

October 2021
Special Bulletin

Contents

President's Message **P. 1**

VP – CB Message **P. 3**

VP – PD Message **P. 4**

Announcements **P.5**

**Bills
16, 35, 40, 57, 64
have been
withdrawn!**

Bill 16
was set to interfere
with parts of the
arbitration process

Bill 35
threatened to remove
the oversight of an
independent body
when the province
wished to raise hydro
rates

Bill 40
could have led to
privatization of liquor
stores

Bill 57
is essentially an
anti-protest bill

Bill 64
is the public
education
modernization act



Lise Legal

President's Message

Welcome to 2021-2022! 😊

Normal Trail Talk articles cover a range of topics in significant detail. Out of respect for Members who need to read copious items on any given day, I have tried to get straight to the point to provide quick references for you in this newsletter 😊.

Wellness:

As we enter this phase of our collective work, it is most important to be mindful of personal wellbeing. Individual wellness puts each of us in the best position to meet the obligations in all parts of our day: professional, familial, personal, etc.

Communication With Your

PTTA President:

Please always use a personal email address and always use my pttapresident@mymts.net email.

Our Collective Work:

As a direct result of our persistent and collective work,

the provincial government on October 6, 2021, officially withdrew five of their controversial bills.

Note that Bill 45 has yet to be proclaimed. Reminder that this bill targets the establishment of provincial bargaining, including the requirement that arbitration panels consider the “ability to pay” when designing an arbitration award.

No time to rest:

Be assured that PTTA and MTS continue to dialogue with all education stakeholders in support of public education and educators, emphasizing many points, not the least of which are:

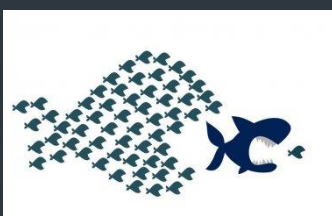
- The health and safety of all staff and students
- Adherence to Collective Agreements

- Reasonable class sizes
- Class composition considerations
- Protecting workload status
- Professional Development
- Substitute Teachers
- Ongoing collaboration, communication and outreach with Members

As those conversations continue, your communication is indispensable. Please continue to reach out to me with questions and concerns so that I can best represent our PTTA voice in the context of MTS priorities and plans.

Extra Curricular Recognition (ECR) Days

Despite the fact that COVID-19 has interfered with normal extracurricular activities, it is important to



remember that the practices around ECR days are governed by a policy that is not a part of our Collective Agreement. Superintendents set the policy, implement and oversee the functioning of the ECR program. Previously, the division has allowed ECR days to be attached to school breaks as well as to long weekends and have been used in half days (at the superintendent's discretion). It is best to apply for an ECR day with a maximum of days in advance of the desired date. Note that currently, ECR days cannot be carried from one year to another.

Tri-Conference Evenings

The Division and PTTA adopted a practice in 2009 regarding departure time. After the last scheduled conference, it is acceptable for a Member to leave as long as the Member advises the principal that s/he/they is/are leaving the school.

Noon Hour Meetings and Supervision

Article 5.3 of our Collective Agreement states that "An uninterrupted lunch period of sixty (60) consecutive minutes shall be provided to each teacher in the Division between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m." During this time

PTTA Members can neither be mandated to supervise students nor be compelled to attend meetings.

Professional Work and Challenges:

As we continue our intensive collective work together, there might be a few bumps in the road and professional challenges may occur. Please peruse the MTS Code of Professional Practice and reach out to me or to MTS if you need.

[Code of Professional Practice \(English\) – The Manitoba Teachers' Society \(mbteach.org\)](#)

[Code de Déontologie \(French\) – The Manitoba Teachers' Society \(mbteach.org\)](#)

School Visits and Communication with PTTA:

Given the ongoing and changing restrictions due to COVID-19, our school visits will look differently. Our visits will be via Zoom until further notice. The Head Representatives in each school will receive more details as that school's virtual visit approaches.

Further, PTTA communication will continue to flow to PTTA Members via school Council Representatives, our website and Trail Talk

Newsletters. We will also be sending emails directly to PTTA Members as needed. To help encourage communication, we are offering a raffle for any PTTA Member who emails me the name of a PTTA Council Representative by end of day November 15th, 2021. Each PTTA Member who does so, will be entered into a draw to win one of four \$15 McNally gift certificates. Note that we will make every effort to maximize all communication venues to ensure that Members receive thorough, prompt information.

In closing, I send my deepest appreciation for having the opportunity to serve PTTA Members again this year. Please know that your work inspires and invigorates mine.

As we walk this very challenging road together, please take good care of yourselves and of each other.

In solidarity,
Lise Legal

UNION IS STRENGTH

**Compliment
people.**

**Magnify their
strengths,**

**not their
weaknesses.**

New and Improved Member Mental Health Services

MTS is expanding its services to members in 2022, extending the scope of therapeutic counselling while adding programs to promote mental health and wellbeing.

Starting January 1, 2022, therapeutic counselling services will be offered under a new name: HumanaCare, providing increased, timely access to supports for you, and for your family, too. In addition, MTS staff who have delivered EAP services will build a second pillar of programs, customized for MTS members and designed to support, educate, and advocate for teacher mental health and wellbeing.

<https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2021/10/04/new-and-improved-member-mental-health-services/>

ENCOURAGE
ONE ANOTHER 

Quick summary of how I will continue to serve members, per Bylaws 5.01 c):

- i) I must be prepared to assume the duties and responsibilities of the President when requested to do so by the President;
- ii) shall chair the Collective Bargaining Committee;
- iii) shall be a member of the Joint Professional Development Fund Management Committee;
- iv) shall be responsible for Workplace Safety and Health;
- v) shall monitor, along with the President, the Collective Agreement;
- vi) shall chair the Education Finance Committee;
- vii) shall perform all other duties which may be assigned by the Executive or by the Council.

Further Provincial Bargaining Information

- Bill 45 The Public Schools Amendment and Manitoba Teachers' Society Amendment Act:

<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-3/b045e.php>

- MTS Provincial Bargaining FAQ:

<https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2021/01/04/faq-provincial-bargaining/>

- MTS Provincial Bargaining Protocol:

<https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2021/05/10/provincial-bargaining-protocol/>



Collective Bargaining Corner

On May 13th, 2021, 33 of 36 local Associations of the Manitoba Teachers' Society had collective agreements in place until June 30th, 2022.

That day, a social media pressure campaign was directed towards three holdout school divisions: Louis Riel, River East Transcona, and Winnipeg to come to the table and agree on a #fairdealforteachers. Members across Manitoba, along with our new affiliate partners of the Manitoba Federation of Labour, tweeted, emailed, and phoned in their support for the three remaining locals.

Louis Riel came to an agreement on May 14th, and River East Transcona followed suit on May 19th. On May 20th, 2021, the Winnipeg Teachers' Association (WTA) came to an agreement and voted to ratify a new collective agreement for 2018-2022, subject to salaries & allowances as set out in the Pembina Trails Arbitration Award from February 15th of this year.

The WTA is the final local to settle an agreement for the foreseeable future, as it came moments before Bill

45: The Public Schools Amendment and MTS Amendment Act received Royal Assent. Bill 45 amends The Public Schools Act to establish centralized collective bargaining.

Had WTA not signed, they would have operated on a June 2018 contract until a provincial agreement was settled.

Bill 45 impacts the work that I do as well as the work of your local Association, the PTTA. Chiefly – some of you may wonder what the Association's bargainer will do now that we no longer bargain locally.

Further to Bylaw 5.01 (c) found in the side column, I also serve on both the Association Council on Education (ACE) and the Board-Association Council on Education (BACE).

I attend Pembina Trails board meetings, numerous MTS seminars and workshops, and meet with members to discuss issues

pertaining to my portfolio.

On October 2, 2021, the delegates to the first Provincial Bargaining Seminar elected me as a member of the Provincial Bargaining Committee. Rest assured that PTTA member concerns will be well-represented as I work to provide the same level of representation to all 16,000+ members of the MTS.

If you have questions and/or would like to serve on our PTTA Collective Bargaining or Education Finance Committees – please reach out to me.

Sean Giesbrecht

**Vice-President,
Collective Bargaining**



Joint Professional Development Fund

It is hard to believe we are already into the month of October!

The weather feels like summer is not wanting to leave us .

Joint PD Application Dates for 2021- 2022

- November 8, 2021
- January 10, 2022
- February 15, 2022
- April 11, 2022
- May 30, 2022

Joint PD Fund

Planning to utilize the Joint PD Fund but have a question?

Check out the



Frequently

Asked

Questions

on the PTTA webpage at www.ptta.ca



Fall is one of my favourite seasons: the weather is just a wee bit cooler, school has started and we are finding our groove, and of course, my favourite drink a Pumpkin Spice Latte. COVID has put a lot of stress and pressure on all of us. There was a lot of anxiety and unknowns heading back to school in

September, but there was also a lot of hope and optimism that we know more what to do to keep everyone safe. Health & wellness increased in many people's lives

For me, this summer was one I spent home with my family. I ordered a pool and my school aged children loved going in and out, jumping and splashing making memories. Sadly, I had to say goodbye to my Nana, who passed at 106 years young. "Super Nana", as she was known to her great grandkids, was a special lady. She lived through the Spanish flu, the wars, the Great Depression, and even

COVID. She provided me with so many learning opportunities from the stories she told. She listened intently when I shared my stories: the stories about school, about my learning, about my life. Even at 106 she knew just how important teaching and learning are to me.

While I reflect on her life I want to take the time to focus on the things that I learned from her:

- People.

The importance of the people around us. Those who keep us grounded, are kind, who listen and ask questions

- Health.

While I have Multiple Sclerosis, I am fortunate to have support, guidance, and reassurance from medical professionals who keep me as healthy as possible

- My colleagues.

As a music specialist I have found my 'people' and I know we will share in our musical journeys together.

- My school.

In my school we have created a positive culture to learn and share with one another. I appreciate the leaders who are there to support and to pick us up if we stumble.

- My students.

They keep me on my toes by sharing their enthusiasm for learning.

They are the ones driving me to do my best. I want to attend professional development sessions so I can improve my learning for them

- MTS and the Teachers' Association.

For advocating for us and with us. As a person with a disability, I know they will help advocate for me as well as all of you My students.

Find your village and love them hard.

Jennifer Paszkat

**Vice-President,
Professional
Development**

Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar

Seminars are being designed and dates will be provided as soon as they become available.

MTS Pension Seminar

Pre-Retirement Seminars

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

Included in that letter is a user ID that is required for the login process. Once logged in, you will be shown the seminars that are available to you.

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.

Make sure you book your seminar and/or appointment as soon as possible, as space is limited



MTS Group Benefits

Pre-Retirement Seminars

There are a number of health benefits provided by MTS alone or in conjunction with some local associations.

The following benefit information is a summary of employee benefit plans which may be applicable to employment in your Division. Note that benefit plans may vary by division, and where practicable, this has been noted.

[Short-Term Disability Benefits Plan](https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/05/short-term-disability-benefits-plan/)

<https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/05/short-term-disability-benefits-plan/>

[Long-Term Disability Benefits Plan](https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/05/long-term-disability-benefits-plan/)

<https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/05/long-term-disability-benefits-plan/>

[Extended Health Plans, Group Dental Plans & Group Life Insurance](https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/05/extended-health-plans-group-dental-plans-group-life-insurance/)
[\(all information on Manitoba Public School Employee Benefits Plan website\)](https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/05/extended-health-plans-group-dental-plans-group-life-insurance/)

<https://mpsebp.ca/>

[Pension Information](https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/05/pension-information/)

<https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/05/pension-information/>

[Deferred Salary Leave Plan](https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/05/deferred-salary-leave-plan/)

<https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2016/05/05/deferred-salary-leave-plan/>



BECAUSE



The
Manitoba
Teachers'
Society

MENTAL
HEALTH
IS
HEALTH.



LIFESPEAK

Now you can get the expert information you trust from the device you always have with you.

Look for LifeSpeak in
Your Members' Portal

Available on Google Play
and the App Store in
English and French.

The Pembina Trails
Teachers' Association
represents approximately
1400 professionals who are
employed in the Pembina
Trail 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

ptta@mymts.net



People impress
when they shine
brightly without
extinguishing
the light of
others

2021/2022 EXECUTIVE

105-6720 Betsworth Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3R 1W3.

Office Phone: (204) 896-4857

Email: ptta@mymts.net

Lise Legal	President	pttapresident@mymts.net
Sean Giesbrecht	Vice President CB	pttacb@mymts.net
Jennifer Paszkat	Vice President PD	pttapd@mymts.net
Michael Pauley	Secretary	pttasecretary@mymts.net
Adrienne Collins	Treasurer	pttatreasurer@mymts.net
Daniel Mitchell	Employee Benefits	pttaeb@mymts.net
Kelly Chin	Equity & Social Justice	pttaesj@mymts.net
Michelle Barclay	Public Relations	pttapr@mymts.net
Alyssa Caughy	Wellness/Social	pttaws@mymts.net
Mishelle Russo	Member-at-Large	pttamal1@mymts.net
John MacKinnon	Member-at-Large	pttamal2@mymts.net
Kathryn Slovinsky	Past President	pttapastpres@mymts.net