Trail Talk Bulletin

October 2026 Bulletin



Lise Legal

CONTENTS

Presidents Message	P.1-2
VP Message	P.3
Announcements	P.4-7





Communication With PTTA President

If you need to speak to someone regarding your work, please contact your President, Lise Legal by email at president@ptta.mbteach.org Please always use a personal email address when you reach out!

Union Gives Strength



President's Message

Pembina Trails Teachers' Association

All PTTA Members are covered by the 2022 – 2026 Provincial Collective Agreement until a new collective agreement is settled. This Collective Agreement outlines our rights and responsibilities as Members of the Manitoba Teachers' Society (MTS). It is accessible via: ptta.ca >> for Members >> Collective Agreement. Contact me if you have any questions regarding the Articles in the Collective Agreement as this helps us all work together to honour the parameters as outlined in the current Provincial Collective Agreement. PTTA Vice-President, Jennifer Paszkat is also ready to receive your inquiries at vicepresident-pd@ptta.mbteach.org

PTTA Council and Executive

The Executive Members and Council Representatives are indispensable to a functional and vibrant union. These amazing teams continue to facilitate the communication that is needed to help ensure PTTA and MTS work for you. Each school has a minimum of one PTTA Council Representative. Be sure to connect with the union representative(s) in your worksite!

PTTA Executive

Members of your Executive were already at work this summer by attending the annual MTS Summer Seminars. Attendees were: Jennifer Paszkat (PTTA Vice President), Ange Waters (PTTA Past President), Dan Mitchell (PTTA Employee Benefits Chair) and myself.

Pembina Trails School Board Elections

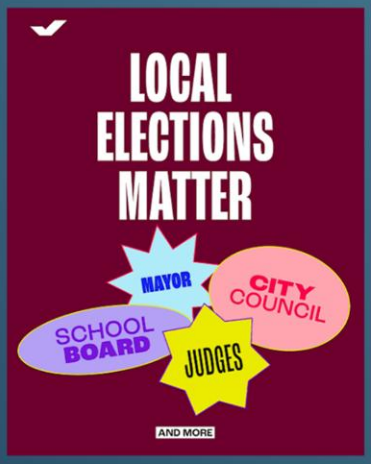
The Winnipeg Labour Council (WLC) has endorsed the following candidates:

Samantha Pope in Ward 1

Lauralee Gooding in Ward 2 (Elected through acclamation)

Carrissa Reyes in Ward 3





TRUSTEE ELECTIONS are set for Wednesday October 28, 2026!

Please see ptta.ca for information from candidates



PTTA also invited each candidate to provide answers to questions – see replies at ptta.ca.

Note: for complete trustee candidate list see Candidates | City of Winnipeg

Guest Teachers

Guest Teachers have expressed appreciation for having clear and consistent access to the following items:

1. Parking stall number identified in the SFE request please
2. List of recess duties to help them prepare appropriately for weather conditions
3. Friendly faces and support when they enter schools

Communication

In order to support all our Members, it is optimal that PTTA Members are continuously engaged. One of the easiest ways to do so is to read the PTTA Council Meeting Talking Points as they provide ongoing information regarding PTTA and MTS work.

MTS MyProfile

In order to help ensure Members have access to current information, please be sure to register with MTS MyProfile. This is a crucial way for MTS to provide timely updates to Members. Sign up here: MemberLink

Maternity / Parental Leave Seminars

MTS is planning Maternity Parental Leave Seminars for this year. More details will be provided at a later date.

Retirement and resignation cut-off dates

If you wish to retire or resign at the end of December 2026:

Give notice to the Division by end of November 30th, 2026

If you wish to retire or resign at end of June 2027:

- And you were hired AFTER 2004, give notice to the Division by end of April 30th, 2027
- And you were hired BEFORE 2004, give notice to the Division by end of May 31st, 2027

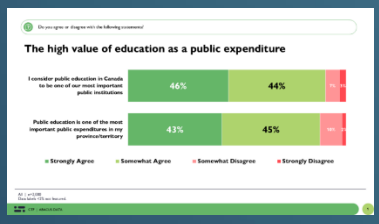
In closing, I wish each of you an invigorating and rewarding school year. Take care of yourself and of each other.

Yours in service,

Lise Legal
Présidente / President
Association Pembina Trails Teachers' Association



Public education is deeply tied to national values, with 89% of Canadians viewing high-quality, publicly funded education as a core component of Canadian identity.



90% of Canadians view public education as a vital institution, and 88% prioritize it for public spending.



90% of Canadian students rely on the public school system, driving Canada to maintain one of the highest post-secondary graduation rates globally.



Investing in education yields direct economic benefits: each extra year of schooling increases personal earnings by 8–10% while accelerating long-term national GDP growth.



Vice President PTTA

Why Investing in Public Education Makes Sense/Cents

Public education is one of the most important investments Canadians make. Strong public schools give children and youth the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to succeed while creating long-term benefits for communities. In Manitoba, about 90% of students attend public schools.

Investing in public education means investing in the future.

Public education is the foundation of a skilled workforce. Employers need people who can think critically, communicate effectively, solve problems, and adapt to change. Students who receive a quality education are more likely to pursue post-secondary studies, apprenticeships, or skilled careers that contribute to economic growth. When schools are underfunded, larger class sizes and fewer supports can limit student success.

Investing in public education also makes financial sense. Higher levels of education are linked to stronger employment, higher earnings, and increased tax revenues. Over time, investment in public schools can help reduce costs associated with poverty, unemployment, and other social challenges.

Public schools also promote equity and inclusion by providing opportunities for students from all backgrounds. Investments in mental health supports, early learning, and inclusive education help ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Public education strengthens communities by preparing citizens and workers, supporting families, reducing inequality, connecting diverse students, and encouraging civic engagement.

Manitoba's public schools serve students in urban, rural, northern, and Indigenous communities. Programs such as French Immersion, trades education, Indigenous perspectives, and career development help students gain valuable skills while promoting cultural understanding and inclusion.

As Canada faces economic, technological, and social change, public education remains one of the smartest investments governments can make. Strong public schools create opportunity, strengthen communities, and prepare students for the future. Simply put, investing in public education makes sense because it benefits everyone, and it makes *cents* because the returns far outweigh the initial investment.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Paszkat
PTTA Vice President

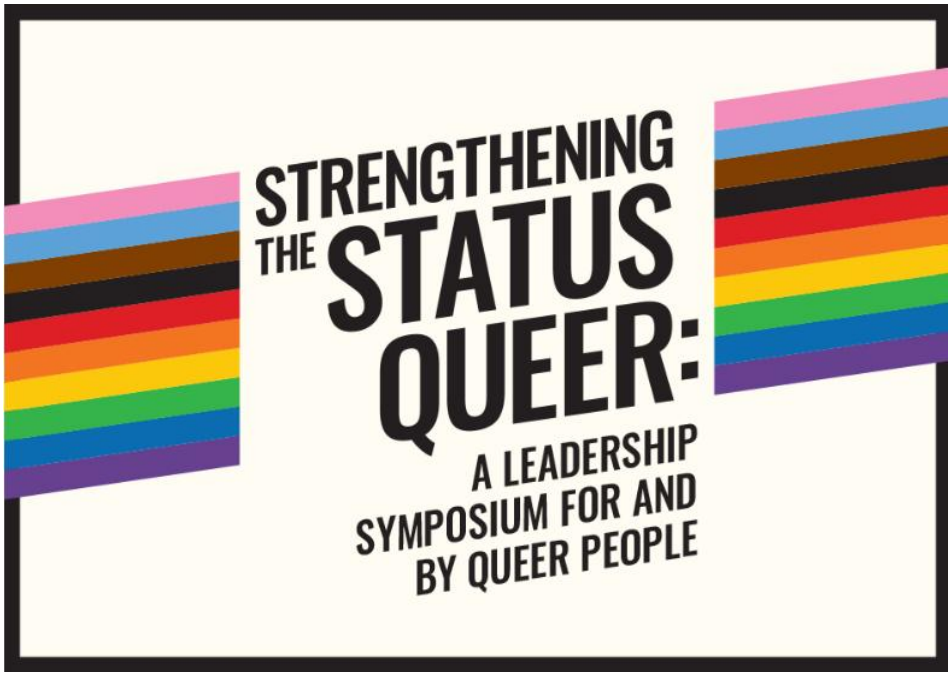


MTS Provincial Agreements: Anglophone and Francophone Provincial Agreements



The Qmunity networking event takes place alongside the 5th Annual Strengthening the Status Queer Leadership Symposium, October 23–24, 2026.

- October 23, 4:30 p.m.: Qmunity networking reception with refreshments.
- October 23, 7:00 p.m.: The World We Long For, an author panel and book launch.
- October 24: Additional leadership programming, including a workshop at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.



Facts Matter

You Do The Math



https://youdothemath.ca/

READY SET RETIRE

Pre-Retirement Seminars (2026)

If you are **age 48 or older**, you will receive an invitation from **The Manitoba Teachers' Society (MTS)** or your **local association** to attend a **Pre-retirement Seminar.**

If you would like to discuss your pension with a **TRAF Member Service Specialist**, you may book an appointment in conjunction with certain Pre-retirement Seminars.

Phone: 204.949.0048

Email: info@traf.mb.ca

TRAF Direct Contact:

Phone: 204-949-0048 |
Toll-Free: 1-800-782-0714

Email: info@traf.mb.ca

Website:
https://www.traf.mb.ca/



Maternity / Parental Leave

Are you planning to take maternity and/or parental leave? The **Employment Standards Code (Manitoba)** and the **Collective Agreement** define your rights. The Code provides minimum standards; the Collective Agreement may enhance them.

Maternity leave (unpaid): up to 17 weeks Government of Manitoba+1
Parental leave (unpaid): up to 63 weeks, taken in one continuous period Government of Manitoba+1 Parental leave must begin no later than 18 months after birth/adoption Government of Manitoba+1

For guidance, the MTS **Maternity and Parental Leave Handbook** provides sample letters, documentation checklists, etc. Manitoba Teachers' Society If you have questions, contact your local Association or the MTS Teacher Welfare Department:

Phone: 204-831-3055 **Email:** *mat-leave-questions@mbteach.org*

Pension and Retirement

The Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund (TRAF) administers the pension plan for public school teachers in Manitoba. TRAF Website
Key pensions / eligibility notes (2026):

- The normal retirement age is **65**. Members may begin receiving a pension as early as age **55**, subject to eligibility requirements and potential early-retirement reductions. TRAF Link
- If you have fewer than **15 years of qualifying service**, you must terminate your teaching contract before beginning your pension. TRAF Link
- The maximum pension benefit is generally **70% of your applicable average salary**, subject to pension plan and legislative limits. TRAF Link

Contact: Dan Turner, Benefit Plans and Programs Officer
Manitoba Teachers' Society (MTS)
Phone: 204-831-3050 | Toll-Free: 1-866-494-5747
Email: dturner@mbteach.org

Retirement / Resignation Dates (2026–2027)

Contact TRAF at least **three months before your intended retirement date** to review your pension options, eligibility, timelines and required paperwork.
Submit your retirement/resignation letter to your Division's Human Resources Department (e.g., Pembina Trails HR) in accordance with the applicable collective agreement and required notice period. Confirm the specific deadlines directly with your Division or local teachers' association.

The letter can be simple:
"I hereby resign/retire from my teaching position effective at the end of the day on [Month Day, Year]."



MTS PD Day
October 23, 2026

Be sure to check the MTS website using the ***More Information*** link to find all the Special Area Groups of Educators (SAGE) participating in the 2026 MTS PD Day. Click on the group of your choice to view its individual program, workshop details, location, registration information and fees.

For more information:

2026 MTS PD Day — Official Website

Registration Assistance:

SAGE Helpline: 204-831-3063
Email: sageevents@mbteach.org

P D Opportunities

The Manitoba Teachers' Society offers professional development opportunities through workshops, seminars, conferences and professional learning events, both in person and online.

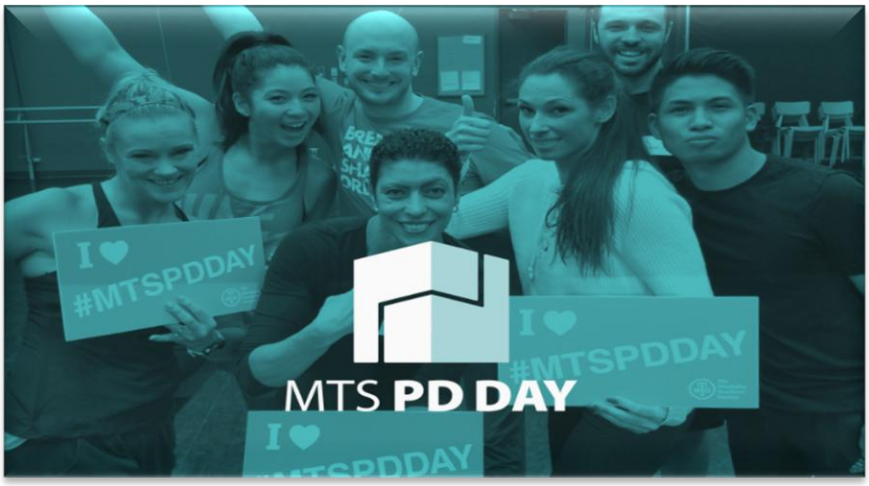
Professional Learning Services — Current Workshops and Events

Workshop Hours:

- **Weekday workshops:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Evening workshops:** 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
- **Saturday workshops:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Workshop schedules, locations and registration requirements may vary by event. Members are encouraged to check the MTS website for current offerings and registration details.

MTS PD Day: October 23, 2026





MTS Substitute Success Series 2026–2027

Start the school year off with professional development specifically tailored to substitute teachers!

Workshops for Substitute Teachers
Dates:

- Tuesday, September 8, 2026 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Hybrid)
- Tuesday, November 3, 2026 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Virtual)
- Friday, February 5, 2027 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Hybrid)
- Tuesday, March 23, 2027 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Virtual)

For more information:
https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/index.php/portfolio/substitute-success-series/



The Pembina Trails Teachers' Association represents approximately 1700 professionals who are employed in the Pembina Trails School Division

Trail Talk is published under the auspices of the Pembina Trails Teachers' Association. PTTA is a member of the Manitoba Teachers' Society.

Members who are interested in making a submission to a future newsletter should email

office@ptta.mbteach.ca



2026 - 2027 EXECUTIVE

105 - 6720 Betsworth Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3R 1W3

Office Phone: (204) 896-4857
Email: office@ptta.mbteach.org

Lise Legal	President
Jennifer Paszkat	Vice President
Michael Pauley	Secretary
Sarah Prach	Treasurer
Daniel Mitchell	Employee Benefits
Megan Restall-Conan	Equity Social Justice
Wade Shasky	Public Relations
Tim Dittrick	Wellness/Social
Holly Hladun	Member-at-Large
Natalie Pegus	Member-at-Large
Angela Waters	Past President