

Biography

Joel Swaan

Joel has taught for Saskatoon Public, Saskatoon Catholic, and Garden Valley School Divisions. He graduated from University of Saskatchewan (2003; BEd, BMus) and University of New Brunswick (2018; MEd), and holds a Certificate in School Leadership. Joel has primarily worked in K-8 schools as a music, band, French, and Grade 5 teacher, and as a substitute teacher and acting principal.

A union-involved teacher from the beginning, Joel has been a teacher on strike and work-to-rule in Saskatchewan in 2011: experiences unique within the Manitoba context. He pioneered Interest-Based Negotiations with Saskatoon Public, successfully negotiated for equal preparation time for all K-12 teachers of 285 min/week, and initiated Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation's study regarding increasing the number of male teachers in primary classrooms.



Joel and Sherie moved to Morden nine years ago and have three darling children: Huxley (6) is in French Immersion Kindergarten, Finian (3), and Ivy (9 months); two dogs, Spencer and Sophie, round out the family. Joel has been a proud union member of Canadian Actors' Equity as a director, actor, and stage manager, served on the boards of two non-profit theatre companies, and was a Big Brother for seven years.

Garden Valley Teachers' Association

- President
- Vice-President
- Collective Bargaining Chair
- Education Finance Chair
- Equity & Social Justice Chair
- Professional Development Committee
- Workplace Safety & Health Committee

Manitoba Teachers' Society

- Collective Bargaining Standing Committee Regional Representative
- Alternative Resolution Debate Ad Hoc Standing Committee
- Presidents' Council
- LGBTQ* Caucuses

Saskatoon Teachers' Association

- Local Implementation and Negotiation Committee (Bargaining) Chair
- Chief Electoral Officer