

# Election Statement

Joel Swaan

To write a position statement in March is a bizarre thing: what is happening in education today is unprecedented. Politically, there is only more change on the horizon. In these exceptional times, solidarity and innovation will need to be the bedrock of the Manitoba Teachers' Society.

As a local president, I am an advocate and representative who has taken purposeful time to listen to and learn from the members I serve. Our local has worked on two key concepts for members: accountability and engagement. Our engagement strategy has focused on mental health and well-being. For accountability and transparency, we created and implemented policies and procedures that provide direction for the president and executive.

I believe that politically, this is a time for teachers to remain diligent. The impact on MTS members, students, and families has the potential to be significant. With change on the horizon, the ability to be flexible, to bring big ideas to the table, and to innovate will be important.

*I have a demonstrated awareness of the need to work with the diversity of our membership.*

*I deeply understand process and work comfortably with policy and legislation.*

*I believe that now is an imperative time for thoughtful voices at the table. As a big-picture thinker with interprovincial teacher union experience, I believe I have something meaningful to contribute to the business of MTS, the welfare of our members, and the picture of education in our province.*

I respectfully ask for the opportunity to serve on your behalf.