TLLT
TEACHER-LED LEARNING TEAM

Meet our team

The mandate of the Teacher-Led Learning Team is to design and deliver workshops and presentations to Society members across the province.

For more information:

Staff from the Professional and French Language Services department are committed to supporting your work and learning with the TLLT.

The Staff Officer responsible for TLLT is:

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THE MANITOBA TEACHERS' SOCIETY



Megan Appleton

Megan Appleton is an occupational therapist (OT) with the Louis Riel School Division. She works alongside educators to support student participation, engagement and access to learning by considering the relationship between the student, the environment, and the demands of everyday school activities. Megan brings an OT lens to identifying barriers, building on strengths and developing practical, inclusive supports for diverse learners. She values interdisciplinary learning and brings a holistic perspective to the Teacher-Led Learning Team.



Raya Charrier

Raya Charrier has worked with K-12 students as a classroom, resource, and reading intervention teacher for the past 13 years in the Evergreen School Division. She is currently a principal at Winnipeg Beach School. She holds a PBDE and a Certificate in School Leadership and is passionate about both life long learning and school improvement. She strongly believes in the potential of everyone and takes pride in serving her community as an educator, mentor, and coach.



Keeshan Jain

Keeshan Jain is currently a middle-year teacher in the St. James Assiniboia School Division. He has taught English, social studies, and physical/health education. Keeshan recently completed his post-baccalaureate in education and is currently completing his master's in education. His thesis focuses on marginalized educators and Hospitality in the Manitoban school system. Keeshan is passionate about diversity and equity. With a focus on leadership, supporting teachers on their journey of best practice and creating an inclusive and just education system.



Morgan Arksey

Morgan Arksey is a Teacher-Librarian (and occasional shark) at Fort Richmond Collegiate in Pembina Trails School Division, with a farm background and rural/urban teaching experience across middle and high school. He recently completed his Master of Educational Technology degree at the University of British Columbia and spends his time wondering what actually matters educationally in a rapidly changing landscape. Libraries have taught him that story is the most powerful tool we have for learning.



Melissa Dean

Melissa Dean is currently a high school math and science teacher in the Hanover School Division. She has been teaching for 22 years, in both Ontario and Manitoba, and her career has spanned grades 1 to 12 in a variety of roles. In addition to being a classroom teacher she has also held roles as a Numeracy and Literacy Coach. Melissa believes strongly in building classroom culture, the power of student reflection, and developing student-centered assessment and learning across all curriculum areas.



Quinn Jones

Quinn Jones is a Learning Support Teacher in Seven Oaks School division with over 17 years of teaching experience. She holds a Master of Education degree with a focus on inclusion in French Immersion. Quinn is passionate about collaborating with colleagues to meet the diverse needs of all learners.



Madison Carter-Plouffe

Madison Carter-Plouffe is a French Immersion elementary school teacher in St. James-Assiniboia School Division on Treaty 1 territory. She is currently in the process of completing her masters in education in educational administration through Brandon University. Madison is passionate about leadership development and building strong classroom and school communities based on Indigenous perspectives. She believes all of her students have unique gifts and seeks different opportunities to help develop and showcase their gifts.



Bryanne DeRoo

Bryanne DeRoo is new to TLLT after coming off of 6 years with the Collaborative Learning Facilitators Team. She is originally from northern Manitoba but has made Brandon home for many years. Her current teaching assignment is Guidance Counselling and teaching Phys Ed and Health in a K-8 school. Bryanne believes she is as much of a student as she is a teacher, and admits she has too many hobbies.



Laryssa Kurjewicz

Laryssa Kurjewicz has been a math and science teacher in the Lord Selkirk School Division since 2013, with experience ranging from middle school to adult education classrooms. She believes in fostering curiosity and critical thinking, and that learners at any stage in life can gain confidence through meaningful challenges. She is committed to creating engaging and inclusive learning environments and supporting colleagues through professional advocacy.



Peiki Loay

Peiki Loay is a middle years teacher in the Hanover School Division. She loves learning together with students and believes in creating courageous, accountable spaces of belonging for all learners. Peiki has walked alongside educators both within and beyond HSD in the areas of Indigenous perspectives and anti-racism in science education. Her Master's research explored justice-oriented science pedagogies and the role of science educators in reconciliation. As a settler of Asian heritage, she is working on becoming a better guest on the lands of Indigenous Peoples.



Martha Mayen

Martha Mayen (she/her) is a math support teacher with the Winnipeg School Division. Martha seeks to create supportive spaces where everyone can thrive. To empower students and colleagues through equitable, meaningful learning, she is guided by the question, "How can math drive justice?" How can we continue to build communities where all learners feel seen, heard, and capable of success?



Ashley McKague

Ashley McKague has been a school counsellor and classroom teacher at both the high school and K-8 grade levels across the Seine River School Division for 18 years. Ashley is active with the SRTA and in the community she co-founded an advocacy group for type 1 diabetic families. These roles have reinforced her belief in equity, inclusion, advocacy and the power of public education to create an environment in which all voices are heard.



Tara McLauchlan

Tara McLauchlan (she/her) is a literacy coach in the St. James Assiniboia School Division. Prior to becoming a literacy coach, she worked as an English Language Arts teacher for Grades 9-12, a technology coordinator, a literacy coordinator, and a deep learning coach. Tara recently graduated from the University of Manitoba with a master's in education. Her thesis focused on the importance of representation in story and explored the opportunities, motivations and barriers Middle Years and Senior Years teachers encountered while facilitating learning with diverse texts in their ELA classrooms. Tara believes that the stories of 2SLGBTQ+, Indigenous, Black, Asian, Hispanic and other voices of color, must be read, heard, shared and represented in classrooms and schools.



Rommel Mejia

Rommel Mejia is an educator who believes that strong relationships are the foundation of meaningful learning. His work has focused on supporting students, families, and communities through inclusive, culturally responsive, and student-centered practices. Drawing from his experience in northern Manitoba schools and his graduate studies at Harvard University, Rommel is passionate about creating caring educational spaces where all learners feel valued, supported, and capable of success.



Kristjana Michaluk

Kristjana Michaluk (she/her) is a high school student services teacher on Treaty 2 territory (Mountain View School Division). She has a PBDE in Special Education and is beginning her M.Ed. in Inclusive Education. She strongly believes in creating safe and inclusive schools for all students and that educators have the opportunity to create meaningful change in school systems through learning with all students and their communities.



Kaden Mirza

Kaden Mirza is a Grade 8 teacher in the Portage la Prairie School Division who believes in the power of student voice, inclusion, purpose-driven learning, and community connections. With a cross-curricular approach grounded in the global competencies, Kaden designs learning experiences that connect big ideas across subjects and give students agency. Kaden's past work in anti-racism education continues to inform a classroom rooted in equity, agency, and real-world relevance.



Bonnie Gantefoer Nayet

Bonnie Gantefoer Nayet has been a Grade 5–6 French teacher in the Red River Valley School Division since 2014. Her 25-year teaching career also includes 14 years in Regina, SK, spanning everything from Francophone daycare to high school French Immersion science labs.

Her Master's research focused on adult education, organizational development, and collaborative, advocacy-based learning. Teaching a variety of subjects and age levels in the classroom for a quarter-century remains the greatest honour of her professional life. She is dedicated to creating spaces where learners can share their wisdom, gain new insights, and walk away with a practical plan to apply what they have learned.



Kelly Otto

Kelly Otto is a principal in the Lord Selkirk School Division. Prior to that, she was a resource teacher and Middle Years classroom teacher in the Sunrise School Division for 17 years. Throughout her career, Kelly has experience from K-12+ levels. Kelly holds a PBDE and a M. Ed. in Educational Administration. She is a lifelong learner who continuously seeks opportunities for professional growth, most recently completing the theoretical component of the EAL Teacher Certificate Program at the University of Winnipeg. Kelly is passionate about leadership and establishing healthy relationships to build a positive school culture.



Robyn Paulishyn

Robyn Paulishyn is a school counsellor in the Brandon School Division. Over the last 20 years, Robyn has taught K-8 Music, Grades 3-9 classroom, Inclusive Education at the high school level and was a student advisor at Assiniboine Community College for the Adult Collegiate and the Business, Agriculture and Environment program. She holds a Master's in Education in Guidance and Counselling and is currently working on her Master's in Educational Administration. Robyn works to create safe spaces where students and staff can feel a sense of belonging, bring their uniqueness, and express themselves.



Jasmin Phipps

Jasmin Phipps is an Applied Commerce teacher in the Pembina Trails School Division who values project-based learning, teamwork, and student choice. With experience teaching across early years to high school in English and French, Jasmin creates engaging, inclusive learning experiences that integrate technology meaningfully. She has facilitated professional learning through divisional workshops, SAGE, and educator conferences.



Tanya Polasek

Tanya Polasek is a Grade 9-12 English and drama teacher in the Pine Creek School Division. As a lifelong lover of learning and language, she is in the final stages of earning her Master's degree in Curriculum and Pedagogy at Brandon University. She believes that the foundation of public education is built on strong and authentic relationships among students and staff. Tanya is passionate about supporting creativity in the classroom and beyond, specifically through theatre and creative writing.



Amy Portey

Amy Portey is the French coordinator and a vice principal for the School District of Mystery Lake in Thompson, MB. She has twelve years of Grade 1 French Immersion classroom experience and two years K-8 resource experience. Amy has completed her master's degree in educational leadership and is passionate about supporting teachers in meaningful professional development as a component of teacher well-being.



Anne-Marie Rochford

Anne-Marie Rochford is a high school English teacher (Frontier School Division) with 26 years of teaching experience in Indigenous settings in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. She has a M. Ed in Leadership and School Improvement and enjoys the creative process of developing lessons and units. She loves working with teenagers in the classroom and in her role as Grad Advisor. She has been involved in the development and assessment of the provincial exam for 18 years, and presented at MERN, SAGE, and other divisional PD.



Jennie Ruhr

Jennie Ruhr is a learning support teacher in Seven Oaks, a former Big Picture school educator, and sessional university instructor with over 15 years of experience. She specializes in project-based learning, inclusive education, and leveraging technology to enhance learning and streamline teaching practices. Jennie is passionate about equity, student voice, and empowering diverse learners and educators.



Brigitte Saurette

Brigitte Saurette is an elementary school teacher currently working in the Red River Valley School Division. She began her teaching journey with the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine before continuing her career in French Immersion education. Brigitte holds a PBDE from the University of Manitoba, with a focus on inclusion, curriculum development, and counselling strategies. Her teaching philosophy centers on creating engaging, hands-on learning opportunities through project-based learning. She is committed to implementing a "low floor, high ceiling" approach, ensuring that all students are supported and challenged according to their individual needs. Brigitte brings creativity, inclusivity, and a student-centered mindset to her practice and to the learning team, always striving to make learning meaningful and accessible for every child.



Kathy Simcoe

Kathy Simcoe has been an educator for grades 7-12 since 2010. Currently, she serves as the Indigenous Education Support Teacher for the Interlake School Division. Kathy holds a PBDE in Sustainability and a Master's Degree in Educational Foundations with a focus on Indigenous Land-based Education. However, her most valuable education comes from engaging with and learning directly from Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Her passion lies in learning and sharing the true history of Canada and using it as a powerful tool for advancing reconciliation.



Carol Stewart

Carol Stewart has taught nursery through 12 in her 20+ years with Pembina Trails School Division. Carol worked with Manitoba Education and Training updating curriculum documents and ensuring the curriculum aligned with the global competencies and Mamahtawisiwin. She has completed the Leadership Development Program and attained certification in Cognitive Coaching. Carol is an active member of SAGE Council and believes in creating safe, supportive, and inclusive spaces for students to learn, grow, belong, and thrive to reach their full potential.

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