

26. ELECTION STATEMENTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

- **Elections** will be held on **Saturday, May 26, 2018**. For 2018 – 2020, the following positions are up for election: six (6) Members-at Large for Provincial Executive for a two (2) year term.
- **Nominations**
The Chief Returning Officer shall accept nominations from Locals or from Members, qualifying Substitute Teachers or Plan Teacher Recipients who have been refused nomination by a Local, provided twenty-five (25) Members, qualifying Substitute Teachers or Plan Teacher Recipients have endorsed the individual's nomination, **up to 4:00 p.m. on March 1 in the year which a Provincial Council Meeting is to be held** and also nominations from Delegates **up to 2:00 p.m. of the first day of the Provincial Council meeting** if the nominee is endorsed by at least twenty-five (25) other registered Delegates.
- **Biography, Photograph and Election Statement**
Society policy provides that candidates may submit a photograph, biography and election statement (biography and election statement not to exceed 250 words – the word count will be strictly enforced) to the Chief Returning Officer **no later than 4:00 p.m. on the day nominations close** at the Provincial Council Meeting. The General Secretary shall arrange for the printing and circulation of the submitted materials to all Delegates prior to the Provincial Council Meeting or in the case of the material submitted at the Provincial Council Meeting, to Delegates prior to the election. Provide a colour head and shoulder photograph suitable for reproduction. If you do not have such a photo, please have one taken professionally and submit the cost to the Society for reimbursement. An electronic photo would be acceptable as well.
- **Reporting and Introductions of Nominees at the Provincial Council**
The Chief Returning Officer will report on the nominations and all nominees in attendance at the Provincial Council will be introduced.
- **Election Forum**
On **Friday, May 25, 2018**, an election forum will be held for all candidates. Each candidate for Member-at-Large will be given two (2) minutes to make a statement to the assembly. Following the speeches, two Provincial Executive candidates' names will be drawn to respond to a question. Each of the two candidates will be given one minute to respond. This will continue until all candidates have answered two questions.

- **Election Material at the Hotel**

Only one poster, to a maximum of 5,400 square cm (i.e. (80 cm x 67.5 cm) will be allowed on the Mezzanine Floor of the Fairmont for each candidate. Posters may also be placed in hospitality rooms. Posters may not be adhered to the walls of the hotel. Easels will be available in the Cambridge Room. Posting in the Lobby and Public Areas is prohibited without the Hotel's specific authorization. Only professional made signs may be displayed outside your designated meeting room. Nailing, stapling and screwing into walls, ceiling or floors or any other materials that would damage the property is strictly prohibited. The client will be held responsible for any damages done to the premises, prior to, during or following a function, by his/her guests or by independent contractors on his/her behalf.

Election Statement

Chris Darazsi

It's all about connections.

In a climate of austerity that is greatly affecting public education, it is imperative that we maintain connections with all members of The Society. On many school visits I've found that members are frequently craving information. They want to know what's happening, what they can do, and what's being done for them. Our members across this province are the grassroots of all we do and we need to use all resources available to engage all members of The Society.

It's times like these where we also see the impact of the connections we have made with other unions. We've watched as health care has taken a beating at the hands of the provincial government and the inevitable wave of underfunding has now undeniably made its presence known to education. We must stand with our fellow public sector unions as they will stand with us, and united we will fight for what is right.

It is essential that we maintain our connections with the community. Public education is the foundation of any successful society. We must make inroads into the social fabric of our communities and help kids and families in whatever capacity we can. There is no doubt that anything that helps kids and their families, particularly those in poverty, will have a positive impact on a child's education. I believe that communities will rally behind supports for their children.

I hope to represent you and every MTS member throughout Manitoba. Thank-you for your support.

Biography

Chris Darazsi

Chris started his teaching career in 1999, getting his first job as the itinerant band teacher in Flin Flon. Following that, he worked in the former St. Vital School Division which became a part of Louis Riel, before heading over to River East Transcona in 2005.

Chris is currently the Vice-President of the River East Transcona Teachers' Association where his portfolio includes chairing the Collective Bargaining Committee as well as sitting as the RETTA Chair at the Joint Divisional Workplace Safety & Health Committee. His local experience includes the 2014 Negotiations Table Team, the Personal Professional Development Fund, Board Liaison, Resolutions, and Public Relations Committees. He is also no stranger to "duties as assigned".



Chris' union experience has also included:

- MTS Metro Region Coordinator for Collective Bargaining (2017-18)
- MTS Collective Bargaining Standing Committee member (2016-18)
- MTS Curriculum & Teaching Standing Committee (2011-16)

Before serving as the Vice-President of River East Transcona Teachers' Association, Chris taught Middle Years band/music for 17 years exclusively in French Immersion schools. In addition to his involvement in music, Chris coached volleyball for several years. He is also an active donator of blood, platelets and plasma with 130 donations to date, is a vocal advocate for animal rescues in Manitoba, and enjoys travelling at every opportunity.

Chris currently resides in North Kildonan with his amazing partner Joanne, step-daughter Veronica, two rescue dogs Norman and Zoey, and a cat. He is grateful for the unwavering support of his family, friends and colleagues.

Election Statement

Cale Dunbar

I am humbled by my nomination for member at large of the provincial executive and grateful for it.

My involvement in the union started just months into my career when long-time PCTA executive member, Wilf Lehmann, tapped my shoulder. He took me to a bargaining meeting. The meeting was a blur, but I took away from it an understanding that teachers must work together to maintain and improve our working conditions. This idea has stuck with me. It has fueled my union involvement.

Now is a time when MTS members must be engaged more than ever before. Our collective bargaining rights, our pensions, our working conditions, and our stature as professionals are all under attack. I believe that a crucial task before us is to keep our members and the public correctly informed. We must ensure that ours is a strong voice in the public narrative. We must ensure that ALL our members are armed with the facts and can advocate our position as members of MTS.

In my experience working with local and provincial committees, I have gained knowledge into the operation and governance of MTS. I feel this involvement and education enables me to better serve the members of my Local. Now I would like to extend my knowledge and serve all Teachers in Manitoba.

I know the learning curve will steepen, if I am elected to the provincial executive, but I look forward to the challenge. I ask you to support my candidacy for member at large.

Biography

Cale Dunbar

Cale Dunbar launched his career in 2010 as a term teacher in Killarney. The following year, he accepted a position at William Morton Collegiate in Gladstone where he taught for three years. Cale is currently a member of the Math department at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School in Brandon.

Cale has fulfilled a variety of teaching assignments: grade 12 pre-calculus math, grade 9 EAL science, grade 9 numeracy support, and everything in between. Finding his particular niche as a teacher working with struggling learners.

Cale coaches both curling and baseball at Crocus Plains.

MTS involvement has been a constant and significant part of Cale's professional life. In seven of his eight teaching years he has played an active role in his Local as a member of many standing and *ad hoc* committees. He has been Benefits Chair, Collective Bargaining Chair, Constitution Committee Chair, and association treasurer. Currently, Cale is the Vice-President of the BTA, and a key player in the member engagement initiative of his Local.

At the provincial level, Cale has served three years as regional facilitator for the Workplace Safety and Health Standing Committee. Additionally, for the past two years, he has been a member of the DBP investment committee.

Curling is one of Cale's biggest passions. He is active in his local curling club, coaching, volunteering, organizing and competing. In the curling off-season, Cale enjoys spending time at the family farm in Souris, playing baseball, and golfing.



Election Statement

Kerry Enns

How quickly things can change! Recent decisions by the Government of Manitoba have threatened the integrity of the collective bargaining process, threatened teachers' hard-won gains, and cut programming that is essential for our students. It is times like this when we need to stand together and challenge the government's myopic view of education. We know that fair collective bargaining, fair salaries, and healthy working conditions are essential for top quality education to take place. Let us not forget, however, that an important part of our role is to "to advocate for a strong, viable and effective education system" (MTS Act, 3(b)). During times when the government is all-too-willing to make decisions with no consultation, we need to be vigilant in ensuring that planning, programs, support, and resources are available for our students. As CTSC Chair, I learned a great deal about how support for new curriculum implementation is being withdrawn by the government and how decisions are made without a wide base of effective data or any consultation. As a member of the Interorganizational Curriculum Advisory Committee (ICAC) I eagerly awaited the opportunity to share concerns with government counterparts. I was dumbfounded that not a single meeting was called by the department. So, I guess it's up to us. You have my commitment to fight for Manitoba teachers. I'm also committed to keeping the "How can we make it Better?" conversation front and center – our students deserve nothing short of the best and don't deserve a discount education.

Biography

Kerry Enns

Kerry Enns grew-up on a farm close to Springstein, Manitoba. After high school he attended university and earned degrees in Theology and in Education. Later in his career he earned his M. Ed. Degree. Kerry spent the first part of his career teaching in an independent school in Southern Manitoba where he also served as Vice-Principal. He made a mid-career switch to W. C. Miller Collegiate in Border Land School Division where he has taught in the areas of History, Technology, English, and Career Development. Kerry has served his local association as secretary, education finance chair, WSH chair, and as president. He currently serves as BLTA vice-president. He has served on the MTS Provincial Executive for one year and has chaired the Curriculum and Teaching Standing Committee. Kerry has served in a variety of volunteer positions including Church Chairperson, Gretna Co-Op Board Member, Vice-Chair of the Canadian Mennonite University Board of Governors, Town of Gretna Counselor and Deputy-Mayor, and he currently serves as an elected member of the Gretna Local Urban District Committee. Kerry is married to Gina (also a teacher). His sons, Kieran and Brendan, are attending university. Reading, mechanics, motorcycle riding, photography, music, and travelling to Ireland are first among his many interests.



Election Statement

Catherine Hart

I am seeking your support to be elected as a member-at-large on the Provincial Executive.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of MTS' work in support of teachers and public education, we are faced with reminders of just how necessary that work is. Fabricated crises are being used to undermine our collective bargaining rights and our professional integrity. Manitoba's healthy debt/GDP ratio has been misrepresented as a financial crisis requiring salary freezes, limited access to benefits, underfunding of education, increased class sizes, moves toward privatization, forced restructuring of bargaining units, and review of public sector pensions. Standardized test results have been insultingly and misleadingly framed as a crisis of teacher efficacy.

In the face of these challenges, MTS' role in communication with our members and our wider community is vital. We must mobilize members to know and demand their rights, and empower them to continue building bridges with all stakeholders in public education. Teachers are the public's most trusted source of information on education, and we will continue to build strong relationships based in fact-based dialogue and the outstanding work Manitoba teachers do for our students.

I am committed to ensuring that teachers have access to information, opportunities for action, and the tools to advocate for and create safe, equitable and inclusive environments for ourselves, our colleagues and our students.

Biography

Catherine Hart

Catherine Hart currently serves full-time as Vice President of Seven Oaks Teachers' Association. She joined the SOTA Executive in 2014 as Equity and Social Justice Chair and worked to connect teachers with resources to build capacity on social justice issues. Catherine has taught English and Social Studies at West Kildonan Collegiate and served as GSA advisor.



Catherine's current portfolio includes:

- Collective Bargaining table team
- Constitution/Policy Review
- Employee Benefits
- Superintendents' Liaison
- PD Chair
- WSH Steering Committee Co-Chair
- SOTA/Board Advisory Committee Co-Chair

Catherine has planned and facilitated workshops on privilege, oppression, and gender and sexual diversity with the Teacher Action Cohort (2014-2015) and the Teacher-Led Learning Team (2015-present). She has been a member of the planning committee for the CTF Women's Issues Symposium, where she facilitated a workshop on intersectional feminism in the classroom (2015), as well as the MTS 100th Anniversary Planning Committee (2015-present). Catherine continues to facilitate workshops on consent in Seven Oaks.

Catherine grew up in Brandon, MB. She graduated from Brandon University with a BA in English before moving to Winnipeg to complete her B.Ed at the University of Winnipeg. As the daughter of a lawyer and the author of the only Harlequin romance novel about climate change, it was inevitable that Catherine would develop a passion for advocacy. When she is not fighting for labour rights and social justice, Catherine is bringing her love of literature to the roller derby track as Hurt Vonneguts.

Election Statement

Albert Krynski

Through my various experiences in teaching, presenting professional teaching activities and working on various committees and organizations, one thing is evident about teachers, we work for our students. In this era of political uncertainty and educational turmoil we, as teachers, must remember that we are ultimately here for one reason and we must be united in this cause... to help the students succeed.

Provincial and Federal legislation, budgets, administrative demands, work place safety and public opinions all put stress on a teacher's wellbeing. Stress will ultimately manifest itself within the classroom and effect teachers and the students alike.

As a Provincial Executive member, I will advocate for Manitoba Teachers. We will work diligently to keep the lines of communication open between all stake holders in the education system. It is important, now more than ever, to present a united front. If you teach in the north, in a small rural community, or in the city, we face similar issues and we must remain united.

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 society as a whole.

We need all teachers to feel that they have a voice in the changes that are coming. I will advocate for you and present your concerns

Together we are stronger.

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 has a diverse teaching background, since 1995 he has taught overseas, in institutions on First Nations, and now in Portage la Prairie.

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 PTA Vice-President and the Work Place Safety and Health Association Chair. He has attended numerous MTS AGMS and has run for Member-at-Large.



Albert has presented at numerous local, regional and provincial conferences/meetings, sharing his ideas and work. Albert's work has garnered him invitations to present at international conferences; 2013 in Alabama, and 2014 in Paris, where he presented on the concept of Multi-Sensory Environments and Education. Most recently, in June 2017, he attended the International Snoezelen Conference in Granby, Quebec.

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 board, Brandon Barbarians Executive, Portage School Division and FASD committee. He is also an active member of McKenzie United Church.

Albert is happily married to Laurie, who is an Early Years Teacher. They have 2 lovely daughters, Olivia (12) and Andrea (9).

Election Statement

Cathy Pellizzaro

It has been an honor working as a member of the Provincial Executive for the past year. I fully appreciate the dedication and insight my colleagues have shown in their responsibility to strengthen and represent the profession. Thus far, the experience has taught me about the needs, goals and challenges facing the membership.

As we approach our 100 year anniversary, we have witnessed the resolve and victories by teachers. Victories we are all proud of. However, battles never stay won! We must stand determined to see the achievements of MTS and its members safeguarded and enhanced.

New challenges face the Membership. The Provincial Government and Bill 28 threatens to undermine wages and collective bargaining. Given my experiences, alongside my colleagues, I have been part of similar struggles in the 1990's. I have lived it, was laid off, re-hired, position dissolved and transferred. I know, to be successful in addressing the anticipated challenges, we must once again stand with purpose and resolve; it's in our solidarity that we find strength to be successful!

Our work is at its best when it reflects the virtues and values of our membership. We must act in a fair, open and transparent manner, ready to hear all viewpoints. The more we share our views and our passion, the more refined our decisions will be. This will strengthen MTS and thus secure teachers' interests. This is the MTS I want to work for in order to continue to serving the teachers of Manitoba

Biography

Cathy Pellizzaro

Cathy is in her 3rd decade of dedicated service to members of the Society. Throughout her career, Cathy has served locally in various capacities, including President, Vice-President, Equity and Social Justice Chair, Benefits Chair and has been a member of the bargaining committee.

Elected to Provincial Executive at last year's AGM, Cathy has served as chair of the Young Humanitarian Awards Committee. She initiated the change of venue for the awards night from the Fairmont Hotel to the Manitoba Theatre for Young People and date of the awards from May to April. She is building this important event in the 100 year anniversary of the Society's solidarity in bringing teachers, students and the greater community together to affect positive change. She has served as Regional Liaison to the Metro region.



Cathy successfully obtained the Certificate of Achievement in Foundations of Trust Management Standards (FTMS) on October 1, 2017. Her knowledge and understanding of governance ensures her decisions are always of a high standard and always in the best interests of Society members.

Politically, Cathy has assisted in several provincial election campaigns for the local NDP candidate.

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) focussing predominantly on math using the Manitoba math curriculum.

In her spare time, Cathy enjoys travelling.

Election Statement

Valérie Rémillard

The teachers of Manitoba work tirelessly making a difference in the lives of the children they teach and making countless sacrifices to ensure that their students receive the best education possible.

The current political climate is challenging for all teachers. We are facing dark days as our government is mounting attacks on our profession: attacks on our working conditions, on the future of French language education vis-a vis the Bureau de l'éducation française (BEF), the impact of Bill 28, and the threat of future amalgamations, pension review, and changes to school leadership. It seems we are not facing a time of progress; but rather a time of regression.

If elected to the Provincial Executive of the Manitoba Teachers' Society, I will work on behalf of the entire membership to advocate and protect our labour rights and the educational rights of our students. I will fight to ensure that schools continue to be welcoming environments where teachers are free to work and students want to learn.

As the Society celebrates its 100th anniversary, we must remember its mission in "advancing and safeguarding the welfare of teachers, the status of the teaching profession and the cause of public education in Manitoba."

As we move into the next centennial of our Society, it has never been more important for us to be united. Together, there is strength. Join me in defending and advancing our profession. With your support, we shall move forward. Merci!

Biography

Valérie Rémillard

Valérie has been a Manitoba teacher since 2000. She started her career in a rural community teaching early years in the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine. Most recently, she taught at a French Immersion high school in the Louis Riel School Division. Valerie is currently working toward her Master's Degree at l'Université de Saint-Boniface.

Valérie has completed her first term of office as the President of the Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba (ÉFM). Previous to her work in the ÉFM, Valérie served her Local as a school representative and the ÉFM chair on the Louis Riel Teachers' Association Executive for many years. Additionally, Valérie has served as a member of the LRTA's ESJ Committee and the Personal Professional Development Committee.



Provincially, Valérie has been very active as a member of the MTS Group Benefits Standing Committee, the 100th Anniversary Committee and as a member of the CTF delegation. She is presently part of the MTS Presiding Officers' Cohort. This year, she will be a delegate to her 13th Provincial Council.

In addition to being highly involved in the francophone community, Valérie is honoured to be part of the group *Les partenaires pour l'éducation en français*, Partners for French Education on behalf of MTS.

Valérie est née en Ontario, a grandi au Québec et habite le Manitoba depuis 26 ans. Elle aime danser le Zumba, apprendre l'espagnol, faire du camping et voyager. Elle est mariée à François depuis bientôt 24 ans et ils sont parents d'Alexandre 22 ans et Janelle 19 ans.

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 continues work in opposition to instead of 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-five 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. 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 two years as a member-at-large on MTS Provincial Executive. She chaired the Curriculum and Teaching Standing Committee, Professional Development Standing Committee and Special Area Groups of Educators Council. She 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 serves as representative on the Social Justice Coalition Committee, on the planning committee of the 2020 CAP Conference and a board member of MauDEL.

Sandy has been married for 12 years to Gene. They are parents to their son, Charlton (11). They enjoy travelling, spending time at the cottage, boating, and biking. Sandy enjoys cooking, entertaining, music, piano, and theatre.

Election Statement

Beatrice Walker

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character that is the goal of true education” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I feel strongly and deeply about the Manitoba Teachers' Society. Our members face many challenges; from ever increasing demands to limited financial resources and inequities.

The current political climate consistently undermines our profession and our union. Mandating provincial bargaining without any consultation and Bill 28 confirm the blatant disregard this government has for the collective bargaining rights of our members and all workers who provide public services to Manitobans. Further erosion to public education is manifested through the K-3 Cap removal and cuts to French language services. Flawed Numeracy and Literacy initiatives are based on the narrow lens of PISA and PCAP rather than a real strategy.

Working together we can make a difference. In a continuously changing political and social climate we must actively engage and mobilize our members by keeping them informed on issues important to them and to public education. To do so, we must continue to attempt to strengthen our relationship with government and advocate for a fully funded public school system. We must strengthen our profile in the public and establish relationships with other unions and professions. Our strength is in the collective.

Stay active. Stay informed. Stay united.

Biography

Beatrice Walker

Bea currently serves on MTS Provincial Executive and has served on the following MTS groups and committees:

- ✓ Workplace Safety & Health -Chair
- ✓ Group Benefits -Chair
- ✓ Teacher Education & Certification -Chair
- ✓ Teacher Ed. & Cert Minister's committee
- ✓ Curriculum & Teaching -Chair
- ✓ Inter-organizational Curriculum Advisory Committee
- ✓ Teamsters Bargaining – Administrative Staff
- ✓ Teamsters Bargaining – Support Staff
- ✓ CTF Status of Women (selected as a representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women)
- ✓ Young Humanitarian Awards - Chair
- ✓ Professional Code of Conduct Review Committee
- ✓ ESJ Committee
- ✓ BGM Ad-Hoc
- ✓ PD Committee Regional Facilitator



Bea Walker taught in Brochet, The Pas & Flin Flon. Her teaching assignments have varied from a combined grade 8 & 9 class, high school ELA and Math, to the Independent Learning Coordinator, Resource teacher and Adult Learning Centre Director in Flin Flon. Currently, her teaching assignment includes math recovery as well as EAL.

Bea served on the Flin Flon Teachers' association in a number of roles including: President, Vice-President, Bargaining Chair, PD Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Employee Benefits and is currently Public Relations Chair.

Bea lives at Bakers Narrows on the lakefront in the home she and Dallas built. She volunteers her "spare" moments by fostering for the local SPCA and is an executive member of the Flin Flon Heritage Project. She also tries to play guitar, fishes, snowshoes, and likes to take photos to record her personal vision of the world.