

Garden Valley Teachers' Association

The Apple Core

March 2019

Upcoming

Events

GVTA Executive meetings:

- April 2
- May 7
- June 4

Held at GVC and begin at 4:00. All members are welcome

Other Events:

- March 25-29th Spring Break
- April 3rd–ESJ Bookclub, 4:00 pm, CKs
- April 10th–Day of Pink
- April 12-13th–MTS Hockey Tournament in Morris



Greetings, GVTA-ers!

These continue to be interesting times. Hot off the presses is news that Dr. Avis Glaze has been appointed as the lead consultant for Manitoba's K-12 Education Review. Dr. Glaze recommended sweeping changes to the Nova Scotia education system, many of which were then implemented. There were 22 recommendations – some beneficial, and some concerning. Here are a few of the notable recommendations:

Removing principals, vice-principals, and "other supervisory staff" from the local bargaining unit: This left these employees in a non-unionized position,

unable to bargain for salary or working conditions, and without the job security that the union provides – permanent contracts are teacher contracts, and these members would no longer be "teachers first". They were given a year to decide if they wanted to return to the classroom, or if they would stay in their roles and be withdrawn from the union and the collective bargaining process

- Eliminating school boards: school divisions are now run in Nova Scotia by a Provincial Advisory Council of Education, with members of the Council appointed by the government of the day. Board offices were renamed Regional Education Centres, and superintendents are now Regional Executive Directors who report to the Deputy Minister of Education. Money saved from dissolving school boards is "reinvested" back into schools (at a net cost savings of \$0). Some of the money "saved" by eliminating boards is to support School Advisory Councils, giving parents more say in decisions about their children's schools. Councils will be able to decide how some of this funding is used in their schools.
- The creation of a provincial College of Educators, an independent body to license, govern, discipline, and regulate the teaching profession: teacher certification (currently handled by the Department of Education) and discipline (currently handled by MTS) would move to this "independent" college, to which teachers would pay additional mandatory fees. Every five years, members need to demonstrate to the College that they have continued their own

education and are fit to continue teaching.

Moving teaching support specialists (literacy & numeracy leads) out of regional education (school board) offices, and into classrooms: Support specialists roles involve "too much paperwork, data entry, and administration". The new requirement is to put their teaching abilities to work in the classrooms, with predictable, designated, and accountable schedules.

Building managers free principals from non-educational tasks.

- "Support" for accounting and financial functions of schools also removes this responsibility from principals
- **Create an independent Student Progress Assessment Office** to develop "high-quality student assessments," reporting results directly to the public on province-wide results, with results broken down by region, gender, economic status including marginalized communities.
- Her Nova Scotia report, a comprehensive review of the entire provincial education system, was based on 25 days of consultation (including weekends). There was also the opportunity for the public to respond to a 3-question online survey. The 78-page report can be found here: <<u>https://www.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/docs/</u> <u>raisethebar-en.pdf</u>>. The Nova Scotia news release on the resulting Education Reform Act is here: <<u>https://</u> <u>novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20180301001</u>>.

All this talk of Nova Scotia and Dr. Glaze is significant because our unproclaimed-into-law Bill 28 – which calls for monetary improvements to the collective agreement (including salary and benefits) not to exceed 0%, 0%, 0.75%, and 1% over four years – is entirely based on Nova Scotia's Bill 148 (passed in December 2015 but not proclaimed until August 2017), almost word-for-word. As Nova Scotia fights their court challenge over the constitutionality of their bill, government of Manitoba lawyers are working with them, due to our provincial government's stake in the outcome. Nova Scotia has been and continues to be - a model that Manitoba Government is seeking to emulate. While MTS and our other educational partners have not disputed the potential benefits of an open and transparent educational review, the appointment of Dr. Glaze does not foster faith in the process.

Initially, there was to be six months of research and six months to write the report. The end of March is nearly on us, and consultations have yet to begin. Based on the 25-day Nova Scotia model, it looks like the consultation process will be fast and furious once it begins. Deputy Minister Wishart has stated that the website will be launched shortly – "probably out before the first public meeting" – with a "pretty ambitious schedule" of public meetings beginning in early April.

The government has the power to make broad, sweeping changes to the education system. The model that they are following has removed power from the unions, pit member against member, and purposefully sought to divide and conquer those whose calling has been to serve the children of their community. These changes will impact what happens in classes across the province, affecting funding, curriculum, and leadership/management. Teachers, parents, and community members have an obligation to make sure that the decision-makers in government, as well as the review committee itself, know their thoughts on what is happening, and on what changes could be beneficial to students and curriculum. Letters can be written to your MLA, the Education Minister, the Premier, and to the Review Commission. The Commission is accepting feedback only until May 30th, and its e-mail address is <u>K12educationcommission@gov.mb.ca</u>.

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.

In the meantime, stay in touch with GVTA and MTS. Follow us both on Twitter and Instagram, and MTS on Facebook. Encourage your colleagues to read the *Apple Core*, if they are not already. Talk about teacher issues in the staff room, but also with your non-teacher friends. Help to keep the cause of public education in the public eye, and hold your politicians accountable for the work they do.

In solidarity,

Joel gvtapresident@gmail.com 204-384-5635 (call or text)

Indigenous Education

Submitted by Ashly Dyck and Roxanne Baraniski

The terrible history of Residential Schools and its sad legacy has been revealed through the work of The Truth and Reconciliation commission of Canada (TRC). Between 2007 and 2015 the TRC collected stories from survivors and witnesses to create a historical record of the residential school system's generational impact on Indige-

nous Canadians. The commission's 94 calls to action aim to guide our national, provincial, and local efforts to reconcile the hurts of the past and move forward together. The message we need to hear is simple:



Together, Canadians must do more than just talk about reconciliation; we must learn how to practise reconciliation in our everyday lives—within ourselves and our families, and in our communities, governments, places of worship, schools, and workplaces. To do so constructively, Canadians must remain committed to the ongoing work of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships. (TRC, "What we Learned", pp. 126).



As educators in Manitoba public schools, we have an opportunity to practise reconciliation everyday- with our students, with our colleagues, and in our community. One small way to start the conversation about reconciliation is to participate in Orange Shirt Day. Our participation sends a message that "every child matters" and acknowledges that we

know better and we want to do our part to do better. In November of this year, our IE committee along with GVTA, made a presentation to the Board requesting a division wide recognition of Orange Shirt Day. The Board has since approved schools to recognize Orange Shirt Day (September 30 annually) and allowed that each individual school make their own plans for this day. We encourage that schools make this day part of their planning in the fall.

Provincial Bargaining

Submitted by Mike Urichuk

On Monday, March 18, 2019 Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen is set to introduce legislation that will change collective bargaining in Manitoba. As I write this, there is a lot of uncertainty as to what exactly is in this legislation not to mention how it will affect all of us. Although not necessarily linked, this legislation could be the government's first step toward amalgamations and/or the elimination of school boards. When faced with change and uncertainty, it is easy to slide into a flurry of "what ifs" and anxiety when we should focus our energy on finding tangible actions that we can do to impact the present situation. I would like to clearly and simply pass along some information to you in hopes that you find it helpful and actionable.

What We Know

In spring of 2019, the provincial government will introduce The Public Schools Amendment Act (Centralized Teacher Bargaining) to replace the current system of local bargaining with provincial bargaining.

This means that moving forward all collective agreements for MTS members will be negotiated at a single provincial bargaining table.

If the Bill passes through the reading and committee stages smoothly, it will become law by the date specified in the legislation.

MTS Position

MTS supports single tier provincial bargaining with a uniform collective agreement for all members, subject to the following conditions:

Teachers remain governed by the Labour Relations Act.

MTS will bargain directly with the Province of Manitoba.

Bargaining must be free, fair, and with an open scope.

The mechanisms for dispute, whether sanctions or interest arbitration, must be without limitation.

The best provisions from existing collective agreements should be the standard for the new contract.

The membership of MTS will remain as it currently exists.

What Can I Do?

After the Bill has received First and Second Reading, it is referred to a Standing Committee of the House. At this stage, you may make oral presentations or offer written submissions expressing your opinions and concerns. You must register with the Office of the Clerk by calling (204) 945-3636 to make an oral presentation on a piece of legislation at Committee stage.

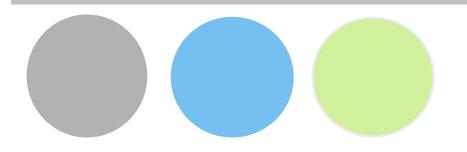
If you simply want to express your opinion on the Bill but do not wish to present, you can contact either your MLA or the Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen.

You can also attend a Committee Hearing to show your support for colleagues who are speaking to the Bill. You do not have to register to attend. Committee meetings are held in Room 254 and/or 255 of the Legislative Building.

We encourage you to stay informed on this issue and many more by connecting with MTS on social media, updating your profile in *MyProfile* and visiting the MTS website.

Travelling during spring break? Don't forget to check out your Travel Health Benefits coverage. Information can be found at www.mpsebp.ca





Searching for Women Trailblazers to Mark Manitoba's 150th

From the Winnipeg Free Press, March 8th, 2019

The Nellie McClung Foundation is looking for female Manitoba trailblazers in advance of the province's 150 anniversary.

Along with the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the foundation wants to hear stories about the women who made this province great and is launching a search for 150 female trailblazers at <u>wfp.to/trailblazers</u>. To be considered a trailblazer, a woman must have worked, volunteered or played a role that was first in her field or had a significant effect or outcome on society in Manitoba.



CP PICTURE ARCHIVE/National Archives of Canada

To be considered a trailblazer, a woman must have worked, volunteered or played a role that was first in her field or had a significant effect or outcome on society in Manitoba. They are role models who demonstrated true leadership and will have reflected the spirit of Nellie McClung, Manitoba's outspoken leader for the women's vote. To qualify, the trailblazer must have lived a significant portion of their lives in the territory now called Manitoba. They can be living or deceased. Organizations or individuals can make the nomination. The Nellie McClung Foundation is well aware not all history is documented in official record books. "We know that women's history is often recorded in minutes from meetings or more informally, for example, retold in family oral histories or diaries," foundation chairwoman Doris Mae Oulton said. "That's why we'll allow individuals to be nominated on the basis of those non-traditional records or other documents like newspaper clippings or minutes from community meetings." Oulton says the foundation is particularly interested in hearing from Indigenous and Métis women who have played an important role in the formation of Manitoba. "Too often, their histories have been ignored," she said. "They have important stories to tell about being the first in this province." The histories can be the first midwife in the area, the first female newspaper publisher, the first woman to run the grain elevator or the first to staff a schoolroom in a community. All are interesting and important "firsts" to be celebrated in Manitoba. The trailblazers will be named at an event at the Manitoba Museum for the province's 150th anniversary on May 12, 2020. The deadline for submitting an application is Nov. 29. Only one submission per person or organization will be permitted.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT ASAP!!

MTS is asking for your input regarding **Glucose Monitoring Machines** (GMM). The plan has had a few calls and written requests for inclusion of these machines and sensors for much broader coverage

Questions:

- should sensors be added to our formulary as an additional "drug" much like HEP A+B and Shingles -should a separate category be created for GMM's with a reasonable cap

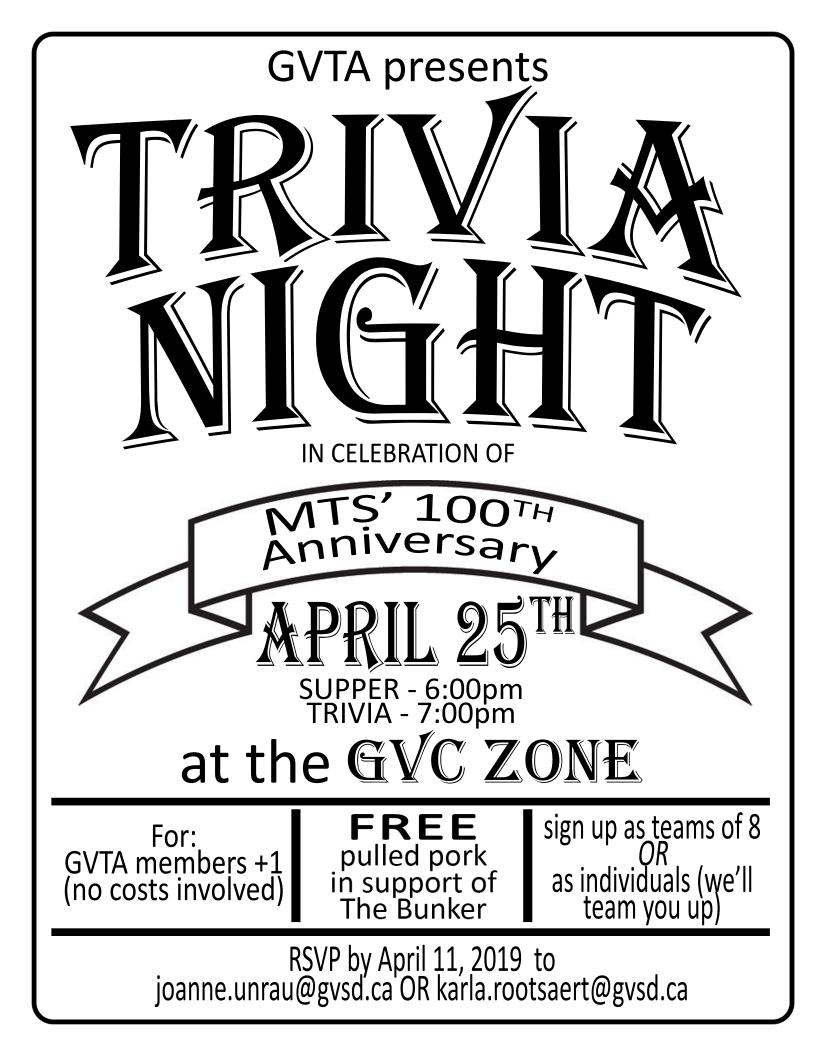
Glucose Monitoring Machines

Fairly recent development (2-3) years in Diabetes monitoring

- Most recent product Freestyle Libre- and more frequent prescription or usage of these machines and sensors Machines are subcutaneous monitor, (not blood), that consists of a machine and replaceable sensors, usually on a shoulder, that can be read by cell phones. It allows the patient to monitor their blood glucose at any time, or by a cell phone notice, without the need for test strips and needles.
- The cell phone notice product also allows the person to be awakened, by their phone if blood glucose levels become too low or too high. (note: in all the systems the person must still administer Insulin the injection system are insulin pumps separate category) A comment of some of the Diabetics is that the machines are particularly beneficial to diabetic children.
- Presently the machines and sensors are only covered as unlisted medical appliances and therefore can be reimbursed for 80% to a lifetime maximum of \$500.00 (Test strips and lancets are presently listed under Pharmacare and therefore qualify under the MPSE plan's drug category).
- It is becoming more common that the Freestyle Libre machines are free with the initial purchase of the sensors. The other machines are not free. Costs for each machine range from \$50.00 to \$200.00

GMM sensors – approximately \$89.00 which lasts for 14 days at 26/year = \$2314.00

Please email gwendolyn.heinrichs@gvsd.ca with your feedback!



MTS 100th Anniversary T-Shirts



MS The Manitoba Teachers' Society



[T-SHIRT FRONT]

MTS has designed a fantastic t-shirt to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the society. The design on the back is like a concert tour, with key dates in the history of the union. The MTS logo and the 100th anniversary logo are on the sleeves, with a black-and-white GVTA logo on the front (not pictured). The shirt is black, and GVTA is placing an order in April after the Trivia Night for May delivery. Shirts are \$24, with cheques payable to GVTA and sent to Joel at Parkland.

If you know of retired or former GVTA or MTS members that may also be interested in ordering, please send them to the order website,

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVTAMTS100>.









For more information and interviews: Raman Job, MTS Communications Phone: (204) 831-3057, toll-free (800) 262-8803, cell (204) 299-6409 Email: <u>rjob@mbteach.org</u> Twitter / Instagram: @mbteachers Facebook: manitobateachers

For immediate release

March 11, 2019

Manitoba Curriculum Support Centre to close April 1

'Bad faith' blow to teachers during Government's education review

Manitoba teachers are extremely concerned about the provincial government's decision to close the Manitoba Curriculum Support Centre on Monday, April 1.

"We are frankly shocked that Manitoba teachers had no input into such a pivotal decision, especially during an education review that was billed as wide-open and free of pre-conceived ideas," says MTS President Norm Gould.

Gould says moving core resources that teachers use to an online format may have pros and cons. "But the fact that the Society, which represents more than 15,000 professional educators across the province, was not informed nor consulted is disrespectful and an act of bad faith.

"These recent announcements are taking place without any regard to stakeholders' input or interests. Why isn't this part of the work of the Manitoba's Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education?" asked Gould.

The Society will ask for a full accounting and rationale for the decision to close the Centre.



Bill 12: The Workplace Safety and Health Amendment Act

March 12, 2019

Since coming to office, Brian Pallister's government has consistently shown it places little value on keeping workers safe on the job.

They have already eliminated the Minister's Advisory Council on Workplace Safety and Health as well as the Brandon and District Worker Advocacy Office. They have made deep cuts to workplace safety and health, and the number of workplace inspections has declined since they came to office.

This past fall, they weakened child labour laws by setting the minimum working age at 13, meaning kids who are a full year younger than our neighbours in Ontario and Saskatchewan can get permits to work. And even though hearing loss is one of the most common workplace injuries, the Pallister government has lowered the standards for testing hearing on the job.

Now, the Pallister government has introduced Bill 12, which amends the *Workplace Safety and Health Act* in several respects that weaken, not strengthen, protections for workers in their places of work.

When they introduced the bill yesterday, they focused on the fact that the bill would double the maximum amount for penalties for offenses. But given the fact that this government has already consistently declined to apply the maximum penalties at their current level, we have no reason to believe they would enforce higher maximums. Higher penalties can only serve as a deterrent if government is willing to invest the needed resources into enforcement, and follow through with stiff penalties on offenders – so far, this government has failed to do either.

The reason they wanted to focus on this yesterday was to mask the other bad elements of the bill.

After requesting and receiving many submissions on needed changes to the Act from labour, business, health and other stakeholders, and after requesting and receiving comprehensive advice from the (now disbanded) Minister's Advisory Council on Workplace Safety and Health on the same, the Pallister government has elected to ignore the advice it received and barrel ahead with its own agenda of putting workers' safety last.

Bill 12:

- Eliminates the important position of Chief Prevention Officer, which was established to be an independent public watch dog to ensure continuous progress and accountability on workplace health and safety.
- Gives heavy-handed powers to the Branch to dismiss workers' health and safety appeals without proper due process or a hearing at the Manitoba Labour Board.
- Imposes a new arbitrary time limit on workers' ability to defend themselves in cases where workers face unfair retaliation from their employers for sticking-up for their health and safety rights.

In bringing forward Bill 12, the Pallister government has rejected calls from labour for:

- A strengthening of workplace mental health protections;
- A comprehensive strategy to tackle asbestos, the number one cause of occupational deaths in Canada, including the creation of a full public buildings registry and minimum training standards for workers doing the very dangerous work of asbestos remediation and disposal;
- A new 5-year Prevention Plan, to replace the plan that expired last year;
- Better training for worker and employer Health & Safety Committee members;
- Mandatory, timely and prevention-oriented investigations for workplace fatalities and other critical incidents;
- Guarantees that any Workplace Safety and Health Orders be shared with Health & Safety Committee and unions;
- Rules to protect workers from unsafe Engineered Labour Standards, which require workers to perform tasks so quickly that safe work practices cannot be followed; and
- Re-establishment of the Minister's Advisory Council on Workplace Safety and Health, which formerly brought together labour, business and technical experts – all serving as volunteers - to give evidence and experience-based advice to government to keep workplaces safe.

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Transforming Teaching Together

Collaborative learning team grants are available to support teacher-initiated professional learning through a facilitated inquiry process

Guidelines and applications available online

Deadline for applications: May 1st, 2019

CONTACT: Cheryl Chuckry, Professional and French Language Services EMAIL: cchuckry@mbteach.org PHONE: 204-831-3061











Interested in Coaching Collaborative Learning Teams? Join the CL Facilitator Team

Collaborative learning offers educators a powerful means to impact change when they engage in shared work to solve problems of practice, overcome challenges, and improve instruction to enhance student learning. The MTS CL Facilitator Team aims to support collaborative learning teams as they undertake action research and/or inquiry study groups, through:

- Instructional coaching
- Professional dialogue facilitation
- Support and guidance as teams move through the inquiry process

The Manitoba Teachers' Society is seeking outstanding classroom teachers, principals, resource teachers, counsellors, clinicians, coaches, and consultants representing all grade levels and subject areas from across the province to facilitate collaborative learning teams who have received an MTS grant.

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITMENT

CL Team Facilitators are asked to make a two-year commitment, renewable to a maximum of six consecutive years. Successful candidates will facilitate three Collab-Lab sessions with a team each year for which the Society covers leave time and associated expenses. CL Team Facilitators are required to attend coach training seminars and Collab-Lab design days at McMaster House. Release time (for school days) and associated expenses are paid.

Summer Seminar: August 27, 28 & 29, 2019

Fall Seminar: September 27 & 28, 2019

Winter Seminar: November 1 & 2, 2019

Deployment Debrief & Reflection Day: May 2, 2020

CRITERIA FOR CL TEAM FACILITATOR CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT

MTS members who:

- are in good standing, actively working in the public school system;
- have a variety of teaching experiences;
- have demonstrated leadership and communication skills;
- have training and/or experience in the professional development of adult learners;
- have an interest in obtaining instructional coach training and experience.
- have the ability to commit to a minimum two-year term, including training & design days; and
- are willing to travel within Manitoba for deployments.

Please note that instructional coach training or experience is an asset.





APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- 1. **Cover Letter of Interest** including, at minimum, the following information:
 - Current position;
 - Reason for applying; and
 - Area(s) of interest/experience
- 2. Current Resume including, at minimum, the following information:
 - Name, MTS number, and contact information
 - Teaching experience (grade levels and subjects taught);
 - Leadership experience (this does not have to be in formal positions);
 - Successful collaboration experiences
 - Languages spoken;
 - Academic credentials/Other certifications or highlights;
 - Recent professional development (within the last five years); and
 - School/Community/Association activities, committees, etc...
- 3. **Two Letters of Recommendation** (one of which should be from your principal/vp or superintendent), that speak to your knowledge, skills, and abilities in:
 - Communication;
 - Collaboration;
 - Leadership;
 - Facilitation skills; and/or
 - Experience/expertise

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Advise your principal and/or superintendent that you are applying to the CL Facilitator Team
- Submit your application by April 8, 2019 @ 4:00 pm
- Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to schedule an interview
 - Where possible, interviews occur at your school site at a mutually agreed-upon time
- Successful candidates will be notified by June 2019

Please send your cover letter of interest, resume, and letters of recommendation to:

Cheryl Chuckry

Staff Officer Professional and French Language Services The Manitoba Teachers' Society 191 Harcourt Street Winnipeg, MB, R3J 3H2 cchuckry@mbteach.org

Consideration is given to the appointment of people in such a manner as to reflect the diversity of Manitoba's population. We encourage all qualified individuals to apply.

The Manitoba Teachers' Society understands the importance of its members' privacy and the sensitivity of personal information, and it is committed to protecting privacy in its collection, use, and distribution of personal information. Please refer to our policy online for information about how the Society manages its members' personal information and safeguards privacy: http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/06/mts-privacy-policy-english/

INTERESTED IN FACILITATING WORKSHOPS? Join the Teacher-Led Learning Team (TLLT)

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

Cover Letter of Interest including, at minimum, the following information:

Current position;

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- Reason for applying; and
- Area(s) of interest/experience

Current Resume including, at minimum, the following information:

- Name, MTS number, and contact information
- Teaching experience (grade levels and subjects taught);
- Leadership experience (this does not have to be in formal positions);
- Languages spoken;
- Academic credentials/Other certifications or highlights;
- Recent professional development (within the last three years); and
- School/Community/Local/ MTS activities, committees, etc...

The Manitoba Teachers' Society is seeking outstanding classroom teachers, principals, resource teachers, counsellors, clinicians, coaches, and consultants to design and deliver workshops. Members of the Teacher-Led Learning Team are leaders, learners, and collaborators who share a passion for professional learning. The work of the team attracts members who are reflective, energetic, collaborative, and creative: This commitment is both intense and rewarding, and team members report that the work and learning on the team enriches overall performance in their daily teaching and leadership roles.

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITMENT

TLLT is a two-year appointment, renewable to a maximum of six consecutive years. Successful candidates deliver up to four workshops per year for which the Society covers leave time and associated expenses. TLLT members are required to attend training seminars and design days at McMaster House. Release time (for school days) and associated expenses are paid.

Summer Seminar: August 27, 28, 29, 2019

Fall Seminar: September 27 & 28, 2019

Winter Seminar: November 1 & 2, 2019 Deployment Debrief & Reflection Day: May 2, 2020

CRITERIA FOR TLLT CANDIDATES

MTS members who:

- · have a variety of experiences and roles;
- have formal or informal leadership experience;
- are willing to travel within Manitoba for deployments;
- have demonstrated interpersonal, leadership and communication skills;
- are in good standing, actively working in the public school system;
- have interest and/or experience in the professional development of adult learners; and
- have the ability to commit to a minimum two-year term, including training & design days.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Advise your principal and/or superintendent and your Local President that you are applying to the Teacher-Led Learning Team
- Submit your application by April 15, 2019 @ 4:00 pm
- Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to schedule an interview Where possible, interviews occur at your school site at a mutually agreed-upon time
- Successful candidates will be notified by June 2019

Two Letters of Recommendation (one of which should be from your principal/vp or superintendent), that speak to your knowledge, skills, and abilities in:

- Communication;
- Collaboration;
- Leadership;
- Facilitation skills; and/or
- Experience/expertise

Please send your cover letter of interest, resume, and letters of recommendation to:

Eric Sagenes TLLT Team Leader The Manitoba Teachers' Society 191 Harcourt Street Winnipeg, MB, R3J 3H2 esagenes@mbteach.org



Consideration is given to the appointment of people in such a manner as to reflect the diversity of Manitoba's population. We encourage all qualified individuals to apply. The Manitoba Teachers' Society understands the importance of its members' privacy and the sensitivity of personal information, and it is committed to protecting privacy in its collection, use, and distribution of personal information. Please refer to our policy online for information about how the Society manages its members' privacy 2016/05/06/mts-privacy-policy-english/



- 1. **GVTA Bylaws:** GVTA is creating a bylaws document to go with the new constitution document we have had to create to align with MTS' documents. As a part of this process, a motion was passed at the February executive meeting which no longer necessitates a fall General Meeting. We will continue to pass our budget and have an election in the spring. A fall meeting can still be called should there be reason to, it will just no longer be mandated. Over the next two months, we will also be discussing:
 - a. term limits for the President;
 - b. term limits for the Past-President;
 - c. reserve fund needs;
 - d. policies on electronic/school-based voting;
 - e. days of notice required for amending policy;
 - f. number of meetings missed by executive necessary to create vacancies; and
 - g. quorum at general meetings vs. the number of members required to force a general meeting.
- 2. **ESJ Book Club CLG:** The group is currently reading <u>Days of Destruction</u>, <u>Days of Revolt</u> by Chris Hedges and Joe Sacco. They discussed the first half in March and will discuss the rest on April 3rd.
- 3. **GVTA Bowling Night:** Many thanks to Social & Teacher Wellness Chairs Caitlin Parr (GVC) & Amanda Rempel (PDS) for all their hard work facilitating the GVTA Bowling Night for all GVSD employees on February 22nd.
- 4. **Summer Institute:** The Collective Bargaining Chairs and President are in discussions with the GVSD Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer about the terms of Summer Institute 2019, which would take place on August 26-28 for K-8 teachers who volunteer attendance.
- 5. MTS 100th Anniversary Event: Details have been finalized for the GVTA-MTS 100th Anniversary Trivia Night on April 25th in 'The Zone' at GVC. A Pulled Pork dinner will be provided by The Bunker at 6, with trivia beginning at 7pm. The event is open to all GVTA members and former members, and each member/former member is allowed a "plus one". People can register in teams, or not if not, they will be placed on teams. There will also be side games, with proceeds going towards Family Resource Centre. Registration is through Karla Rootsaert or Joanne Unrau.
- 6. **GVTA AGM Save the Date:** GVTA will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, May 28th at 4pm at NPC Rm 113. Please save the date. We will be passing a newly revised constitution, a new bylaws document, and some revised policies. All of the new information will be printed in the May *Apple Core*, as well as the agenda, the minutes of the November General Meeting, the proposed GVTA 2019-20 Budget, and nominee information on elections for the 2019-20 GVTA Executive. If you are planning on running for a position, please either talk to Joel, or submit your name to James Driedger (NPC).
- 7. **February GVTA President-Superintendent Mtg:** At their meeting in February, Joel & Todd discussed Policy EBCE on Weather Closures, the Manitoba Government's Education Budget announcement (0.4% increase for GVSD), the Manitoba Government's Education Review, and the book that GVSD leadership (trustees, senior administration, school principals and vice-principals, and resource teachers) is using for professional development, <u>The Ideal Team Player</u> by Patrick Lencioni. Joel has a copy of this book if you'd like to read it.
- 8. April GVTA Executive Meeting: GVC Room S230 at 4:15pm on Tuesday, April 2, 2019. All welcome, RSVP to Joel.