

## ELECTION STATEMENT

### CATHY PLESKACH

The members of the Manitoba Teachers' Society find themselves in a precarious position. Public opinion of our profession is high and we make history with every step of provincial bargaining.

However, consistent underfunding and ambiguous education reform still require an organization dedicated to advocating for a strong, safe, viable and equitable education system for its members. I am proud of where we are, but it is vital that the Provincial Executive anticipate and respond to these challenges, while continuing to press forward where needed.

People. Passion. Progress. As a member of Provincial Executive, I will bring the experience of 25 years of professional conversation and collaboration and will work to ensure your voice is heard.

Locally, regionally and provincially, I have built relationships with members and groups, to further the work of the Society and benefit all members. I am driven to work tirelessly for members and the progression of public education through my genuine ethic of care.

The Society has made improvements in Local and member communication, but we are not there yet... I believe we must strengthen the effectiveness of the Society by focusing on what members are telling us. In an organization empowered by members, listening is more powerful than leading the conversation. Our members need confidence that we hear their workload concerns and that we will advocate undeterred for improved conditions on their behalf.

I am grateful for your support and look forward to connecting with you and serving you on Provincial Executive.

## BIOGRAPHY

### CATHY PLESKACH

Cathy Pleskach is honoured to be nominated for a member at large position on the Provincial Executive. She has been a teacher at Warren Collegiate of the Interlake School Division for 25 years. Her teaching experience includes all levels of math, physics and chemistry, as well as business, drama and dance. Cathy has volunteered her time coaching boys and girls varsity basketball for 25 years, and alumni of the Wildcats Basketball program consider her more family than mentor or coach.

Cathy hails from Beausejour and graduated from the University of Manitoba Faculty of Education. She participated in the ISD Admin Internship Program and received her Post-Baccalaureate focusing on special education.



As a member of the Interlake Teachers' Association, Cathy has been a school rep, treasurer (2010-2015), vice-president (2015-2018), and is currently in her fourth year as president. Cathy has been in on the ground work of several committees, including the ITA/ISD Joint Advisory Committee on Teacher Workload, Action, Liaison and Workplace Safety & Health Committees and is co-developing ISD's WSH employee information campaign.

Provincially, Cathy is an experienced voice and advocate for members and Locals. Her participation includes Presidents' Council Planning Committee, presiding officer of Provincial Bargaining Seminar, WEL conference, MFL delegate, and she is currently on the Life and Honourary Membership Standing Committee.

In her spare time Cathy has volunteered with local performing arts groups as both a performer and director and has been on the board of directors of a consulting firm for the last 18 years.