

My name is Jamie Krutkevich.

I am here to show my support for Bill 45, the amendments to our pension plan.

I have been teaching for several years and I hope to retire one day. That is why I am here.

Each month a large chunk of my salary goes towards my pension plan. I really don't think about that money very much. I just trust that when I'm ready to retire my pension will be there.

I elect the provincial executive of The Manitoba Teachers' Society to look after things like my pension plan so I can concentrate on what I do best—teach.

One of the things I teach my students is how important it is to take responsibility for your actions, especially when you make a mistake.

I've been following this pension issue very closely for several months. I've read the Sale Report, I've read RTAM's newsletters and emails and I've read the information that MTS has sent out.

One thing has become very, very clear to me, and that is that people made mistakes. Big mistakes. And from everything I've read—and heard—the people who made those mistakes are not taking any responsibility for their actions. In fact, they are blaming the very people that I elected.

I'm sure that you will hear many people make presentations about money, about contribution rates, or about how much COLA will cost.

But I came here to talk about honesty and integrity. It's not that I think the numbers and the money aren't important. As I said earlier, I've followed this issue closely and I understand completely the financial problems that our pension plan is faced with and what is necessary to improve and protect the financial status of our plan. What has troubled me more than any of that is how RTAM and its members have personally attacked my elected leaders. The emails and letters that have been published and widely distributed in the

past several months are not only disrespectful, they are absolutely shameful.

I would never accept the type of behaviour I've seen from my students. So I felt compelled to come here and tell you how disappointed I have been to see RTAM members dishonor the very traits that people respect in teachers.

I'm sorry that financial mistakes were made, and I'm willing to do my part to help make our pension plan secure and sustainable. I hope that this government does the right thing and passes Bill 45.

I'm proud to be a member of an organization that has been a role model and has demonstrated the kind of respect and integrity that I try to instill in my students.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

Thank you.