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From the President

As we head into the second half of the 22/23 school year, I am asking all SOTA members to consider becoming more involved in Seven Oaks Teachers' Association activities. This addition of The Acorn highlights various SOTA member opportunities such as becoming your worksite's SOTA Council Representative (talk with your SOTA Head Councilor) or joining one of the many SOTA committees. You may also want to consider running for a position on the SOTA Executive for next year. The Seven Oaks Teachers' Association will be hosting an information session regarding



the potential transition from our current extended health benefits carrier Equitable Life, to The Manitoba Teachers' Society Blue Cross Plan (see page 6). The presentation is to provide information as we move towards a new provincial collective agreement. As always, please feel free to contact the SOTA office if you have any questions or concerns, all conversations are confidential.

Jeff Cieszecki



Ice Trail at Kildonan Park

Bryan Scott

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bryanscott/5371472583/>

SOTA Participation

Belonging to MTS & SOTA is Your Right

While it is indeed true that our union makes us stronger, it is the active participation of our members within the Association and the Society which are our sources of strength. Building capacity, continuity, and collaboration are essential to the health of our organization.

BECOME A COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

- **Time Commitment:** 1 meeting/month
- Council Representatives and Alternates attend one SOTA meeting per month from September through June. These meetings provide participants with deeper insight into the work of the Association and the Society, while providing members with an opportunity to voice concerns and advocate on behalf of their colleagues.
- Held every third Tuesday, SOTA Council meetings typically last an hour and a half. A half day of training is provided to Head Council Representatives in alternating years.

BECOME AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

- **Time Commitment:** 2 meetings/month, MTS Provincial Council, and additional responsibilities
- Executive Members play a crucial role in the vitality and ongoing work of the Association. In addition to attending SOTA Council Meetings, SOTA Executive members also attend one Executive meeting per month from September through June.
- Executive portfolios include areas such as Wellness, Employee Benefits, Indigenous Education, and Education Finance.
- For more information regarding a portfolio, please contact the SOTA Office for more details.

BECOME A SOTA COMMITTEE MEMBER

- Member input and participation is critical to the strength of our Association.
- There exist a variety of Committees that play to the passions and strengths of our members; from Resolutions, Equity and Social Justice, Nominations, Policy and Constitution Review, Women in Educational Leadership and more.
- Your ideas, voice, and time make a difference to the collective.

Should you wish to become more actively involved within SOTA please reach out to the SOTA office via email at office@sota.mbteach.org

or by phone at 204-985-6120



Nominations Call SOTA Executive 23/24

Who can be on SOTA Executive?

Any interested SOTA Member can put their name forward for any position on SOTA Executive.

What does the SOTA Executive do?

The SOTA Executive actively supports the working lives of all members in various ways. They monitor the political landscape of education not only in Seven Oaks, but in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Canada.

How much time is required?

Executive meets the first Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm. SOTA Council meets the third Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm.

Why might executive be right for me?

Have you ever...

Felt like you want to know more about being a member in SOTA?

Felt like your voice needs to be heard?

Felt like giving back to your colleagues from the past, present and future?

Wanted to make a difference in working lives of SOTA members...

Then SOTA Executive may be right for You!

Deadline for Nominations:

First Slate: Tuesday, March 14th, 2023 @ 9am

Second slate Tuesday, April 11th, 2023 @ 4pm

**SOTA Executive is a place
where you can learn, discuss,
engage, and grow.**



Nominations or questions to be sent to Kristen Koshelanyk, Nominations Chair at: kristen.koshelanyk@7oaks.org

Executive positions include:

Treasurer

Past President

Secretary

President

Vice President

9 Members-at-Large

SOTA/Board Professional Development Fund

Member Initiated Project Grant

The Member Initiated Project (MIP) grant allows individual members or teams of two members, to extend their learning related to their practice and gives them the opportunity to develop and implement resources.

Proposals must be submitted electronically (via email) using the application form provided and will be reviewed on a first-come first-served basis. NO leave request is required to be entered at time of application.

The Member Initiated Project grant is able to support a total of 12 grants per school year with funds up to \$800 to develop teaching strategies and support materials related to their practice; to apply their learning in their practice.

Activities eligible for a MIP grant may include:

- Creating teaching resources
- Implementation of research-based learning
- To purchase professional learning books or other materials needed to further the work of the group (to a maximum of 50% total funding)
- Hosting workshops open to members in the Division (hosted after school hours)
- MIP activities can only take place after the approval of the application.
- Projects may include plans for sharing results with teaching colleagues.

The next funding period for the MIP grant is now open. Applications are due **February 1, 2023**. For more information, see the SOTA website at:

<http://www.sotamb.org/sotaboard-pd-fund.html>



SOTA/Board PD Fund Q&A

Can I still apply for PD funding this school year?

Yes! You may be approved for funding for up to TWO activities per year. There are ample funds available to support autonomous teacher professional development.

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.

What should I include for my rationale?

The following rationale must be included in your application in order for your request to be considered for funding:

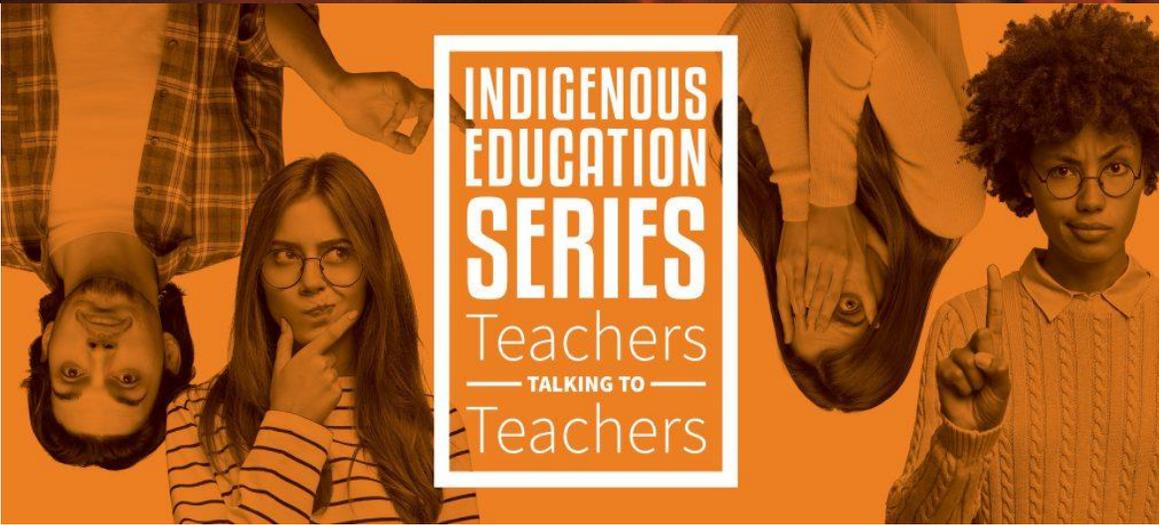
- i) How does attending this PD inform your practice?
- ii) How does attending this PD impact your work in Seven Oaks?

An incomplete rationale can result in the denial of a PD request.

Does the PD Fund cover tuition?

Yes! The Fund reimburses 1/3 eligible tuition from an accredited post-secondary institution up to a maximum of \$500 per 3 credit hours. The application deadline for tuition requests is 10 calendar days prior to the start of the course.

MTS Events



Leading Our Schools:

What Principals and Vice-Principals Need to Know

Time:

Feb 22, 2023 | 6:00 – 7:30 pm (Central Time)

Zoom Link: <https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2022/12/16/indigenous-education-series/>



The Manitoba Teachers' Society is committed to supporting the leadership development and professional learning of its members. The MTS Union Learning Grant provides the opportunity for teachers to build their knowledge and skills in labour relations and unionism through professional learning opportunities. This grant is intended to support mentorship and professional learning so that our members understand their potential paths to leadership roles in their Locals.

First round of funding: Applications are due January 30, 2023

<https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2022/12/16/mts-union-learning-grants/>

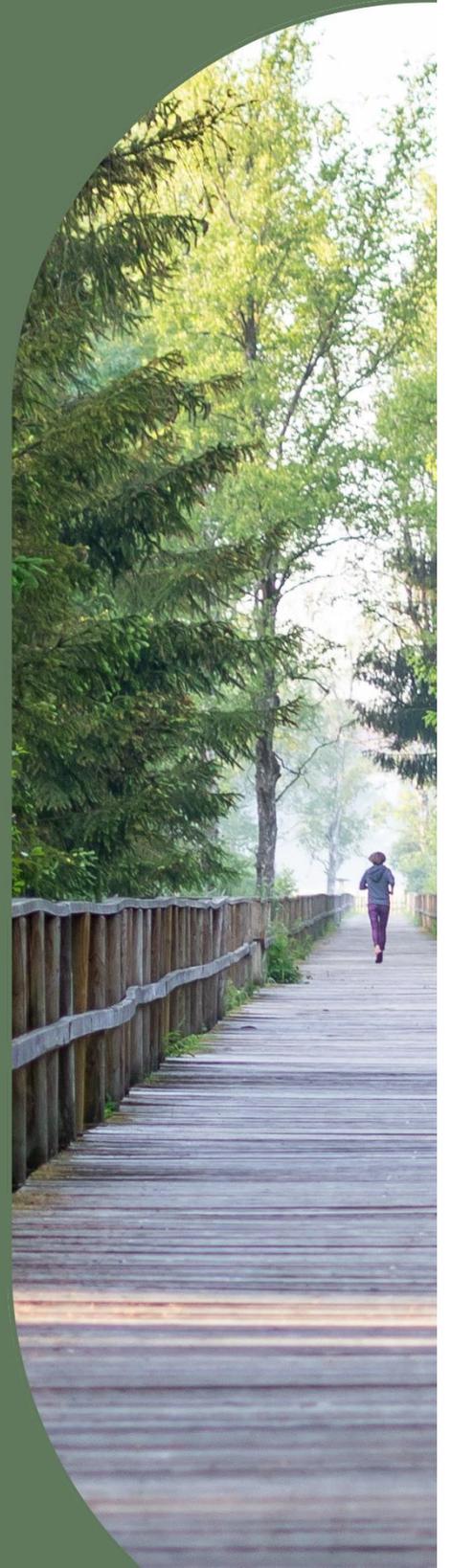


EXTENDED HEALTH BENEFITS MEETING

Information on future SOTA
Extended Health Benefits
under Provincial Bargaining
Presented by:
Glen Anderson, MTS staff

February 28, 2023
Maples Commons
1330 Jefferson Ave
4:30 pm

Scan QR Code
to Register



2022-2023 SOTA Dates



February 2023

7th- SOTA Executive
21st- SOTA Council Meeting
(virtual)
28th- Extended Health Benefits
(Maples Commons)

March 2023

7th- SOTA Executive
21st- SOTA Council Meeting
(virtual)

April 2023

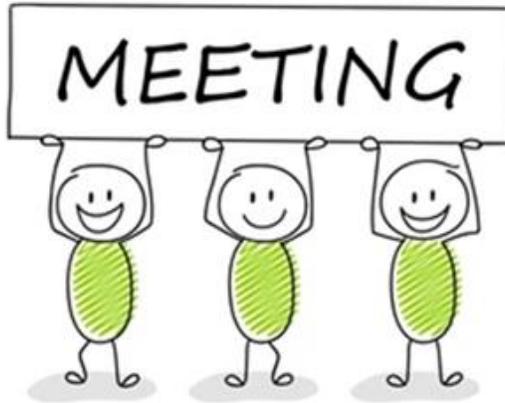
4th- SOTA Executive
18th- SOTA Council Meeting
(virtual)

May 2023

2nd- SOTA Executive
16th- SOTA Council Meeting
(virtual)
25-27th MTS Provincial Council

June 2023

6th- SOTA Executive
13th- 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
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mbteach.org](mailto:president@sota.mbteach.org)

Vice President
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All matters will be dealt with in confidence.

Manitoba Teachers' Society
Request Staff Officer
assistance 204-888-7961