

## TOP ISSUES FOR MTS MEMBERS

### Bill 64:

- includes system-wide changes that lack evidence of their impact on improving educational outcomes—the stated intent of commissioning the education review. The status of principals and vice principals within the teacher bargaining unit is one such example. How does this improve student learning?
- introduces mechanisms for parent influence over decision-making in areas best suited for the expertise of trained teachers and principal teachers, including, but not limited to, staff hiring and performance evaluations, recommendations regarding priorities and policies on discipline management and analysis of student achievement.
- includes mechanisms to issue directives and requirements for system accountability that will increase standardized testing as well as publication and public comparison of test results. This will serve to widen existing systemic discrimination and inequities.
- requires the Provincial Education Authority Board to create an official province-wide policy ensuring families are given notice and the chance to opt out of “sensitive content” which includes health and phys-ed lessons involving human sexuality, substance use and abuse prevention and personal safety. Policy regarding sensitive content was introduced in 2005 and unfortunately Bill 64 has reinforced this antiquated approach to curricular content and failed to take the opportunity to empower students with knowledge to better understand and protect themselves and others.
- attacks local democracy through a public appointment structure that can be subject to politically partisan influence and loyalty, susceptible to appointment rescindments with or without cause, and indicates no structure to ensure diverse community representation.
- obstructs free and fair collective bargaining. Under Bill 64, the new teacher employer—the provincial government—requires arbitrators to take into account the ability of the employer—also the provincial government—to pay. Arbitration is the only dispute resolution mechanism for teacher bargaining, and it must remain robust, effective and fair.
- eliminates all school divisions and creates regional catchments that may not be equipped to respond to local needs, based on their size. This centralized structure could *increase* bureaucracy and high-level administration rather than reduce it.

While not all aspects of the BEST report appear in the Bill, the government is not finished. Through the establishment of regulations, the government can fast track changes that do not require introducing new legislation. MTS will be vigilant and intentional in our communication, both with the government and with you, to ensure protections for our members remain in place.