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From the President

Seven Oaks School Division senior leadership will see some significant changes over the next month with Brian O'Leary taking the position of Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, Matt Henderson as Chief Superintendent and CEO of Winnipeg School Division, and Shelley Warkentin as Assistant Superintendent of Deeper Learning and Rigour. We wish them all the best as they take on new leadership roles.

We look forward to working with current Assistant Superintendents Tony Kreml and Jen McGowan and the three new appointments to be announced in the next few weeks.



SOTA is prepared to work with the Senior Administration and the Board of Trustees as new opportunities present themselves in the future for students and staff in our school division.

Jeff Cieszecki

Fall at Kildonan Park by
John Slipec



SOTA/Board Professional Development Fund

2023-24 Professional Development

The Manitoba Teachers' Society states that "professional development encompasses all activities that teachers undertake to direct their own learning and to enhance their professional practice."

Through the SOTA/Board Professional Development Fund, teachers have a variety of ways to access autonomous PD. These include:

In-Province Funding

In-province funding encompasses workshops, conferences, classroom/site visitations, cooperating teacher/teacher candidate collaboration and webinars.

Tuition Fees

As a part of the in-province funding area, tuition and continuance fees from an accredited post-secondary institution toward a graduate degree in education are reimbursed at 1/3 the tuition/continuance fee amount to a maximum of \$500.

Member Initiated Project Grant (MIP)

Under the umbrella of in-province funding, the MIP grant supports members to develop teaching strategies and support materials related to their practice with funds up to \$800.

Out of Province Funding

The out of province fund enables members to attend conferences in Canada and the continental United States once every three years.

Educational Leave

Ed Leave supports members through providing funds for release time for teachers to discuss, research, observe and/or investigate educational topics. Release days related to post-graduate study may also be covered by this fund.

For more information regarding the guidelines and application process for the SOTA/Board PD Fund, visit the SOTA website at [SOTA/Board PD Fund \(sotamb.org\)](https://www.sotamb.org).



SOTA/Board PD Fund Q&A

How much funding am I eligible for this year?

You may be approved for funding for up to **TWO** activities per year not including Educational Leave and the MTS PD Day. (Out-of-Province eligibility is once every three years)

How do I apply to the SOTA/Board PD Fund?

- 1) Log into Employee Connect.
- 2) On your Profile click on Absence, then from the drop-down menu click on Leave Request.
- 3) Select from the Add Leave Type menu (choices are PD Board/SOTA Out of Province Conference, PD Board/SOTA In Province Conference, or PD Board/SOTA

or PD Board/SOTA In Province Workshop) and click on the Add button.

4) On the next screen:

- Please note that all fields with an asterisk* are mandatory fields that must be completed
- Rationale – (relevance to teaching and summary of activity)**

How do I get reimbursed for a Professional Development activity?

The expense claim form is to be submitted with your **INDIVIDUAL** conference receipts to the SOBO within 30 days of your PD Activity. If you attended an **OUT-OF-PROVINCE** conference, a conference report must be submitted along with the expense claim form, in order to process your reimbursement.

SPOT THE SOTA

Squishy Phone Holder!!!!

Would you like to be on SOTA Instagram or in the next ACORN?

Take a photo with the SOTA squishy phone holder, and email it to vicepresident@sota.mbteach.org

Drop by the SOTA booth on Divisional Day for your chance to take a picture.

You could win a prize for submitting your picture!



SOTA Communications

Did you know....

SOTA has a website

Our website has up to date information on current SOTA events. The website also has important information about:

SOTA Executive

Publications

Collective Agreement

Constitution/Policy

Insurance Information

SOTA/Board PD Fund

Safety & Health

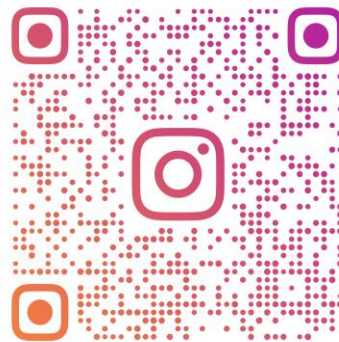
Equity and Social

New Teacher Centre

SOTA is on Instagram

Our SOTA Instagram has posts and stories about the latest news and events about our association.

Follow us using the QR code below:



SEVENOAKSTEACHERSASSOCIATION

MTS Events

Project Overseas

Project Overseas

Project Overseas is a joint endeavor of The Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) to support partners in developing countries as they co-plan and co-deliver professional learning to local teachers. Since 1962, Project Overseas has assisted teacher organizations in over 50 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Caribbean. Every July, Project Overseas places over 50 volunteers in between 10 to 15 countries.

Project Overseas Application Form English – Deadline Monday, November 27, 2023

Project Overseas Application Form French – Deadline Monday, November 27, 2023



FemLightenment

SERIES | 2023/2024

MTS Leadership Learning Series

Bringing the Movement to Parliament – Leah Gazan

Before being elected, Leah Gazan was a community activist who worked on addressing pressing human rights issues at the grassroots level. In this session, she will discuss how she has brought the energy of social movements into parliament and used her platform as an MP to create change. It will also address the need for women and gender-diverse people to get involved in politics to defend our rights and improve the material conditions for all of those who have been marginalized by unjust systems.

Date: Saturday, October 28, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Register for Part I: <https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2023/09/04/femlightenment->

Check the MTS Website for more on the following:



SOTA Committees

The Committee Chair positions were filled by SOTA Executive Members at Large in October, following which, there is a call from the general membership to join committees.

If you are interested in joining a committee or would like more information, contact your SOTA VP at vicepresident@sota.mbteach.org

**Employee
Benefits**

**Chair: Jordan
Laidlaw**

**Indigenous
Education**

**Chair: Jennifer
Babcock**

**Equity and
Social Justice**

**Chair: Amanda
Karpinsky**

WEL Committee

**Chair: Joanne
Kosheluk**

**Wellness
Committee**

**Chair: Jordan
Laidlaw**

**SOTA
Constitution/
Policy Review**

**Chair: Jeff
Cieszcecki**

**Education
Finance**

**Chair: Mark
Behrendt**

Scholarships

**Chair: Lindsay
Brown**

Resolutions

**Chair: Lisa
Meyers**

2023-2024 SOTA Dates



November 2023

7th - SOTA Executive
28th - SOTA Council Meeting
(virtual)

December 2023

5th - SOTA Executive
19th – SOTA Council Meeting
(virtual)

January 2024

9th - SOTA Executive
23rd - SOTA Council Meeting
(virtual)

February 2024

6th - SOTA Executive
20st - SOTA Council Meeting
(virtual)

March 2024

5th - SOTA Executive
19th - SOTA Council Meeting

April 2024

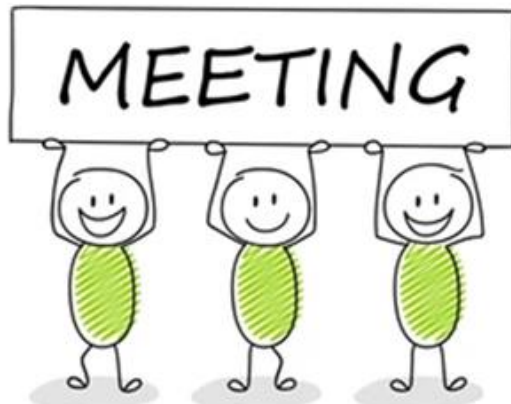
2nd - SOTA Executive
16th - SOTA Council Meeting

May 2024

7th - SOTA Executive
14th - SOTA Council Meeting
24-25th - MTS Provincial Council

June 2024

4th - SOTA Executive
18th - SOTA Council Meeting



SOTA Council

Each school or workplace is allowed one councillor for each ten members and at least one alternate for every two councillors. One councillor shall be designated the Head Councillor.

Join us at Council, typically the third Tuesday of each month.

**Get involved
with SOTA
Council!**

Contact Us

SOTA office
204-985-6120

President
Jeff Cieszecki
president@sota.
mbteach.org

Vice President
Karen Vaarmeyer
vicepresident@sota.
mbteach.org

All matters will be dealt
with in confidence.

Manitoba Teachers' Society
general switchboard:
204-888-7961