

My name is Dan Turner and I am the president of the River East Transcona Teachers' Association, the second largest teachers' association in the province. I represent over 1800 teachers, hundreds of them, retired teachers.

On behalf of those 1800 teachers I am here to show my support for Bill 45. I have made an effort in recent months to present the various positions that have come out from both RTAM and MTS to our members. I have spent many days in schools, talking with teachers, active and retired, and I can most definitely say that the Sale Report and Bill 45 has the overwhelming support of teachers in the River East Transcona Teachers' Association.

It is important to note that RTAM does not speak on behalf of all retired teachers, I have spoken to many retired teachers, and those who have studied the positions of both RTAM and MTS are undoubtedly in support of increasing their COLA, as would be possible through passing Bill 45.

The basic fact is that we did not put enough money into the pension plan to pay the current benefit levels and especially not enough to pay a full COLA. Another important fact is that a guaranteed full COLA has an astronomical cost of over one billion dollars. That number is simply unreasonable.

So what happens if we were to raid the basic benefit to make changes to the COLA? In a few years what we won't be able to afford is not a COLA, but the basic benefit itself. Will retired teachers agree to cut their benefits? My guess is no. What will happen is either massive contribution increases for active teachers, cuts in benefits for future retirees, an increase in retirement age or some combination of these factors.

I hope that as you consider Bill 45 you will think not only about retired teachers, but also the thousands of teachers counting on our pension plan into the future.

Bill 45 is fair

Bill 45 is reasonable and

Bill 45 has the support of the 1800 members of the River East Transcona Teachers' Association.

Thank You,

Dan Turner  
President  
River East Transcona Teachers' Association