

# Election Statement

Norm Gould

As I reflect upon my time as President, Vice President and as a member of the Provincial Executive of The Manitoba Teachers' Society the essence of my approach on behalf of the membership remains consistent – It is all about RELATIONSHIPS.

The value of relationships cannot be understated or taken for granted; as they pay dividends in calm waters and stormy seas.

The very foundation of the work that we do on a daily basis on behalf of the over 15,000 members is the ability to leverage these relationships in order to advance those things we share in common and rely on trust and respect to bridge those gaps when we disagree.

This has never been more important than it is today in the political climate we presently find ourselves. When forces are at work attempting to break down relationships, creating fissures where none have existed and creating doubt and mistrust, we must rely on those relationships and, more than ever, ensure the essential services provided by Manitoba's teachers are respected, appreciated and irreplaceable.

The Manitoba Teachers' Society continues to be the most trusted source on educational policy and issues anywhere within the province.

My pledge to each and every member of The Manitoba Teachers' Society is to continue to work tirelessly on your behalf, have those difficult conversations, advocate and defend the work that you do each and every day in classrooms and schools across this great province.

I am asking for your support and trust in me for two more years.

# Biography

## Norm Gould

Norm is in his 22<sup>nd</sup> year as a public-school teacher in Manitoba, and is completing his first two-year term as President of The Manitoba Teachers' Society.

In addition to his role as President of the Society, Norm is also the Vice-Chair of the Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund (TRAF) with assets in excess of \$6 billion and is also a Vice President of The Canadian Teachers' Federation.

While in office Norm has managed to complete his Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) designation and is presently enrolled in the Certified Employee Benefits Specialist (CEBS) program through the International Foundations.

Norm has completed extensive training in fiduciary and governance training, having taken courses through the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) and the Rotman School of Management. During his tenure as both Vice President and President of the Society he has worked tirelessly in establishing and fostering relationships of trust and mutual respect with educational partners across the political and educational spectrum in Manitoba.

Prior to his involvement with the Society he was the President of the St. James Teachers' Association following seven years as a humanities classroom teacher at College Sturgeon Heights Collegiate in St. James.

When he is not reviewing governance, bylaws, policy or meeting with representatives in order to advance the interests of the over 15,000 members of the Society or on behalf of the over 250,000 teachers nationally, he can be found at the family cottages at Grand Beach or Pointe du Bois, working in his garden or enjoying travelling with his wife, Jennifer.



# Election Statement

James Bedford

When I wrote my election statement two years ago I spoke of three critical factors that I believed we would be facing. We now face all three: a new provincial government that has wavered in its support of public education, a turbulent financial world, and attacks on union rights.

As demanding as the above issues are, a fourth concerning one is protecting and promoting the rights of our diverse communities. We have fought hard to make our schools safe and welcoming places for all students. I feel that we may now have to fight hard to maintain those necessary supports and programs.

Just as we have fought for many years for the rights of minoritized groups, and since 1919 for our labour rights, now we must fight for both. But what some see as crisis, I call opportunity. We have the opportunity to work with our many partners and our motivated membership to demonstrate that labour rights and human rights stand equitably. As I travel the province, I have discovered that these issues are already motivating the next generation of leaders, members who are asking what they can do and who are responding to the call. They expect to be provided with resources to defend public education and to continue improving their classrooms for every student, exactly what I intend to do. As Vice-President I shall continue to be respectful, accountable and trustworthy in those endeavours, as together we continue to build a stronger Society!

# Biography

James Bedford

James has been a classroom teacher of physics, science, and mathematics for twenty years. In those twenty years he has been married to Dawn-Lynne, has welcomed three beautiful daughters into the world, and has grown as a teacher and an activist in his Local and The Society.



Thanks to amalgamations, James has taught in three different school divisions without ever applying for a new job: Norwood, St. Boniface, and Louis Riel. Within these three Locals, he has served as Vice-President, President and Past President, as well as Council Representative, Benefits Chair, Collective Bargaining Chair and member and chair of numerous ad-hoc committees. One of his most rewarding experiences was assisting in the drafting of the LRTA Constitution and By-Laws.

Provincially, James has served on the AGM Ad Hoc Committee, two years on the Group Benefits Standing Committee, four years as an MTS representative on the Minister of Education's Certificate Review Committee, four years as an elected member of the Provincial DBP Governance Board, and Chair of that Board for one year. He has served as a Member-at-Large on the Provincial Executive, chairing the Executive Pensions Committee, the BGM Ad-hoc Committee and the Group Benefits Standing Committee.

For the past two years James has served members as Vice-President, in that time chairing the Audit Committee, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, the CTF-EI Committee and the Human Resources Committee. He has also been privileged to represent The Society on the Canadian Teachers' Federation Board of Directors.

# Election Statement

Richard R. Alarie

Hello. I am seeking your support for member at large on the Provincial Executive.

For me, it is important that all our members feel they belong to the Manitoba Teachers' Society. Our Society is on the cusp of its century mark and the accomplishments that have been achieved over the course of the past century are truly impressive. We must continue to defend the rights of teachers and of public education. Over the past decade, we have been successful in advancing many of the issues that are dear to teachers; there is still, however, much we must do for our members.

As a member of Provincial Executive, it is paramount that we continue to defend and expand our collective rights. We have recently had a change in political climate but our resolve must continue to be strong and united. Over the course of the years, I have done so passionately and, with your permission, wish to continue.

Teachers must always be consulted in order for the leadership of the organization to be certain it is going in the right direction. All of our members, wherever they teach in our beautiful province, must feel that their voice is heard at the Society. I will also continue to work for transparency in the work of the Society and work to bring all regions together.

I have always worked energetically to defend the rights of teachers and with your help, I hope to have the privilege to do so again.

# Biography

Richard R. Alarie

Richard Alarie is seeking the privilege to serve the teachers of Manitoba as a member of the Provincial Executive. The AÉFM endorses Richard's candidacy.

Richard has been involved in his local association, the AÉFM, since its foundation in 1994. He has been local association President for a number of years and has been on the Collective Bargaining Committee, Chairperson of the Public Relations Committee and school representative. Richard has worked hard to develop a comprehensive Harassment Article to the AÉFM Collective Agreement. This was obtained in arbitration in August 2007 and was the first of its kind for teachers in Canada!



Richard went to high school in St-Jean-Baptiste in the Red River Valley. He obtained an honours B.A. (Economics) from the University of Toronto, a B.Éd. from l'Université de St-Boniface and a M.A. in Political economics from the University of Manitoba. He is currently completing an Ed.D.

Richard has had the opportunity to teach from Kindergarten to S4, in rural and urban schools, throughout Manitoba and Canada and in a number of countries including Mali, Bolivia and Nepal. Richard is a published author of two children's books and in November 2002 has had a theatrical adaptation of his work presented to the public for three weeks. He continues to jog regularly and enjoys playing hockey with his children. Originally from Ste-Agathe, Manitoba, he presently resides in Winnipeg with his wife Danielle and their children, Luc, Eric and Myriam.

# Election Statement

Jeff Cieszecki

I began my teaching career during the 1990s, a decade that saw workers in Manitoba come under attack through legislation. Eighteen years later, we are again witnessing a time of regressive legislation perpetuated by a mislabelled financial crisis and a perceived need for austerity measures. We will most likely see our ability to bargain fairly be negatively impacted by future events. We have seen similar situations in Saskatchewan (STF), British Columbia (BCTF), and Nova Scotia (NSTU). We need to remember that what happens to our rights as workers today can take the better part of a decade to correct.

As we look forward to celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Manitoba Teachers' Society, we are reminded of the struggle organized labour experienced at the same time in 1919 Winnipeg and in subsequent years. With 70% of Manitoba teachers starting their careers after 1999, it is essential MTS provides to the membership a historical context and a clear message that MTS is strong and united. We will need to coordinate with public sector unions to defend services and jobs. We must continue to fight for teacher concerns such as fair collective bargaining, working conditions and salaries.

The Manitoba Teachers' Society needs to build on our collective accomplishments, the recognition of worker rights for teachers. MTS continues to work on behalf of its 15,000 members, and with your support, I would like to contribute to this effort on Provincial Executive.

# Biography

## Jeff Cieszecki

For the past two years, Jeff has served as an MTS Provincial Executive member on the following committees:

- Aboriginal Voice And Action SC (Chair 2016-17)
- Education Finance SC (Chair 2015-2016)
- SAGE Ad Hoc (2015-16, Chair 2016-17)
- CTF/EI (2015-17)
- MTS Audit (2015-17)

Jeff has also been a PX liaison with the following SAGE groups: CAEM, MMEA, MPETA, and MSCA.



Jeff is the President of the Seven Oaks Teachers' Association. At the local level, Jeff's portfolio has included Treasurer, Professional Development, Workplace Safety and Health, Employee Benefits, Collective Bargaining/Table Team, Superintendents Liaison, Board Advisory, and Constitution/Policy Review. Jeff was a member of the MTS Educational Finance Standing Committee (five years).

Jeff has been working in the Seven Oaks SD for 23 years teaching at the early and senior year levels. Jeff has taught General Science, Math, Chemistry, Physics, Space Studies, Engineering Design, and coordinated post-secondary programs. Jeff coached for over 30 years in the public school system and community.

Jeff's educational background includes a B. Sc. (Winnipeg), B. Ed. (Winnipeg), M. Sc. (North Dakota), and M. Ed. (Manitoba). In 2012, Jeff received the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence for his work in the field of Space Education.

Jeff has been married to Angie Cieszecki for 25 years. Angie is the Vice-Principal at John Gunn Jr. High. Their 14 year old son, Carson, is presently attending Miles Macdonell Collegiate in the Late French Immersion Program. Carson has been studying three languages as part of his public education: English, Ukrainian, and French.



# Election Statement

Ashleigh Deeley Michaluk

When first elected to the Provincial Executive, I pledged that I would advocate for and do my best for the teachers of Manitoba.

As a member of the Provincial Executive, my passion for helping teachers has grown even stronger. I've expanded my knowledge and had the opportunity to see the bigger picture for teachers. I've had the opportunity to meet and work with members across the province and had the chance to learn about their issues, challenges and concerns.

We've only begun to see how things can change in Education with a new government and now it's time to stand up for our rights. As I write this, the attack on Education and the Public Sector has already begun.

It's time to work with our brothers and sisters in the labour movement to ensure that our voices are heard. Engaging our membership is crucial as we need to stand together in solidarity.

As we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is imperative to know our history as we are in for the same kind of attack our colleagues faced in the past.

I am a peace time teacher, but I'm ready to fight. I will work tirelessly to protect your rights and to address your concerns. I will work for teachers in their classrooms who struggle to do more with less. That is my promise to you. I'll be your advocate every day.

I ask you to put your trust in me by re-electing me to the Provincial Executive.

# Biography

Ashleigh Deeley Michaluk

A graduate of Université de Saint-Boniface, Ashleigh has taught French Immersion in the Pembina Trails School Division since 2004. Ashleigh is passionate about teaching students en français and has taught grades K-4 at École Van Wallegem. Ashleigh continued on Provincial Executive while on maternity leave and will return to the classroom in September.



Ashleigh has been involved in her local Association since 2009. She first served as a school Council Rep and was quickly recruited to the PTTA Collective Bargaining Committee, Executive and Table Team.

Ashleigh held the position of PTTA Vice-President Collective Bargaining from 2012-2015. Her responsibilities also included chairing the Workplace Safety and Health and Education Finance Committees. She was proud to be chair of negotiations for the current Collective Agreement. She has held the position of Member-At-Large and Past President of the PTTA Executive.

Ashleigh has been a member of the MTS Collective Bargaining Standing Committee, Disability Benefits Plan Committee, and the Manitoba Teacher Review Committee. She has also served as Regional Coordinator on the Workplace Safety and Health Committee.

Ashleigh was elected to Provincial Executive in 2015. She has been the chair of the Teacher Education and Certification Standing Committee for two years. She also serves on the Disability Benefits Plan Investment Committee, SAGE Ad hoc Review Committee, and the CTF Advisory Committee on the Status of Women. She has served as Regional Liaison to the South Central and Metro regions.

Ashleigh and her husband, Kurtis, are proud parents to their ten month old daughter, London.

# Election Statement

Kerry Enns

I entered the teaching profession as many of us do – with desire to make society a better place through education. As a beginning teacher I focused all my energy on my professional practice and my students. As I progressed in the profession I began to see that teachers have to do excellent work in the classroom AND be advocates for their profession at all levels. MTS members have inherited a century of vision, hard work, and dogged determination from our union forbearers who audaciously believed in collective bargaining, due process, pensions, sick leave, maternity and parental leave, and salaries commensurate with education and professional status. It took effort to achieve these milestones and it takes effort from all of society to maintain them. Today, governments are forgetting that achieving excellence requires effort and commitment. I'm running for Provincial Executive because I believe in teachers and their calling. I want to lend my effort and commitment to preserving and enhancing gains we have made that have supported teachers and students. I want to be part of the team that reminds Manitobans about what a good thing we have in our education system and the teachers who make it possible. Education is an investment in people that is worth far more than any short-term benefit gleaned from the politics of manufactured austerity – it is indeed worth the effort.

# Biography

Kerry Enns

I'm married to Gina Mierau Enns, a French/Spanish teacher, and have two sons – Kieran (22) and Brendan (19) who study at U of W. I grew up on a farm close to Springstein, Manitoba, just west of Winnipeg. My dad was a farmer and my mother was a teacher, as were three of her siblings and two of dad's, so I suppose my career choice was a matter of destiny. After high school I attended Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) and U of M, earning B. Th. and B. Ed. Degrees. In my early 40s I earned an M. Ed. degree from the University of Calgary. I'm a Social Studies and English teacher who has also taught Religion, Computer, and Career Development courses during my 26-year career. I began teaching at MCI, an independent high school in Gretna where I also served as vice-principal for three years. I currently teach Social Studies and Career Development at W. C. Miller Collegiate in Altona. I've always been active in church leadership and chaired my church board for many years. I've also served on my local Co-op Board, on the CMU Board of Governors as vice-chair, and on town council as Deputy Mayor. I've been involved in my local association, BLTA, for a number of years, serving as Secretary, President (4 years), WSH Chair, and I'm currently serving as Vice-President. I've served on the MTS CB Standing Committee, WSH Standing Committee, and on the recent TTWAC.



# Election Statement

Albert Krynski

Through Albert's various experiences in teaching, presenting professional teaching activities, and working on various committees and organizations one thing is evident to him about teachers. In this era of political uncertainty and educational turmoil we, as teachers, must remember that we are ultimately here for one reason...to help the students achieve!

Provincial budgets, senior administrative demands, and public opinions all put stress on a teacher's workload. Stress ultimately manifest itself within the classroom and affects the students.

As a Provincial Executive member Albert will advocate for the Manitoba Teachers. He will work diligently to keep the lines of communication open between all stake holders in the educational system.

Now is the time to be proactive, not reactive. We must be part of the decision making process that affects our daily job and our students. We, as educators, must not only educate our students but educate society as a whole.

We must be the voice of reason.....we must 'Keep Calm and Teach On'

Please elect Albert Krynski to Provincial Executive and let him be a voice for you.

# Biography

## Albert Krynski

Albert was born and educated in Brandon, Manitoba. Growing up on a small family farm he learned the value of hard work and commitment.

Albert's teaching experience includes:

- South Korea teaching EAL
- Brandon Mental Health Centre teaching a middle years patient program
- Lynn Lake High School science and Lifeskills science
- Brandon School Division as an Itinerant Support Teacher
- Long Plain First Nation middle years all subjects and resource
- St. Pierre-Jolys in a behavior support program
- Portage Collegiate in Life-Skills



Albert has been an active member of MTS serving on the local collective bargaining team, Association Benefits Chair, and the MTS Education Finance Standing Committee. Albert is currently the PTS Vice-President and he has attended numerous MTS AGMs.

Albert's dedication to the field of education is apparent in the work he does with the students and his fellow educators. He has been a presenter of ideas at local, provincial and international levels, having been invited to Alabama and Paris as a presenter.

Albert is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his work in the Life-Skills program. He is an active member of the community having served on the Lions Club, the Portage Sea Lions and on the School Division FASD committee and an active member of McKenzie Church.

Albert is married to Laurie, who is also a teacher, and they have 2 lovely daughters, Olivia (11) and Andrea (8).

# Election Statement

Nathan Martindale

I have always been interested in politics. It's part of who I am and where I've been. But the average MTS member is not as engaged in their local association or the Society as we need them to be. Earlier this spring, the provincial government introduced legislation that seeks to cancel the K-3 class size initiative and freeze public sector wages. We can only speculate as to lies ahead. Whatever it is, we must work together to be prepared.

For the past few years, the term “member engagement” has been oft repeated at both the local and provincial level. We no longer have time to discuss and plan for the engagement of our members. We need to engage and inform our members, and we need to do it now.

How do we reach these members? What do they need from the Society? What does the Society need from them? These are questions that local executives, as well as the MTS Provincial Executive, need to consider.

From there, we need to move from member engagement towards community engagement to take our messaging to the next level. Members need to initialize conversations with their family, their friends, and their neighbours about the value in protecting all public sector workers, not just teachers. These conversations need to start now, and build in momentum leading up to the next provincial election so that we, along with other labour groups, can help voters make a more informed decision.

# Biography

## Nathan Martindale

Nathan Martindale is currently serving in his third and final year as President of the Winnipeg Teachers' Association. Nathan has been actively involved at the local level for the past 9 years, first as a Council Representative, then as a member-at-large and Secretary on the WTA Executive before making the leap to working full-time as WTA Vice-President for three years. Nathan chaired the Negotiations Committee from 2011 – 2016 and in the last round of bargaining the Table Team was able to improve working conditions for members by achieving a second personal leave day, family medical days and improvements to bereavement leave.



Provincially, Nathan was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Presidents' Release Time as well as the Workplace Health and Safety Standing Committee. Nathan is currently serving on the Collective Bargaining Standing Committee as the Metro Regional Co-ordinator.

As a teacher, Nathan's passion lies in the field of Special Education. Prior to teaching he had the opportunity to work as an Educational Assistant for 9 years, supporting students with an array of needs in a variety of educational settings. His teaching career began in a program specifically designed for students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. While working in this program, Nathan completed his Special Education Certificate.

Nathan is grateful for the ongoing support of his wife Karen, and is a proud father to Sierra (4) and Oakley (2). Nathan is a passionate Winnipeg Blue Bomber fan and active in Winnipeg's Ukrainian community.



# Election Statement

Cathy Pellizzaro

As we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MTS, we are thinking about celebrating who we are, the positive gains the society has made and reflecting on the struggles which we endured to get to where we are today. We have grown in many areas such as stronger bargaining practices, more women in politics, respecting indigenous voice, advocacy for human rights, etc.

The membership is faced with challenges. Anti-union movements and government priorities threaten to take away our gains and increase expectations on teachers.

In order to address these challenges successfully, we need to strengthen our solidarity at all levels – locally and provincially. Member engagement is vital so all members understand and can advocate for their human rights and those of their colleagues. This can be seen in many forms – dialogue, committee work (both locally and provincially), social media, our magazines, forums, collaborations, workshops, etc.

I have gained knowledge through my experiences, both local and provincial, to enable me to advocate for members and encourage member engagement. It is essential for us to maintain solidarity to continue to make positive gains in our union. I have experienced difficult challenges and am prepared to work with members so our rights can and will be protected.

United we stand!

# Biography

Cathy Pellizzaro

Cathy teaches Early Literacy Intervention with the School District of Mystery Lake in Thompson. She has taught Kindergarten to Grade 2 and Reading Recovery. She holds a Masters of Education in Literacy as well as a Reading Recovery Certificate. She co-authored 5 workbooks (Beaver Books) focusing predominantly on math using the Manitoba math curriculum.



Cathy is the President of the Thompson Teachers' Association and has served locally as Vice-President, Equity and Social Justice Chair, Benefits Chair and has been a member of the bargaining committee.

Cathy was a member of the MTS Equity and Social Justice Standing Committee for 5 years (Northern Regional Facilitator for part of those years) and involved in developing the initial definition of equity and social justice for the MTS policy handbook. She engaged members across the province through a variety of presentations on behalf of the MTS Teacher Action Cohort Team.

Cathy was a member of the Northern Regional Health Authority. She has presented on literacy locally, provincially at the MTS PD day and nationally at the International Reading Association Conference.

Cathy currently lives in Thompson with her husband Rob and 2 cats (Kitty and Macy). She enjoys travelling and watching old TV programs.

# Election Statement

Dawn Rigaux

I used to think that so many of our association's issues were just that – the issues of our association alone. It certainly felt that way when I was a young and inexperienced president of a small association.

If I have learned anything over the many years that I have served my local and attended countless Presidents' Councils, AGMs, regional meetings, and MTS seminars, it is that we are all the same.

We all have the same ideals, the same challenges. We all fight the same fight. I won't beleaguer the obvious by rehashing the current attacks on unions. If you are reading this, you already know what is at stake, but do your members? Does the public?

We are all educators, but we have to make our members learners. We need to amass our army and make our members and our communities understand what unions have brought them and what the government is threatening to take away.

If we are going to preserve our rights and the quality of education in this province, communication and cooperation are essential. We must communicate with each other, we must inform and motivate our members, and we must educate the public.

I have agonized over the decision to run for Provincial Executive as I strived to balance service to my union with my dedication to my classroom. I am finally at a place where I can do this, and there isn't a better time. I'm a fighter. I want you to fight with me.

# Biography

Dawn Rigaux

Dawn began teaching in 2002 and soon became involved in her local association. In her third year of teaching she became the Association's First Year Teacher Rep. From there she served as Secretary and then as Western Teachers' Association President for five years, a position that also included serving on the Workplace Safety and Health Committee, the Liaison Committee, the Supervision for Growth Committee and the Bargaining Committee.



Currently, she serves as the Association's Vice-President, Supervision for Growth Chair, and is also on the bargaining team and part of an association committee that is investigating the amalgamation of locals. She has fought hard to see her association succeed in bargaining, making substantial monetary gains in the last round.

Originally a farm girl from Swan Lake, Dawn is a fervent believer in community and giving back. She has run many fundraisers for local causes through her extra-curricular work and program, as well as independently. She has volunteered for many years at the Morden Corn and Apple Festival, the local art gallery, and is a proud member of the Morden Area Foundation Women's Giving Circle and walks for MS every year!

She is an avid curler and has been the coordinator of the Morden Collegiate Curling Program for many years. She has served as the Morden Curling Club's Ladies League President for the last two years.

She is a staunch advocate of work-life balance. When she isn't teaching, she enjoys learning – preferably by travelling to far off places.

# Election Statement

Cynthia Taylor

I am honoured and excited to be nominated for the Provincial Executive. I believe that my skillset as well as my genuine concern for members will allow me to provide effective leadership for the Manitoba Teachers' Society. Over the past seven years I have completed my Bachelor of Arts in Conflict Resolution Studies and this spring will complete my Post Baccalaureate in Indigenous Studies.

I believe in a Society that highlights its diversity and its varied needs. In order to truly engage our membership and grow our organization, we must be willing to call upon those who are reflective of a different lens and to challenge our own professional learning in being mentors and allies.

In a time of increasing unrest, our attention must stay true to the issues of our educational context: class size, increasing complexity of classrooms, workload and teacher-life balance. We require strong leadership and continued strength as a union to address the working lives of teachers and public education.

I believe that I am not a typical teacher in Manitoba; my perspective comes from being a woman, a visible minority and a first generation Canadian. My purpose is to shed light on the diversity of our organization and to allow others to share their stories and leadership expertise. It is my commitment to community and to the engagement of our membership that will allow me to be an effective member of the Provincial Executive and an advocate for all teachers of Manitoba.

# Biography

## Cynthia Taylor

Cynthia began her teaching career sixteen years ago in London, England. Upon return in 2002, Cynthia was hired by the Louis Riel School Division; the same division where she was born and raised. Cynthia has taught at the Senior Years levels in varied assignments that have included English Language Arts, Computer Science, Teacher Librarian and her current assignment of Student Services teacher at Glenlawn Collegiate.



Cynthia has been a very active leader in the work of the Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Louis Riel Teachers' Association for the better part of the last decade. Cynthia has served five years on the Equity and Social Justice Standing Committee and in addition has served three years on the Life and Honourary Membership Committee. Cynthia's leadership skills are evident as she serves on the LRTA Executive as Public Relations Chair. She was the driving force behind the MTS/LRTA PR initiative of "Fuel Up", a program to feed LRSD students in need. Her Public Relations portfolio also encompasses the LRTA's newsletter, the Rielity Check, a publication that is appreciated by members both within and outside of the LRTA. Cynthia's committee work at the local level has included Collective Bargaining, AGM, Public Relations and Terry Fox.

Cynthia believes in a Society that embraces and empowers its diverse membership. She is supported by her partner Christian and her two children Remy and Crosby who have shared their time to allow Cynthia to pursue those initiatives which promote advocacy and equity for all.

# Election Statement

Sandy Turcotte

As educators, we have the power to have deep, lasting, positive influence in the lives of our students. We accept this responsibility with passion and dedication. Today, educators face layers of heightened expectations from government, community, and parents with no end in sight. The provincial executive and MTS are dedicated to safeguarding the welfare, rights, and professional growth of teachers. I am seeking the opportunity to continue to serve the teachers of Manitoba in achieving these goals.

It is evident that the present government is not seeking to work collaboratively with Manitoba unions in the true spirit of collective bargaining. The teachers of Manitoba need productive, dedicated, passionate and experienced people working on their behalf to ride the wave of negativity, to stand our ground on educational and teacher welfare issues. We seem to have been down this road before. I bring an historical perspective of what Manitoba Teachers have had to fight for over the past twenty years and will use this experience to be mindful of the future as we fight the anti-union movement, the expectations to meet all the needs of growing diversity in our classrooms, loss of autonomy, mental health issues and impacts.

MTS continues to forge relationships with policy makers to ensure our rights and needs are considered and protected as the political landscape of Manitoba continues to change. I am a proud member of MTS. I am asking for your continued support for re-election as a member to the Provincial Executive.

# Biography

## Sandy Turcotte

Sandy Rodrigues Turcotte has been an educator for twenty-three years. Presently, Sandy works in the Seine River School Division the Social Studies and Indigenous Education consultant and school principal. She has worked in a variety of schools teaching grades K – 12 in both urban and rural settings.

Sandy Rodrigues Turcotte has a bachelor of education from the University of Manitoba, a Post Bach. in Numeracy Education from University of Winnipeg and a Masters degree in Special Education from Brandon University. She has completed level I and level II Manitoba Administrative Certificates and continues to improve her Français communication skills.



As an educator in Manitoba, Sandy has served for the last year as a member-at-large on MTS Provincial Executive. She chaired the Curriculum and Teaching Standing Committee, continues to be actively involved in her local association, which began in her first years as a teacher. She has served in various positions including President, Vice-President, treasurer, a member of the negotiating team and presently the PR chair for the Seine River Teachers' Association. She is presently serves as a member of the leadership team for The Council of School Leaders (COSL), serves as representative on the Social Justice Coalition Committee, co-chair of the 2020 CAP Conference and a member of the board of MauDEL.

Sandy has been married for 11 years to Gene. They are parents to their son, Charlton (10). They enjoy travelling, spending time at the cottage, boating, and biking. Sandy enjoys cooking, entertaining, music, piano, and theatre.



# Election Statement

Jonathan Waite

It is with great honour, pride, and humility that I seek re-election as a Member-at-Large of the Manitoba Teachers' Society.

We live in a time where public sector unions and their members are subjected to endless attacks by any number of critics. Through the introduction of legislation and other measures, it's clear that those in power deem it suitable to force measures onto our Members without negotiation or fair consultation. It's something we've dealt with before, and as history has shown, it will take dedicated leadership to see us through these challenging times. It will take determination, passion, and countless hours to make sure all members of MTS have the supports they need to be at their best for students in our public education system. As a Member-at-Large, I am ready to continue to serve, to fight for each of you and for all of us.

To dutifully represent all members of MTS, to be your voice and advocate for the past two years, I have reached out to directly to many of you. I have listened to your stories and have tried to help however I could. I've taken your messages and concerns and moved them forward to appropriate channels. As Members of this Society, you should expect no less from your elected officials, and I have taken my responsibilities very seriously.

By supporting me with your vote, you will allow me to continue to dedicate myself to all of you and our colleagues across the province.

# Biography

## Jonathan Waite

Jonathan is in his sixteenth year as a teacher in Manitoba, fourth as the President of the Seine River Teachers' Association, and second as a member-at-large of the MTS Provincial Executive.

Jonathan has been involved with his Local for the past eight years, first as council representative, then as Professional Development Chair and now as President. Jonathan was part of the teams that organized the MTS Hockey Tournament in 2012 and MTS Golf Tournament in 2016, both hosted by the SRTA.



As a member-at-large, Jonathan has chaired the Workplace Safety and Health Standing Committee, as well as the Technology and Teacher Workload Ad hoc Committee. He also sits as a member of the 100<sup>th</sup> MTS Anniversary Planning Committee. Previously, he was a member of the CTF-EI Ad hoc Committee, and served as Regional Facilitator for both the MTS Professional Development and Workplace Safety and Health Standing Committees.

As a teacher, Jonathan has worked in many settings, including as a middle years classroom teacher, a Phys. Ed. and Music specialist, and currently as the divisional support teacher for iPads.

Jonathan is a lifelong volunteer and has been part of many local committees outside of school. He has a passion for sports and has been involved with many minor hockey and baseball organizations. In the summer, you can find Jonathan golfing or hosting friends in his backyard.

Jonathan currently resides in La Broquerie with Jennifer, his wife of sixteen years, their two daughters Rebekah (14) and Hannah (12), and their dog Fuzzball.