

ELECTION STATEMENT

JOEL SWAAN

MTS has weathered no shortage of political work over the last two years. We have seen the release of the Report of the Commission on K-12 Education, Bill 64, a switch to provincial collective bargaining, a change to the education taxation model, and the since-repealed Public Services Sustainability Act restricting the ability to negotiate salary increases. Through it all, the Society has worked to remain nimble and precise in its responses, throughout the global pandemic.

During this time, the Society has also been focused on listening to diverse voices at its various tables, and at increasing the ways in which it responds to equity-deserving groups among the membership.

This duality is where the real work of the society lies: representing a single united front on behalf of all members while simultaneously seeking to listen and give consideration to the full diversity of member voices.

My commitment is to work on behalf of all members. This means that I look for continued personal growth in learning to use my voice on behalf of those who are not at the table, while also working to get those voices at the table.

As we work on big-picture ideas alongside our partners in education while also working to ensure individual members are heard, I believe that I am able to contribute meaningfully to the business of MTS, the welfare of our members, and the state of education in our province.

I respectfully ask for the opportunity to serve on your behalf.

BIOGRAPHY

JOEL SWAAN

Joel taught for Saskatoon Public, Saskatoon Catholic, and Garden Valley School Divisions. A graduate of University of Saskatchewan (B.Ed., B.Mus.Mus.Ed.) and University of New Brunswick (M.Ed.), he holds a Certificate in School Leadership. Joel has mostly taught K-8: primary music, middle years band and French, and 5-8 homeroom; also working as a substitute teacher and acting principal.

Union-involved from the beginning, Joel has been a teacher on strike and work-to-rule in Saskatchewan, experiences unique within the Manitoba context. He pioneered Interest-Based Negotiations with Saskatoon Public, successfully negotiated for equal preparation time for all K-12 teachers, and initiated STF's study regarding increasing the number of male-identifying teachers in primary classrooms.

Joel and Sherie moved to Morden 11 years ago and have three precocious children: Huxley (8) and Finian (5) attend French Immersion in Western School Division, and Ivy (2); a dog and two cats round out the family. Joel has been a proud union member of Canadian Actors' Equity, served on the boards of two non-profit theatre companies, and was a Big Brother for seven years.



Manitoba Teachers' Society

- Provincial Collective Bargaining Committee chair
- Disability Benefits Plan Investment Committee chair
- Human Resources Committee
- Collective Bargaining Standing Committee Regional Representative
- Alternative Resolution Debate Ad Hoc Standing Committee

Canadian Teachers' Federation

- Trustee of the CTF/FCE Trust Fund

Garden Valley Teachers' Association

- Past-president
- President
- Vice-president
- Collective Bargaining chair
- Education Finance chair
- Equity & Social Justice chair
- Professional Development Committee
- Workplace Safety & Health Committee

Saskatoon Teachers' Association

- Local Implementation and Negotiation Committee (Bargaining) chair