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From the President- Jeff Cieszecki

As we wind down another school year, be sure to take time to relax and get to those things you have put on hold while dedicating your efforts to your students and schools.

When we return in the fall, all Manitobans should be in full provincial election mode as we head to the polls on or before October 3, 2023. In preparation for the fall election, I would ask SOTA members to turn their minds to what they expect of their elected officials in the legislature regarding public education in Manitoba. If members are looking for a place to begin, The Manitoba Teachers' Society has produced the **2023 Manitoba Election Advocacy Toolkit** (mbteach.org/pdfs/news/MTS_MBElectionAdvocacyToolkit_2023.pdf). Some of the topics in the Toolkit include:

- Ramp Up Your Political Involvement
- What Does it Mean to be Non-Partisan?
- Encouraging Voter Participation
- MTS Priority Issues
- Suggestions on How to Tell Candidates What You Want
- Engagement Through Traditional Media
- Engagement Through Social Media

What does it mean for SOTA members to become politically involved:

For educators, political involvement comes down to shared values and ideas about how the public education system should work to ensure successful outcomes for all students. Put simply, political involvement is a way to influence legislation and government policies. Political involvement is issue based. (p. 4, *2023 Manitoba Election Advocacy Toolkit*)

So, enjoy the summer and be prepared to raise your voice for the fall election.



Seven Oaks Teachers' Association Retirement and Long Service Reception

On Tuesday, May 30, 2023, members gathered at the Prairie's Edge restaurant in Kildonan Park to honour our SOTA Retirees, 25-year MTS/SOTA Long Service members, and this year's scholarship recipients.

Greetings were brought from the Seven Oaks School Division by Superintendent Brian O'Leary and on behalf of SOTA by President Jeff Cieszecki.

Congratulations to all honourees and many thanks for your dedication and service to the students, families and community of Seven Oaks!

SOTA 2023 RETIREES

SHELLEY BIGGAR	BARBARA BOTTLE
JODIE BRISBIN	MELONEE COLLINS
GUY DESMARAIS	SHARON DYCK
ROWAN SMITH-MCCANDLESS	LORI WIEBE
CATHERINE HAWORTH	MICHAEL ILYNIAK
COLLEEN LOEWEN	DEBROAH SMYTH
ALICE MCGREGOR	FATUMAH MBABAALI



25 YEAR MTS/SOTA LONG SERVICE MEMBERS



JOEY ROBERTSTON	ANNICK BORDEAUX
GINA CURATOLO	GISELE DESORCY
CATHARINE FOY	JUDY FORBES
TODD HOCHMAN	LARA LEE
RICHARD LUPU	SHERYL PELTZ
CHRISTINE STARK	CRYSTAL WIENS
PAMELA BOSIUK-FRANKLIN	



EMILY KROEKE-
WEST KILDONAN COLLEGIATE

ISABELLA MCINTYRE-
WEST KILDONAN COLLEGIATE

MYA KEELER-
COLLEGE GARDEN CITY COLLEGIATE

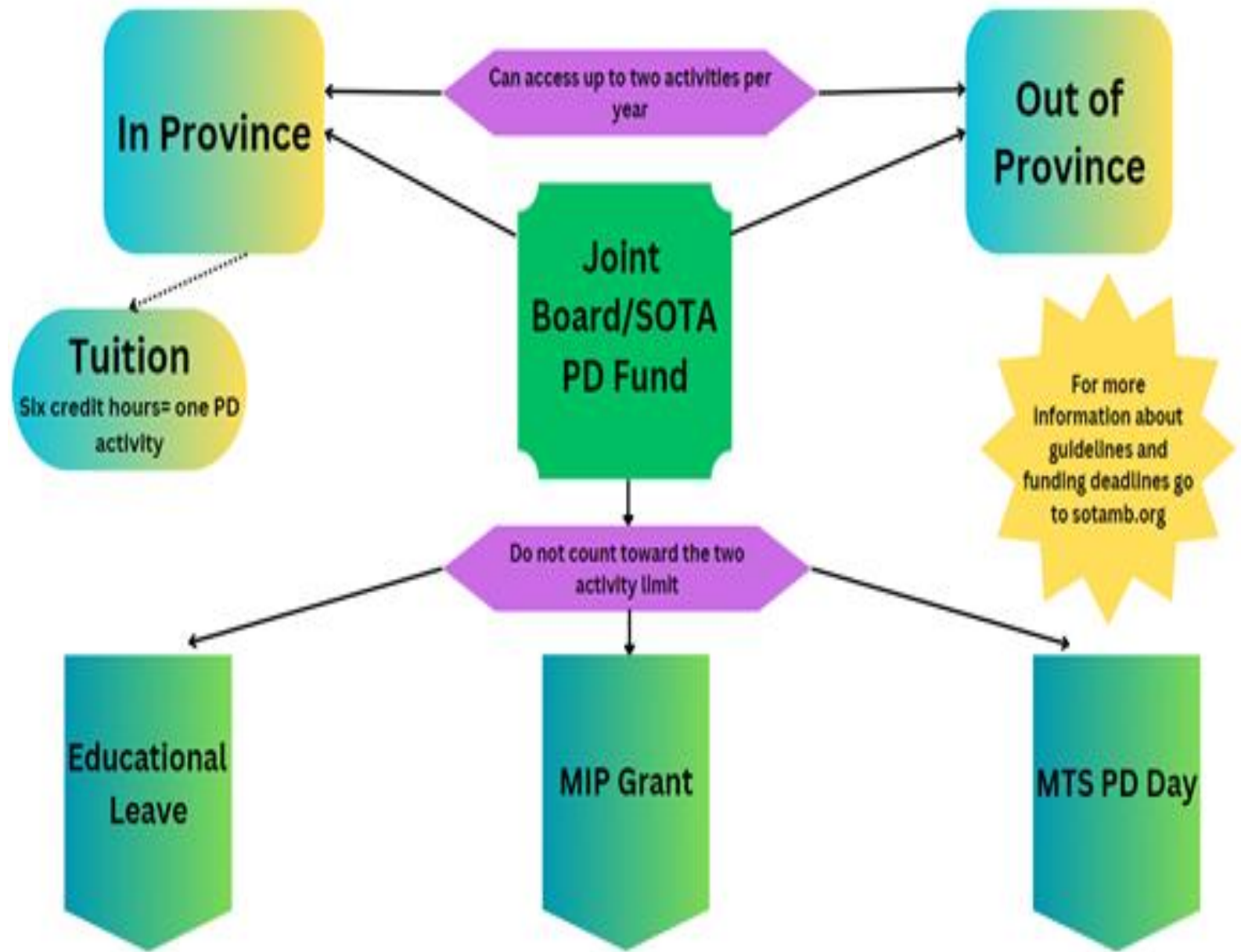
YOANNA HAILU-
MAPLES COLLEGIATE

JERICO TAGAMA-
MAPLES COLLEGIATE

2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



SOTA/Board Professional Development Fund



SOTA/Board PD Fund Q&A

Yes! The funding period for next year is now open for any activities taking place from October 2023 to June 2024. You may be approved for funding for up to TWO activities per year.

The application deadline for all professional development activities, including tuition, that take place in July, August, or September was June 1st. As this date has passed, you are not able to apply for a professional development activity for this summer.

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.

Yes! The Fund reimburses 1/3 eligible tuition from an accredited post-secondary institution up to a maximum of \$500 per 3 credit hours.

MTS Information



Professional Learning Opportunity

Start the school year off with professional development specifically tailored to you. The Manitoba Teachers' Society invites you to participate in this day of workshops for MTS members who are substitute teachers in Winnipeg and surrounding areas.

Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Time: 9:00am – 3:30pm

Location: McMaster House Auditorium

Registration information: <https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2023/05/10/mts-substitute-seminar/>



MBTEACHER FEATURE

**THE PRINCIPAL
OF THE THING:**
SUPPORTING WAR-
AFFECTED REFUGEE
YOUTH

PG.30



MB TEACHER MAGAZINE FEATURE

Fatumah Mbabaali has worked in Seven Oaks School Division as a classroom teacher, learning support teacher, vice principal and principal. She is retiring this year from her position as Principal at Collicutt School. Three decades ago, Fatumah fled war-torn Uganda and settled in Winnipeg. Her research focuses on the sense of belonging among war-affected refugee youth during their pre-migration and post-migration, as well as factors that impact their sense of belonging during resettlement.

Fatumah writes with clarity and insight about the needs of war-affected refugee youth. A nuanced, first-person article with practical strategies to help is available at:

<https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2023/05/31/supporting-war-affected-refugee-youth/>



Relax, Restore, Refresh



Read an adult book- nothing with Captain Underpants, Ramona, DogMan, or CatKid

Take Time to Laugh and Connect with Friends

Take a long lunch

Go on a Netflix binge

Sleep in or take a nap - and don't feel guilty about it!

Go to the bathroom anytime you want!

Get a Massage

Stay in your pajamas all day

Staycation or Vacation- Have a Wonderful Summer Break!

<https://teachingmadepractical.com/relax>

Women in Educational Leadership



**Women
Belong
In All
Places
Where
Union
Decisions
Are
Being
Made**

Manitoba Federation of Labour 2023 Women's Conference

September 26-27, 2023 // Union Centre
275 Broadway (Winnipeg)



2023-24 SOTA Dates



September 2023

- 12th - SOTA Executive
- 19th – Head Councilor Training
- 19th – SOTA Council Meeting

October 2023

- 11th- SOTA Executive
- 17th – SOTA Council Meeting

November 2023

- 7th- SOTA Executive
- 28th – SOTA Council Meeting

December 2023

- 5th- SOTA Executive
- 19th – SOTA Council Meeting

January 2024

- 9th- SOTA Executive
- 23rd – SOTA Council Meeting

February 2024

- 6th- SOTA Executive
- 20th – SOTA Council Meeting

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

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

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204-985-6120

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All matters will be dealt with in confidence.

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