being felt at the bargaining table.

So on July 4, 2017, the Partnership to Defend Public Services launched a legal challenge.

Why A Legal Challenge?

Bill 28 shows blatant disregard for the collective bargaining rights of the workers who provide public services to all Manitobans. As recently as November 2016, collective bargaining has been affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada as a charter right. *Not only is Bill 28 unfair, but it is unconstitutional.*

This legal challenge will be long and the process will be slow. However, it is necessary for MTS to stand with other unions against Bill 28 so that we are united in pushing back against attacks on the rights of working people in Manitoba and the government's plans to cut the services our friends and families count on.

Local PD Opportunity

Gordon Neufeld, PhD

author of *Hold onto Your Kids*



Keeping Children Safe in a Wounding World

Saturday
February 10, 2018
9 am - 4 pm
Access Event Centre
111 Gilmour St. Morden, MB

Early Bird until January 19: **\$79**
After January 19: **\$89**

Lunch and snacks provided

Register online at
edenhealthcare.ca

What can we do to keep our children safe and protected in a world where threats are only a click away and signs of alarm in our children are skyrocketing? What are the factors that put children at risk and how can we recognize when they are in trouble? Dr. Neufeld uncovers the keys to help children thrive while living in a wounding world.



Dr. Gordon Neufeld is a developmental psychologist with over 40 years of experience. Dr. Neufeld is an international speaker, a bestselling author and a leading interpreter of the developmental paradigm.

For more information about Dr. Neufeld and his work, go to neufeldinstitute.org

SHOPPERS
DRUG MART



Thank you!

A big thank you to Zahid Zehri and his staff at the Winkler Shoppers Drug Mart for providing a flu shot clinic during the GVTA general meeting on November 7th. It was quick and convenient for those attending the meeting. It was much appreciated!

TRAF Fall Newsletter

Highlights of the Fall 2017 Link newsletter are:

- ◆ Restricted Surplus Update
- ◆ Purchasing Maternity/Parental/Adoption Leaves
- ◆ Have you Signed Up for Voluntary Contributions?
- ◆ Amendments to *The Teachers' Pensions Act* Passed
- ◆ Upcoming TRAF Webinars
- ◆ July 2017 Retirement Statistics
- ◆ Investment Q & A

You can access the newsletter here:

<https://www.traf.mb.ca/images/stories/Newsletters/Link/Fall-Link-2017.pdf>

Educator Assistance Program

Did you know that an Educator Assistance Program counsellor comes to Winkler on a monthly basis?

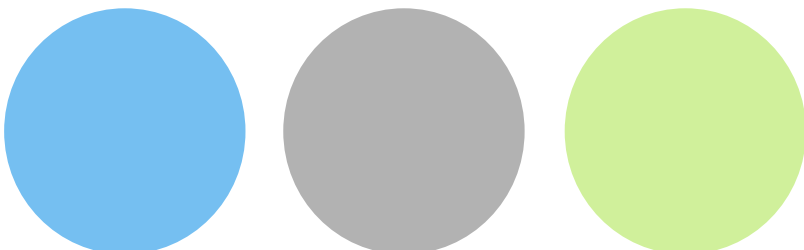
What EAP Does:

Offers counselling sessions in French and English with its professional counsellors:

- To provide confidential and voluntary professional counselling and referral services for MTS members.
- To provide help and intervention at an early stage of difficulty.
- To enhance the health of members.
- Individual and relationship counselling available

Common Issues include:

- Enhancing self-care in a stressful environment.
- Dealing with changes and transitions.
- Improving professional and personal relationships.
- Coping with loss, separation, divorce.
- Recognizing and addressing burn-out, depression, stress, anxiety.
- Addressing relationship concerns.
- Addressing emotional trauma from work or other situations.
- Dealing with harassment or abuse.



Contact information:

Phone: 204-837-5801
Toll-free: 1-800-378-8811



1. **GVTA Executive Retreat:** On Tuesday, November 7th, the GVTA Executive held our annual retreat.
 - a. Our morning began with a presentation from Karen Wurr, Case Manager for Garden Valley with the Manitoba Teachers' Society Disability Benefits Plan. She spoke to the process that DBP uses for intake and case management. Ideally, they would have the opportunity to work with teachers before teachers reach the point where they feel they can no longer go in to work. Early intervention is key to success. Teachers who feel that they could use some assistance managing physical or emotional stress should call the plan office at 1-866-504-9373 (toll free).
 - b. We then worked with Terry Price, MTS Staff Officer in Professional and French Language Services. We worked on GVTA strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The work we did here will guide us moving forward.
2. **TRAF Webinar on Voluntary Contributions:** The Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund has a program where teachers can make voluntary contributions as payroll deductions. They presented a webinar on October 25 to this effect. The recorded webinar is now available for all members in the "AudioVisual Archive" of the secure portion of the TRAF website (at www.traf.mb.ca). The form for voluntary contributions can be found here: https://www.traf.mb.ca/images/stories/School/ReportingResources/VC_Application_November-14-17.xls
3. **Equity & Social Justice and Indigenous Education:** GVTA has separated Equity & Social Justice and Indigenous Education into two separate portfolios, to help with the release time needed to attend professional development in these areas.
4. **ESJ Book Club:** Beginning in February or sooner, we are looking for someone to lead the ESJ Book Club which is about 15 members who meet on the first Wednesday of the month at CK's for food, drink, and discussion of a new book every two months. Contact your school rep or Joel.
5. **Maternity Leave Top-Up Grievance Settlement:** These grievances have been resolved. As of July 1st, 2017 all mothers will receive the same top-up for the first 17 weeks of their maternity leave regardless of what time of year they give birth. Many thanks are extended to the three teachers who filed grievances so that future mothers can receive this benefit, and thanks to the Board for offering a solution which will see all mothers treated equally.
6. **GVTA Executive Openings:** There are vacancies on the GVTA Executive for Professional Development Co-Chair, Equity & Social Justice Co-Chair, Indigenous Education Co-Chair, Vice-President, and as of February 3, 2018, Equity & Social Justice Chair. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Joel.
7. **Next Executive Meeting:** All members (teachers, clinicians, substitutes, and those on leave who have worked at least one day this year) are always invited to our monthly meetings, which are the first Tuesday of the month at NPC in Room #103 at 4:15pm. If you are planning on attending, please contact Joel so that he can make sure there's enough food for supper! The next meetings are December 5, January 9, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, & June 5.
8. **Save the Date:** Our Annual General Meeting where we pass the budget and hold elections is set for Tuesday, May 29 after school. Please set some time aside to join us. Let your school rep know how we can incentivize this event for you.