

26. ELECTION STATEMENTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

- **Elections** will be held on **Friday, May 24, 2019**. For 2019-2021, the following positions are up for re-election: President, Vice President and five (5) Members-at-Large for Provincial Executive (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 **Thursday, May 23, 2019**, an election forum will be held for all candidates. Each candidate for President, Vice President and 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.

As per Bylaw III, Part IV

(d) any listing of candidates for election at the Provincial Council Meeting shall include the source from which the nominee received the nomination;

The following are the 2019 election candidates nominated for Provincial Executive for a two-year term:

Nominated for President:

James Bedford, Louis Riel Teachers' Association
Bea Walker, Flin Flon Teachers' Association

Nominated for Vice President:

Nathan Martindale, Winnipeg Teachers' Association
Valérie Rémillard, Association des éducatrices et des éducateurs franco-manitobains

Nominated for Members-at-Large:

Sonja Blank, Mountain View Teachers' Association
Carla Bouchard, Pembina Trails Teachers' Association
Jeff Cieszecki, Seven Oaks Teachers' Association
Gail Glanfield, Lakeshore Teachers' Association
Albert Krynski, Portage Teachers' Association
Kent McPherson, St. James-Assiniboia Teachers' Association
Cathy Pellizzaro, Thompson Teachers' Association
Cynthia Taylor, Louis Riel Teachers' Association
Sandy Turcotte, Seine River Teachers' Association

There are five (5) Member-at-Large positions to be elected.

As per Bylaw III, Part IV

(e) if following the vote for President a defeated nominee is re-nominated for Vice President or Member-at-Large no further endorsement is required; and

As per Bylaw III, Part IV (f)

(f) if following the vote for Vice President, a defeated nominee is re-nominated for Member-at-Large no further endorsement is required.

Election Statement

James Bedford

When first elected Vice President of the Society, we were concerned about our collective future. A new government, turbulent financial markets and attacks on unions were prevalent. It appears that as things change, they stay the same, but the details become clearer. We are now in the throes of an Education Review that threatens the very fabric of public education. We clearly face those who see public education through a value for money lens.

In this our 100th year we must come together as a unified Society working for the benefit of all members and our collective future. The way forward does not lie in the politics of division, but the celebration of inclusion. All members must stand firm to ensure that the Province supports French language education and newcomers. We must work, through our words and our actions, to ensure that principals remain members. With the Society's membership predominantly female, we must continue our work on behalf of the next generation of members to encourage and support future leaders. We must work to ensure that our membership reflects our diverse population. Most importantly, we must do this as a unified Society, working to benefit all members.

As those who came before us fought for the rights of all since 1919, we must honour them in coming together for our second century to continue the fight. As President, I shall do this respectfully, honourably, and with the goal of building a stronger Society for all members!

Biography

James Bedford

Prior to the last four years serving as Vice President of MTS, James was a classroom teacher of physics, science, and mathematics and an elected leader of MTS for twenty-five years. He is married to Dawn-Lynne and they are proud parents of three daughters, two of whom have graduated from public school and a third well on her way.

Due 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. James truly realizes the importance of local participation.



Provincially, James has served MTS on the AGM Ad Hoc Committee, the Group Benefits Standing Committee, as a representative on the Minister of Education's Certificate Review Committee, and as an elected member and chair of the Provincial Disability Benefits Plan Governance Board. He has served as a Member-at-Large on the Provincial Executive, chairing the Executive Pensions Committee and the Group Benefits Standing Committee.

During the past four years, James has served as Vice President of MTS, in that time chairing the Audit Committee, the 100th Anniversary Committee, the CTF-EI Committee and the Human Resources Committee. He has also represented The Society on the Canadian Teachers' Federation Board of Directors and at numerous public events. James' leadership at the provincial and national levels is sterling.

Election Statement

Beatrice Walker

“It’s what you bring to the table that others don’t that’s integral. It’s a gift.”

I feel strongly and deeply about the Manitoba Teachers’ Society. The current political climate consistently undermines our profession and our union.

Teachers face a multitude of challenges. We must continue to reach out to teachers to keep them informed and give them the tools to participate and make their voices heard on issues that matter to them. We can actively engage and mobilize our members by keeping them informed using the best means possible whether it’s information meetings, using social media, or our website and MyProfile.

We have to continue to work to improve teacher rights through our collective efforts at the bargaining table. Listening to all of our members is of paramount concern especially on the brink of the first ever provincially bargained collective agreement. Recently released Supreme Court labour rights decisions affirm that we have the right to bargain collectively!

It’s imperative that we ensure that the MTS voice is heard. To do so, we must continue 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 strong. Stay compassionate. I will always #StandUp4MBTeachers.

Biography

Beatrice Walker

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

- Workplace Safety & Health - Chair
- WELCOM PX Ad Hoc - Chair
- GS selection committee
- 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
- Professional Code of Conduct Review Committee



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

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 has volunteered her "spare" moments 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 beauty in the world.

Election Statement

Nathan Martindale

I have worked on behalf of Manitoba public school teachers for the past ten years. My time as the WTA Vice-President and President fueled my passion for the work unions do to advocate, collaborate, and support members. I gained valuable experience and I'm proud of the contributions I made in improving the working conditions of WTA members. I appreciate the endorsement of my local Association as I run for the position of MTS Vice-President.

Sitting on Provincial Executive for the past two years has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. I've participated in informed decision-making that affects 15,000 members, I've gained a deeper understanding of the issues related to public education across Manitoba, and I've had the chance to collaborate with other unions. I have appreciated the opportunity to listen to and work with members from every region of our province.

As we reflect on our history and celebrate our 100th anniversary, we must also focus on the work ahead. The immediate future poses real challenges to public education in Manitoba, and with a provincial education review and election looming, we don't have any time to lose.

The strength of our organization lies in the collective strength of our members. With my years of experience and your combined voices, together we can build a stronger, more cohesive Society. I have the passion, work ethic, and desire to work with members to navigate the coming challenges as your Vice-President. I am ready and ask for your support.

Biography

Nathan Martindale

Nathan's 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. He currently works as a Special Education Resource Teacher.

Nathan has served members for the past decade, initially on the Winnipeg Teachers' Association Executive, including nine years on the Negotiations Committee and table team. He was elected WTA Vice-President in 2011, where he served for three years, chairing both the Negotiations and WSH Committees. Nathan is most proud of significant improvements to working conditions for members achieved by his table team in the last round of bargaining.

He was elected WTA President in 2014, and over the next three years, Nathan chaired meetings of Table Officers, Executive and Council, and regularly met with the Chief Superintendent, human resources, school trustees, and the local COSL chapter. Most importantly, Nathan endeavoured to respond both promptly and diligently to every member who contacted him with concerns.

Provincially, Nathan served on the Collective Bargaining Standing Committee as the Metro Regional Coordinator, the Workplace Safety and Health Standing Committee, and the Ad Hoc Committee on President's Release Time. He currently chairs the Indigenous Voice and Action Standing Committee and is a member of the Audit, Political Action, and MTS Support Staff Bargaining Committees.

Nathan and his spouse Karen reside in Winnipeg's North End with their two children. Nathan is a passionate Winnipeg Blue Bombers fan and active in Winnipeg's Ukrainian community.



Election Statement

Valérie Rémillard

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Manitoba Teachers' Society, the public education system of the province is under review. Student learning, teaching, accountability for student learning, governance and funding are under the scope. 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. That is what this government should be focusing on. However, it chooses to attack working conditions and teachers' rights. It seems we are not facing a time of progress; but rather a time of regression.

If elected vice-president of the Provincial Executive of the Manitoba Teachers' Society, I will continue to work on behalf of the membership to advocate and protect our labour rights and the educational rights of our students. I believe in dialog and communication, and I will pursue this government to make sure it hears what teachers have to say, because teachers know best. I will invite the decision makers to discuss the reality of the classrooms in Manitoba: poverty, special needs students, teachers' support, resources and class size.

The Society is strong and I want to be part of the team that is safeguarding the welfare of teachers. I have the public education of Manitoba at heart and believe that the teaching profession is the best advocate for the future of children. With your support, we will defend teachers and advance our profession. United we stand! 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 is in her second term of office as the President of the Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba (ÉFM). Previous to her work in the ÉFM, Valérie was a school representative and the ÉFM chair on the Louis Riel Teachers' Association Executive for many years. Valérie has also served as a member of the LRTA's ESJ Committee and the Personal Professional Development Fund Committee.



Provincially, Valérie has just completed her first year as a member at large on the Provincial Executive. She was honoured to chair the TECSC Committee and has been a member of the MTS 100th Anniversary Committee, the WELCOM Committee and the CTF delegation. She also served on the GBSC for four years. This year, she will be a delegate at her 14th Provincial Council.

In addition to being involved in the francophone community, Valérie is 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 27 ans. Elle est mariée à François, directeur d'une école d'immersion, depuis bientôt 25 ans et ils sont parents d'Alexandre 23 ans et Janelle 20 ans.

Election Statement

Sonja Blank

I am proud to be a teacher.

For the last twenty years of my teaching career, I have gone above and beyond, often on my own time, to ensure that my students experience success in the multiple facets of their school lives.

I am equally proud to be a member of MTS.

I have been actively involved in provincial councils, regional committees, standing committees, and my own local executive. I have been in awe of Manitoba teacher-activists and their dedication and passion for safeguarding the rights and welfare of their colleagues.

I am deeply concerned about the political developments in Manitoba.

Like other public services in Manitoba, education is in trouble. There is work to be done. Bill 28, Section 43, PISA, BEF, Bill 26, the provincial education review, amalgamations, the potential threat to local autonomy, the destabilization of unions by re-defining MTS membership, and the corrosion of the democratic discourse between the current provincial government and MTS, and all Manitobans are issues of great concern.

I am committed to go above and beyond as member-at-large for Provincial Executive.

Going above and beyond to ensure our students are at the center of government decision making will be my primary mandate. As a member on provincial executive, I will continue to devote myself to guarding students' and teachers' rights. I will defend and reclaim the integrity of our profession and protect the values of education within the current political climate. Strengthening and upholding the power of teachers' voices is my commitment.

Biography

Sonja Blank

Sonja currently lives in Dauphin and is the Employee Benefits chair for the Mountain View TA. Throughout her involvement with MVTA she has acted as local education finance chair, resolutions chair, vice-president, and workplace, safety and health representative. Sonja has served on the MTS Ed. Finance Standing Committee and the Teacher Education and Certification Committee.

Sonja currently serves on the Indigenous Education Steering Committee in her division, where she advocates for indigenous perspectives, truth and reconciliation. Throughout her 20 years as educator, she has been committed to social justice, including protecting the rights of teachers.



Among other issues, Sonja advocates on matters of:

- teacher workload,
- lack of human resources for student support services due to under-funding,
- LGBTQ+ rights for students and staff,
- equity issues affecting rural school divisions and rural communities,
- obligation of the government of Manitoba to engage in dialogue and democratic discourse with MTS amongst others.

Born and raised in Germany, Sonja arrived in Canada at the age of 18, where she spent a year traveling before immigrating and settling in Manitoba. After completing her teaching certificate in 1999, she returned to university to attain her post-baccalaureate degree which she completed in 2014. Sonja is a proud educator with a passion for learning and teaching. She particularly enjoys studying history, politics, languages, and art.

Merci

Chi-Miigwech

Dankeschoen

Thank You

Election Statement

Carla Bouchard

As professionals in public education, we find ourselves in a time of change and uncertainty. We feel it intensely as we worry about meeting the needs of our students, keeping up with ever-increasing demands, and about the emotional and physical well-being of our colleagues and ourselves. We wonder how we will cope with ever-growing class sizes, classroom compositions of increasing complexity, decreased funding, and government attacks on our integrity.

If elected to Provincial Executive, I will be a strong, steady, and positive voice for teachers, students, and their families. I believe that as educators we must ensure that the current government understands the true reality of life in Manitoba classrooms. The government needs to know that teachers love their jobs, are experts in curriculum and learning, and care deeply about their students. They need to know that we sometimes feed or cloth students who would otherwise go without, that we are sometimes hit, kicked, or sworn at, and that everyday we manage to do more with less.

I am committed to furthering the work of The Manitoba Teachers' Society through strong advocacy on behalf of teachers, and by building powerful, meaningful relationships within The Society and with all our partners in education.

Biography

Carla Bouchard

Carla Bouchard has been a teacher in the Pembina Trails School Division for 14 years. She has experience at the Early, Middle, and Senior Years levels, both as a classroom teacher and as a resource teacher. She has a Post Baccalaureate in Special Education, her Level 1 Administrator Certificate, and a Special Education Coordinator Certificate. She has spent the last several years working as a resource teacher in an area of Pembina Trails School Division that is experiencing unprecedented growth in enrollment, including many students arriving as refugees, or with special needs. She is a passionate advocate for strong systems of support for teachers, students and their families. She understands the challenges that teachers face in supporting students to achieve their potential with the resources that are available.



Carla is the Treasurer of the Pembina Trails Teachers Association, and has been part of the Collective Bargaining Committee for the last two rounds of negotiations. She sat as a member of the Table Team in 2014-15, and has experience with collective agreements and the bargaining process. Carla is also a member of the Manitoba Teachers' Society Disability Benefits Committee.

As a Mom of two daughters ages 6 and 8, who attend school in the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine, Carla is familiar with many of the unique issues that French teachers, parents, and students face in this province, and values the academic and cultural importance of French language education.

Election Statement

Jeff Cieszecki

Not since the 1990s has Manitoba Public Education moved away from being about supporting the needs of Manitoba children to nothing more than the bottom line on a ledger. This is demonstrated by three years of education funding increases below the rate of inflation, closing the Curriculum Support Centre, and reducing staffing at the Bureau de l'éducation française. All while student population has grown by 1% over the past year and student needs are on the rise.

I have chaired the MTS Education Finance Standing Committee for three years, and have talked with members about the impact underfunding is having. I have worked with staff to provide learning opportunities and pertinent information to Local Education Finance Chairs and I have often been called on for advice regarding how to share information at the local level. As Collective Bargaining Chair for SOTA, I've discussed issues related to current and future contract negotiations in the province with Local Presidents and Collective Bargaining Chairs. Points raised through these conversations are incorporated in the work I do as your Provincial Executive representative.

On the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike, we will recognize the sacrifices individuals made to gain significant achievements to labour rights in 1919. We must be prepared to do the same in 2019. The Society's role is to continue to mobilize and educate the membership and share our views with community members. I am asking for your support to continue my work on Provincial Executive on your behalf.

Biography

Jeff Cieszecki

Jeff brings a wealth of experience during his four years on Provincial Executive. MTS Committee work includes:

- Education Finance (Chair 2017-2019, 2015-2016)
- Indigenous Voice and Action (Chair 2016-2017)
- SAGE Ad Hoc (Chair 2016-2017, 2015-2016)
- CTF/Education International Ad Hoc (2015-2019)
- MTS Audit (2015-2019)

Jeff has also been PX Liaison with six SAGE groups including STAM, MAMT, CAEM, MMEA, MPETA, and MSCA. Prior to being elected to PX, Jeff was a member of the MTS Educational Finance Standing Committee for five years.



With the Seven Oaks Teachers' Association, Jeff has served two years as Vice-President, three years as President, and currently as Past President and Bargaining Chair. Jeff's SOTA portfolio also includes Collective Bargaining/Table Team, Treasurer, Education Finance, Professional Development, Workplace Safety and Health, Employee Benefits, Superintendents Liaison, Board Advisory, and Constitution/Policy Review.

Jeff has taught for 24 years in Seven Oaks at the middle and senior year levels. He has taught Physics, Chemistry, Math, Biology, Space Studies, Engineering Design, and coordinated Post-Secondary Programs. Jeff has coached 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). Jeff received the 2012 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence for his work in the field of Space Education.

Jeff and Angie have been married 27 years. Angie currently works as Vice-Principal in the River Transcona School Division. Their son Carson attends Miles Macdonell Collegiate in the French Immersion Program.

Election Statement

Gail Glanfield

I was not a teacher on May 23, 1996.

My generation has enjoyed labour peace, increases to education funding, and research driven change. We've seen improvements to curriculum, inclusive education and some progress with Indigenous education, LGBTQ rights and recognition. Happily ignorant of phrases like "layoffs" or "restrictions," we've championed social justice and authentic learning opportunities. We have inclusive classrooms where students are encouraged to explore, inquire and grow. Thanks to work done by MTS since that fateful afternoon.

Now, public education is once again under attack. You've seen the impact of 6% cuts to funding in your classrooms. Our students have more needs than ever before, and I believe our students deserve every opportunity for success. To me, this means teachers who are focussed on them as individuals, not as test scores and graduation rates. Now, more than ever, we need to INVEST in public education, not slash budgets and resources.

I believe that communication with the membership and transparency are crucial now, and in certainly in the coming months. As an active member of LTA Executive, I have had a hand in the creation of our website, a home email database, and newsletter. LTA has had the benefit of my unique skill set, education, and determination for the past 12 years. With your vote, I will serve all MB Teachers with the same tenacity and vigor.

I was not a teacher in 1996, but I am now and together, we can make a difference!

Biography

Gail Glanfield

The eldest daughter of retired members of MNU and MGEU, it's no surprise that service is in Gail's blood!

A 20+ year veteran single parent of two amazing young men, Gail worked as a paralegal for 11 years struggling to make ends meet. She went back to school in 1999 and obtained her B.A. and B.Ed. from the U of M in 2004 and hasn't looked back!

After teaching in Alberta for 2 years, Gail secured a permanent position with Lakeshore in 2006 and over the past 13 years has taught over 50 high school courses, written numerous IEPs and has even drafted curriculum. During her tenure with Lakeshore, Gail has been a classroom teacher, Co-Director of the Adult Learning Centre, and is currently working as an itinerant substitute for 5 schools.



Currently Past President, CB Chair and Treasurer, Gail has held almost every position on the executive! Most notably she was Vice President for 7 years and has been the Ed Finance Chair for the past 11 years. Her involvement with education finance triggered her return to university, and she completed her Master's in Education Finance in 2015. Her paper, "37 Fiefdoms: Political Impediments to Horizontal Equity Financing in Manitoba" was selected for the Graduate Student Symposium in 2013, and published online.

Gail stays active coaching and playing sports, camping with family, and as an exuberant Hockey Mom in winter. Gail's passion for service is fueled by volunteering and organizing events in her local community.

Election Statement

Albert Krynski

Changes are coming to Manitoba Education.

We have an amazing opportunity to shape the evolution of education in Manitoba.

As teacher's, we need to take an active part in the review process, providing the government with suggestions as to how education can be improved within our province. We teachers know what types of changes need to occur in our province to improve the quality of our educational system. Only by participating proactively can we ensure that our voices are heard and that we can be part of the change.

As a Provincial Executive member, I will advocate for Manitoba Teachers no matter where they teach. I will work diligently to keep the lines of communication open between all stakeholders in the education system. It is important, now more than ever, to present a united front.

We need to be proactive and not reactive, taking a lead in providing information and educating people. We must be part of the decision making process that affects our daily job and our students. We need to have solutions and suggestions and not just criticize.

From my time in the classroom I have learned that everyone has a voice and my job is to help students use their voice to the best of their ability. If elected I will be the voice of the teachers, bringing forth their concerns, strategies and solutions.

Resistance is not futile, it's the beginning.

"Elect Albert Krynski to Provincial Executive and let him be a voice for you."

Biography

Albert Krynski

Albert was born, raised and attended University in Brandon, Manitoba. Growing up on a farm, he learned the value of hard work and commitment. He is married to Laurie, another teacher, and they have 2 beautiful daughters, Olivia and Andrea.

Albert has worked his way up the education ladder, starting off teaching in South Korea then returning to Brandon and teaching half time at Brandon Mental Health Centre - Pine Ridge School. He has taught in Lynn Lake where he was a member of the Collective Bargaining team. Albert has taught on Long Plain First Nation, in Brandon and at St. Pierre Jolys.

Now a teacher at Portage Collegiate, working in the Life Skills Classroom, Albert has been an active member of the PTA serving as the Benefits Chair, Work Place Safety and Health Chair and is now Vice-President. He is currently on the Young Humanitarian Award Committee.

Albert's dedication is apparent in the work he does with the students and the ideas and knowledge that he shares with his fellow educators. He established a state-of-the-art Multi-Sensory Room at PCI. Albert has presented at local, provincial and international conferences (Alabama and Paris). For this work he was presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Albert is an active member of the community, having volunteered on numerous committees and serving on various executives in multiple roles, notably McKenzie United Affirmation Committee and the Portage la Prairie School Division FASD committee.



Election Statement

Kent McPherson

Never has there been a time so marred by uncertainty for the teaching profession here in Manitoba. The winds of change are blowing strongly, profoundly and decidedly away from the sense of normalcy that we have become accustomed to. There is a real potential that the education system we have come to know will see drastic changes that will have far and reaching impacts on not only our Members, but those we seek to nurture...the students of this Province. What the Education Review has in store for us is uncertain, but if actions already taken are any indication, we may be facing monumental challenges in the months and years to come.

The more we stare into the face of uncertainty, the more I feel we need stability and unity within the organization that represents the Members of the Society. We need to be able to lean on the experience and knowledge that our leadership brings to the table, and confront the challenges we face head on. We also need to draw upon the strength, commitment and dedication of our Members who strive for equity, balance and purpose in their very own classrooms.

The opportunity to serve the 16,000 Members of the Manitoba Teachers' Society is not something to be taken lightly. As a Member of the Provincial Executive, I will endeavour to work in a unified and dignified manner to promote the ideals that the Teachers' of Manitoba hold dear to their hearts.

Thank-you for your support.

Biography

Kent McPherson

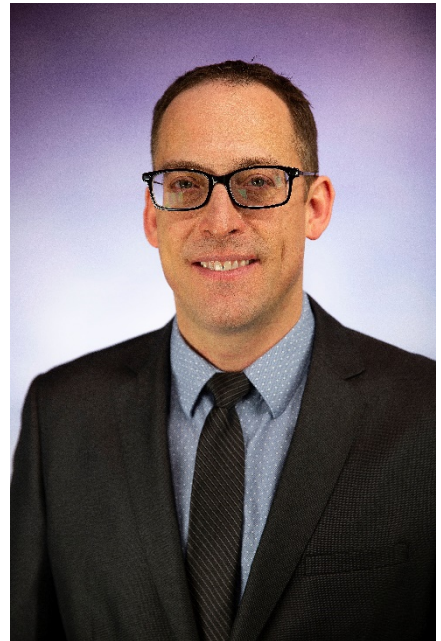
Kent started his teaching career in 2000 in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division. It was 2003 when he first became involved as a Member-at-Large of his Local Executive. Since that time, Kent has chaired the Ed Finance, WSH, Bargaining and Communications while also sitting on the St. James-Assiniboia Teachers' Association (STJATA) PD Committee. He has also held the roles of Treasurer and Vice-President during his 16 years serving on the STJATA Executive, and is currently completing his second term as President of his Local Association.

At the Provincial level, Kent has served the Members of the Society on the G.S. 40 Committee, as well as a member of the Ed Finance Standing Committee. In addition, he has received his Certificate of Achievement in Foundations of Trust Management Standards.

Transparency and openness are fundamental to the governance process, and Kent's experience in this area will help him in making informed, transparent and uncompromised decisions on behalf of all Members.

With teaching experience at both the Early and Middle Years, Kent has taught a variety of subject areas from Phys. Ed, Math, Science, Art and French. This experience has helped him gain perspective as to challenges facing front line teachers as well as help reinforce the importance of working as a team.

Kent is proud to make the St. James district his home with both his children attending public French Immersion within St. James. He is grateful for the support he has received from his family and colleagues.



Election Statement

Cathy Pellizzaro

The opportunity to have served as a member of the Provincial Executive was an honour. That experience has taught me about the needs, goals and challenges facing our membership. I am seeking your support so that I may use my experience and expertise to represent all MTS members.

Over the last century, we have witnessed the resolve and victories by teachers; victories of which we are all proud! 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 threatens to undermine wages and collective bargaining. I have been part of similar struggles in the 1990s. I have lived it. I was laid off, re-hired, had my position dissolved and was transferred. I know, to be successful in addressing these challenges, we must once again stand with purpose and resolve; it's in our solidarity and unity that we find the 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 can only strengthen MTS and thus, secure teachers' interests. This is the MTS I want to work for and I shall always be focussed on serving the teachers of Manitoba.

United we stand!

Biography

Cathy Pellizzaro

Cathy is in her third decade of dedicated service to the Society. Throughout her career, Cathy has served members locally as President, Vice-President, Equity and Social Justice Chair, Benefits Chair, and as a member of the TTA bargaining committee for several years.

As an elected member of Provincial Executive, Cathy served as chair of the Young Humanitarian Awards Committee. She also served as Regional Liaison to the Metro region. In this, the 100th year anniversary of the Society's solidarity, she continues bringing teachers, students, and the greater community together to affect positive change.



Cathy possesses the Certificate of Achievement in Foundations of Trust Management Standards (FTMS) and received the Advanced Trust Management Standards (ATMSA) certificate this last October. Her knowledge and understanding of governance ensures her decisions are always of a high standard and always in the best interests of all members.

Cathy realizes the importance of being part of the “bigger picture.” Politically, Cathy has assisted in several provincial election campaigns for the local NDP candidate and is an Executive Member of the Thompson NDP Constituency.

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

Cathy finds working for members to be truly rewarding.

Election Statement

Cynthia Taylor

I am honoured and excited by the possibility of re-election to the Provincial Executive. My commitment, work ethic and ability to question will allow me to continue to provide effective leadership for The Society. In a time of increasing unrest, our attention must remain steadfast to understanding the needs of a complex classroom, the impacts of poverty and mental health, 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.

Over the last two years, I have seen the efforts of teachers across this province to create diverse learning opportunities for their students and colleagues. I have acquired an understanding of The Society and its function and recognize that the organization must continue to reflect its diversity and varied needs. We must be willing to call upon those who reflect a different lens and to challenge our own learning through mentorship and professional alliance.

I represent the current face of education 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. With your support, I will commit to the work of The Society and to the engagement of our members. I will continue to advocate for all Manitoba teachers through the role of Member at Large.

Biography

Cynthia Taylor

Cynthia began her teaching career eighteen 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 served for five years on the Equity and Social Justice Standing Committee and 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 and on the Personal Professional Development Fund Committee.



Cynthia was elected to the Provincial Executive in 2017. She has been the chair of the Equity and Social Justice Standing Committee and is presently the chair of the Professional Development Standing Committee. She also serves as SAGE Council Chair, Teacher Led Learning Team Liaison (TLLT) as well as Regional Facilitator to the South East region.

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

We have so many achievements to celebrate during the 100th Anniversary of The Manitoba Teachers' Society against the juxtaposition of the attack on public education from our current provincial government. The provincial executive and MTS are dedicated to safeguarding the welfare, rights, and professional growth of teachers and leading the way in the cause of public education in Manitoba. No greater is the need for this work than right now. I am grateful for the nomination of member-at-large for MTS PX. I am ready to work with this team to ensure that Manitoba teachers are protected, the teaching profession is valued, and the needs of our students continue to be met by our dedicated professional teachers.

With the uncertainty of provincial bargaining, MTS is ready for all unknown fronts and I am so proud of the work they are doing. If elected, I will bring an historical perspective of Manitoba Teachers fight for achievements made in our collective bargaining processes and will use this experience to be mindful of the future as we fight for bargaining rights, the expectations of growing diversity in classrooms, issues and impacts of mental health on teachers and students.

Manitoba's Education Review is happening without promised consultation opportunities with teachers, the frontline workers in education. Therefore, we have to keep our members informed, our communities engaged, and stand together with all provincial unions.

I will work diligently on your behalf, to give a voice to your concerns, and to support you as a Manitoba teacher.

Biography

Sandy Turcotte

Sandy Rodrigues Turcotte has been an educator for twenty-five years. Presently, Sandy works for the Seine River School Division as the Social Studies and Indigenous Education consultant. She has worked as an educational leader and teacher in several schools, teaching grades K – 12 in both urban and rural settings.

Sandy Rodrigues Turcotte holds a Master degree in Special Education from Brandon University, Post Bach in Education, Numeracy Enhancement from University of Winnipeg, B.Ed. from the University of Manitoba. She holds Level I & II Manitoba Administrative Certificates and works in both English and French Immersion streams.



Manitoba Teachers' Society & Local Involvement:

- Provincial Executive Member-at-large
- Professional Development Standing Committee – Chair
- MTS 100th Anniversary Planning Committee
- Special Area Groups of Educators Council - Chair
- Curriculum and Teaching Standing Committee – Chair
- Inter-Organizational Curriculum Advisory Committee
- Disability Benefits Plan Investment Committee
- Professional Code of Conduct Review Committee
- Council of School Leaders – Leadership Team, Director, Delegate
- Council of School Leaders Conference Planning Committee
- Canadian Association of Principals Board Member
- Canadian Association of Principals 2020 Winnipeg Conference Planning Committee
- Seine River Teachers' Association President, Public Relations Chair, Resolutions Chair, past Vice-President & Treasurer
- SRTA Collective Bargaining Committee/Table Team
- Social Justice Coalition Committee
- GS Evaluation Committee

Sandy is the proud parent to son, Charlton (12). They enjoy travelling, spending time at the cottage, boating, and biking. Sandy enjoys family & friend time, cooking, entertaining/catering, music, piano, and theatre.