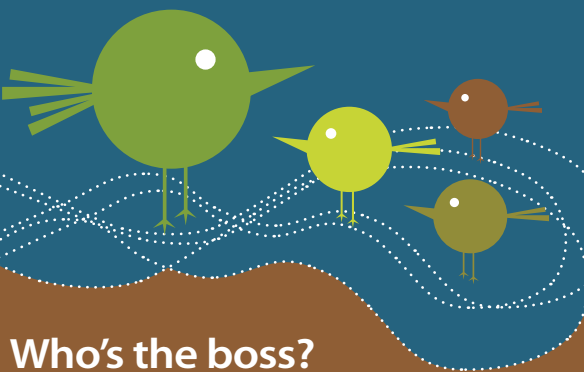


Teaching is a profession with huge challenges but with even greater rewards that come as you watch students climb stairs you created, using motivation you have instilled. It is a profession that encompasses many skills. You are not just a teacher, but a mentor, role model, ally and guide.

## Who's the boss?

Duties of teachers are assigned by school boards through superintendents and school principals, who are also responsible for evaluating a teacher's performance. Each teacher signs a contract which, along with sections of the Public Schools Act and Regulations, establishes the teacher's legal rights and responsibilities and prescribes the manner in which the contract may be terminated.

While most teachers are hired to provide general classroom instruction, some teachers perform more specialized roles such as music, band, physical education, heritage languages, library services, counselling, co-ordinating services to special needs students, managing resources centres, co-ordinating subject area departments or being principals or vice-principals.



## Where Can I Get More Information?

**The Manitoba Teachers' Society**  
*Professional Issues*  
191 Harcourt Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 3H2  
Phone: (204) 888-7961 / 1-800-262-8803

**Professional Certification Unit**  
Box 700  
Russell, Manitoba R0J 1W0  
Phone: (204) 773-2998 / 1-800-667-2378

**University of Manitoba**  
*Faculty of Education*  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2  
Phone: (204) 474-9004

**University of Winnipeg**  
*Education Department*  
515 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9  
Phone: (204) 786-7811

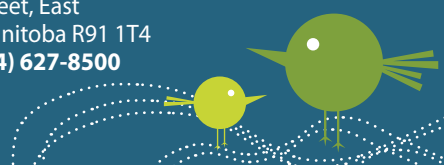
**Brandon University**  
*Faculty of Education*  
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 6A9  
Phone: (204) 728-9520

**Université de Saint-Boniface**  
*Faculté d'Éducation*  
200, avenue de la Cathédrale  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 0H7  
Phone: (204) 233-0210

**Red River College**  
*Teacher Education*  
2055 Notre Dame Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0J9  
Phone: (204) 632-2300

**University College of the North**  
436 - 7<sup>th</sup> Street, East  
The Pas, Manitoba R91 1T4  
Phone: (204) 627-8500

January 2015



# Becoming a teacher

*"Teaching is the perpetual end and office of all things. Teaching, instruction is the main design that shines through the sky and earth."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)



## Will There Be Jobs Available?

Opportunities vary from time to time, but there is considerable optimism about future prospects for teachers in Manitoba. Northern areas, including urban centres, are usually in need of teachers at all levels. Teachers are also preferred employees in business and some industries.

## What Is The Manitoba Teachers' Society?

MTS is the professional organization of the province's public school teachers. It concerns itself with all aspects of professional development and the economic, physical and emotional well-being of its members. All public school teachers hired automatically become members. Student teachers are associate members and have access to some Society services. A more complete view of the Society, its work and services can be seen on its website at [www.mbteach.org](http://www.mbteach.org).

## Where Do I Sign Up?

There is no easy road to becoming a teacher. First, you have to qualify to get into university. Then, after five years of work, you can leave as a fully-certified teacher.

Six institutions in Manitoba offer teacher preparation programs for both students wanting a professional certificate and those wanting to teach vocational programs. Further information on courses, costs and application procedures can be obtained by contacting those institutions directly.

The Professional Certificate, a licence to teach, is issued by the Certification Unit of Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning to those who complete a teacher education program. Teachers in Vocational Industrial programs are issued a specialist certificate which restricts them to teaching only in their specialized areas. Vocational teachers can qualify for a teaching certificate if they complete further university courses.

Manitoba teaching certificates are valid only in Manitoba, but teachers here may qualify for certification in other provinces.

## Where Would I Work?

There are currently 40 school divisions in Manitoba. A school board or an Official Trustee administers each. The school boards set policy with the help of division superintendents, who are responsible for the daily operations of the division. Superintendents may be empowered by boards to hire teachers

and accept resignations. Applications for employment should be sent to the superintendent or contact persons specified in an advertisement.

## What Are The Schools Like?

Manitoba has almost 800 public schools, attended by about 173,000 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Teaching them are about 15,000 teachers. Many schools are small, one-third having fewer than 150 students. Generally schools are adequately supplied, but there can be differences. For example, not all small schools, especially those for elementary grades, have adequate gymnasiums. With a few exceptions up north, schools are accessible by road and close to medical services. Housing, cultural and social activities are scarce in some rural and northern communities.

You can get specific information on schools by writing to school board offices or, for federal schools, to Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada.

## What Is The Day-to-Day Work Like?

A teaching day can tax one's patience, challenge the spirit and enrich the soul. The Canadian Teachers' Federation brochure, *Teaching In Canada*, describes the activities of teaching:

*"Teachers, in their day-to-day work, perform many different tasks of varying degrees of complexity. They are responsible both for setting long-range instructional goals for their students (within the guidelines established by society) and for making decisions as to appropriate means of achieving goals. In particular, teachers are responsible for planning the specific units of work that are to be presented to students, evaluating the progress of individual students, diagnosing special weaknesses, and prescribing suitable remedies.*

*"Teachers present subject matter to their classes through talks, demonstrations and audio-visual methods, conduct discussions by students, supervise classroom work and organize field trips. They prepare, administer and correct tests, assign and mark homework, and hear oral presentations. Where possible, teachers work with small groups of children, bringing out the ideas and opinions of the children, and adjusting their teaching strategies to meet the needs thus discovered.*

*"Teachers are also concerned with developing critical thinking on the part of their students and attitudes and values which will assist students in personal growth. They are also alert to physical, mental or emotional disabilities which may require referral to specialists.*

*"In addition to duties within the classroom, teachers are usually involved in an array of outside activities. These include time spent preparing lessons and correcting student work, maintaining of records, consulting with parents and participating in staff meetings, educational conferences and in-service education workshops. Many teachers are also involved in extracurricular activities, curriculum development and the work of their professional association. Teachers are frequently to be found coaching teams, conducting bands or choirs, supervising outdoor education activities or leading groups of students travelling to other parts of the world.*

*"The particular focus of teaching changes with the age of the students. In kindergarten, emphasis is placed on the fostering of co-operative social behaviour through games and group projects and of self-expression through singing, dancing and painting. These concerns continue through the elementary years, but major emphasis is placed upon acquiring skills in reading, writing and arithmetic, along with some understanding of science and social studies.*

*"In the secondary years, emphasis is placed upon becoming acquainted with the various branches of human knowledge and in acquiring occupational skills in technical or commercial fields. Accordingly, a very wide range of optional subjects is offered in many secondary schools. Secondary programs may lead either toward further education at universities and community colleges or toward employment, depending upon the aspirations of individual students."*

## And What Do I Get Paid For All This?

In Manitoba, the salaries of public school teachers are negotiated between school boards in each division and local associations of The Manitoba Teachers' Society, the professional and collective bargaining representative for public school teachers. Salaries are negotiated for varying terms and are based on qualifications and experience. Collective agreements also set out other benefits such as insurance, sick leave and pensions. All MTS collective agreements are posted on the Society's website at [www.mbteach.org](http://www.mbteach.org).

