

Dear MTS member:

Yesterday, Minister of Education and Training Ian Wishart made a series of announcements that will have a profound effect on you, your salary and ultimately your pension in the near future.

- 1) **The Pallister government will impose provincial bargaining on you and your colleagues starting July 1.** This move was done without consultation with the Society and with complete disregard for you as an MTS member. We have grave concerns about this process. Bargaining is highly complex and no consultation seems to be a pattern in this government's dealing with teachers and other Manitoba workers. Be assured, we are committed to protecting your best interests.
- 2) **Your salary will be frozen.** Because of it, you as an individual teacher will lose about \$15,000 out of your family budget over the course of the next four years. In effect, you will subsidize the government's cost cutting measures.
- 3) **Your pension will be reduced by about 30%.** As a result of your pension contributions remaining constant during this time, your pension for this period will be reduced by approximately 30%.
- 4) **We were blindsided.** I met with the Minister last week and asked him point blank if there was anything major on the horizon we should be aware of. Both he and his deputy minister turned to me and said, "no". Yet this is the most far-reaching and unfair series of changes we have experienced in decades.

My number one duty as President is to safeguard and protect your welfare as a member of The Manitoba Teachers' Society. I will communicate with you over the next weeks and months to keep you on top of the latest developments.

Please stay in touch with your local president and feel free to share your displeasure with your MLA.

For a list of MLAs go to:

[https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/members/mla\\_list\\_alphabetical.html](https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/members/mla_list_alphabetical.html)