

ELECTION STATEMENT

Kent McPherson

In the past two years there has been a concerted effort to erode some of the most fundamental rights of teachers. At the same time, significant changes to the current education system have been proposed. The resolve of the membership has been challenged by the appeal of the Bill 28 ruling, the pandemic's impact on education, Bill 45 and Bill 64 legislation, calculated and deliberate underfunding of education and the long-awaited release of the K-12 Education Review. Through it all, our members' dedication and perseverance have ensured that students have remained our first priority.

Our communities are reflected in the makeup of our classrooms, so we must strive to achieve equity, balance and purpose within them. I would like to see the Provincial Executive take a proactive approach to educate and activate the broader public about the impact systemic issues like poverty and inequality have on our students across the province. The current government has proposed changes that inadequately address these issues, to the detriment of our students.

Safeguarding the profession and striving for equity are cornerstones of the Manitoba Teachers' Society. If re-elected to a second term as a member-at-large of the Provincial Executive, I will continue to work on behalf of the membership to not only advocate for, but to raise awareness and promote the ideals embodied by the teachers of Manitoba. It has been an honour to serve the 16,000 members of the Manitoba Teachers' Society for the past two years.

Thank you for your support.

BIOGRAPHY

Kent McPherson

Kent was elected to his first term on the Provincial Executive in 2019. Over the past two years, Kent has chaired the Ed Finance Standing Committee, served on the Audit Committee and been the liaison for the Southeast region. This year he became a member of the Political Action Committee of the Provincial Executive. Previous experience at the provincial level includes serving on the G.S. 40 Committee as well as the Ed Finance Standing Committee. As a member of the Provincial Executive, he has taken the opportunity to expand his knowledge in governance by completing part “A” of the Advanced Trust Management Standards series.



Kent began serving his local association in 2003 and has served as president of the St. James-Assiniboia Teachers' Association since 2017. He has taken on various roles within the Association including member-at-large, treasurer and vice-president. Within his local, Kent has received his Certificate of Achievement in Foundations of Trust Management Standards, chaired Ed Finance, WSH, Bargaining and Communications while also sitting on the St. James-Assiniboia Teachers' Association (STJATA) PD Committee. Transparency, openness and equity need to be cornerstones of the governance process, and Kent's experience will help enable him to make informed, and uncompromised decisions on behalf of all members.

Kent is proud to make St. James his home. Both his children attend school within the division and are enrolled in the French immersion program within St. James. He is grateful for the continued support he receives from his family and colleagues.