

ELECTION STATEMENT

JAY EWERT

As a full-time educator, Local president, proud parent, and active union member, I recognize the importance of evolving equity in our union, profession, and education system. Unions codify human rights, make them enforceable, and encourage similar equity across public and private sectors. This continues to be our prime function as we not only defend existing working conditions, but also continue to strive towards increased communication, representation, equity and access for our members.

Teachers have faced draconian challenges recently including the likes of Bill 28, Bill 64, below inflation education funding and increased demands placed upon teachers in the face of a global pandemic. These factors, along with coming uncertainties have left our members in need of clear and concise lines of communication. Now is the time to be active to ensure that these conditions become the driving force for unification of our members before they become a means of division.

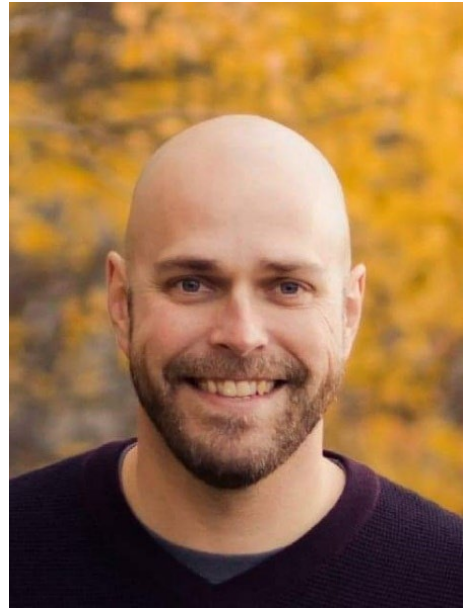
This year we saw increased opportunities for training from the Society and I aim to not only support those initiatives but to encourage that they continue and be built upon so that all members can find opportunities to engage with their union. Our members need to know what their future will look like, and we, as a Society, must provide this direction.

My aim is to focus on working together to strengthen communication amongst our members from across our province so that the rights, conditions, and overall equity of our members can be met with unity and solidarity.

BIOGRAPHY

JAY EWERT

Jay Ewert has taught in Evergreen School Division for the past 13 years; nine of which have been spent serving with the Evergreen Teachers' Association as the Collective Bargaining chair (seven years) and Local president (past two years). He has taught at many levels ranging from early year to high school. Jay currently enjoys teaching Grades 7 and 8 full-time at Arborg Early Middle School. In a sentence, Jay likes to describe teaching as, "helping people to help themselves," as teaching is a profession of positive enabling for self-advocacy. Jay's passion for motivating and encouraging young people has been evident in his work with student groups based around social justice such as the Social Justice League and the Students Against Plastic.



As an active member in the ETA, Jay has found a passion for his work with MTS and has been honoured to find additional ways to serve through his work as a member of the Labour School (labour relations and leadership) program, regional coordinator for the CB chairs of the Lakewood region, and three years serving on the CBSC. These opportunities have served to not only prepare, but to further motivate him to face the challenges ahead.

Jay currently resides in the Interlake with his family where he strives to connect and support his Local to raise rural engagement within the Society. In his spare time, he loves camping with his family, performing music, distance running, and building in his workshop.