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From the President- Jeff Cieszecki

On March 14, 2023, the Manitoba Government had the first reading of Bill 35: The Education Administration Act (Teacher Certification and Professional Conduct). Bill 35 will:

- Redefine teacher misconduct
- Create competence standards
- Outline the structure and composition for a commissioner and independent body to process, investigate, and adjudicate cases of misconduct
- Create a public teacher registry

The Manitoba Teachers' Society has raised several concerns regarding the current wording and content of Bill 35:

- "Keeping kids safe should not come at the expense of making teachers vulnerable. Bill 35 exposes teachers to frivolous and malicious complaints because of its overly broad definition of "misconduct." Also, the phrase "significant emotional harm" could be interpreted as anything from how a teacher grades a student, to their choice of content including that deemed by some members of the public to be controversial (for example, 2SLGBTQIA+ issues), to their classroom management and resource choices."
- "...professional competence is not related to protecting children's safety and should not be part of any teacher misconduct framework."
- "The bill is also silent on whether teachers would have union representation at public hearings—and does nothing preventative or proactive to keep a student safe."

MTS insists that the membership's many concerns be addressed in any proposed legislation touching on these issues and that Bill 35 in its current form is unacceptable. To this end, MTS is asking teachers to share their concerns at the government's public committee meetings on Bill 35. Members are encouraged to visit mbteach.org and click on the "Sign Up to Speak Out! Amend Bill 35!" banner for more information. Teachers can register for the committee hearings to either present in person or provide a written submission regarding Bill 35.

Additional information:

- Link to Bill 35: <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-5/pdf/b035.pdf>
- Committee hearing registration: https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/committees/committee_registration.html

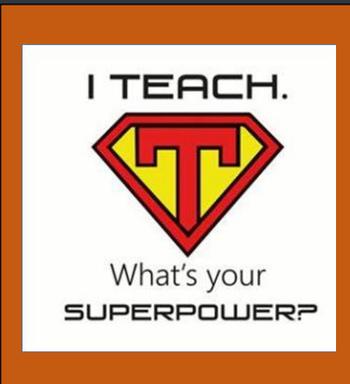
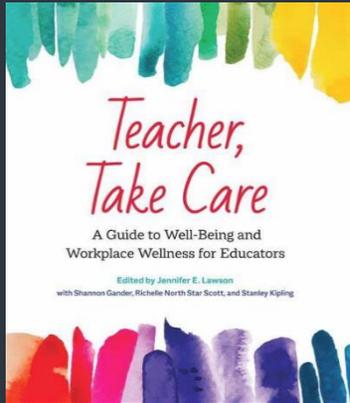


SOTA Wellness

March is the time for renewal in Manitoba. As we adjusted our clocks to spring ahead and celebrated the vernal equinox on Monday, March 20th, we now feel the anticipation of Spring Break and the rejuvenation of the change in season. The increase in sunlight and warmer temperatures can be the impetus for teachers to renew our commitment to personal wellness.

In Jennifer E. Lawson's book, *Teacher, Take Care: A Guide to Well-Being and Workplace Wellness For Educators*, Laura Doney and Dana Fulwiler Volk remind teachers that we must give ourselves "permission to be well" (Lawson, 2022, p. 25) and that "self-permission is the way in which we allow ourselves to prioritize personal well-being and focus on a fulfilling life" (Lawson, 2022, p. 35).

With the coming of spring, give yourself permission to reconnect with your well-being strategies and focus on your personal mental health. Try something new or an activity that brings you joy!



SOTA Events



SOTA Maternity and Parental Leave Information

Are you planning to take maternity and/or parental leave? Would you like to learn more about the Employment Standards Code and the collective agreement as they pertain to maternity/parental leave?

Join SOTA and Andrea Zaroda from MTS for a Maternity and Parental Leave Seminar from 4:30-5:30 pm on April 19, 2023 at Collège Garden City Collegiate Library, 711 Jefferson Ave. Pre-registration is required.

To register for the Maternity/Parental Leave Seminar, use the QR code below:



SOTA Trivia Night

When: April 26, 2023
Time: 4:30 pm
Location: Seven Oaks Service & Learning Centre
1985 Grassmere Road

Open to all SOTA members- Teams of 4-6- Pre-registration required.
\$5 per person- All entry fees will be donated to the Elwick Village

To register for the SOTA Trivia Night Event, use the QR code below:



Nominations Call SOTA Executive 23/24

Can I still put my name forward?

Yes! The second nominations slate is due by 4:00 pm on April 11, 2023. Members may submit their name in writing accompanied with ten signatures of members supporting their nomination by the due date. Contact office@sota.mbteach.org for the form.

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 as a member of Executive?

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.

Deadline for Nominations:

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, SOTA 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

Educational Leave

Educational leave enables individual teachers and or teams of teachers to link their practice to research and research to practice. It is important for teachers to engage in professional dialogue and to reflect upon their assumptions, ideas, beliefs and values about teaching and learning.

The Educational Leave Fund supports individual teachers and teams of teachers by providing funds for release time to study, discuss, research, observe and/or investigate educational topics. Activities leading to professional growth can include:

1. action research
2. book studies
3. post-graduate study through a post-secondary institution (to a maximum of 40 days per certificate/degree), course work and practicums are not covered
4. classroom/site visits
5. a combination of the above.

Ed Leave Proposals must be submitted electronically to a maximum of three pages. Guideline for application process are on the SOTA website:

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

Applicants will be invited to present (20 minutes) a summary of their proposal with the Joint SOTA/Board Committee.

Deadline for applications for leaves to be used September - January 31 of the next school year is **April 1st, 2023**.



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.

When do I need to apply to the fund?

The application deadline for In-Province requests is 10 calendar days prior to the start of the activity (including Tuition). For Out of Province requests, the application deadline for all conferences and workshops occurring in a given month, must be submitted by the first school day of the month prior.

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:

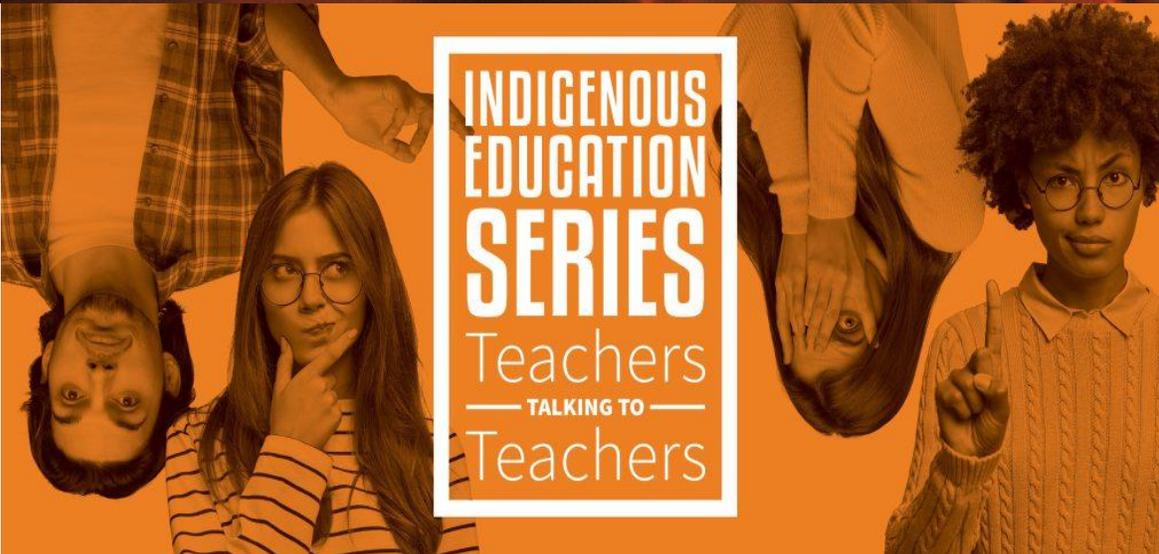
- i) How does attending this PD inform your practice?
- ii) How does attending this PD impact your work in Seven Oaks?

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.

MTS Events

The logo for Labour School, featuring a stylized 'L' and 'S' in blue and red.

THE MANITOBA TEACHERS' SOCIETY
LABOUR SCHOOL
LABOUR RELATIONS
& LEADERSHIP
APPLY NOW!

Indigenous Knowledge Systems: Land-Based Learning

Time:

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

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

The logo for Union Learning Grants, featuring a stylized 'U' and 'G' in blue and red.

THE MANITOBA TEACHERS' SOCIETY
**UNION LEARNING
GRANTS**

Calling all 2SLGBTQIA+ MTS members!

Come out for an evening of dinner and wine and cheese with Qmunity: Your MTS Rainbow Connection.

Dr. Robert Mizzi will be joining us to lead informal discussions on the lived experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+ teachers. Members will also have the option to join in the discussions virtually. Then the rest of the evening will be a networking event to chat and visit.

Date: April 14, 2023

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: McMaster House 191 Harcourt Street

Register via My Profile

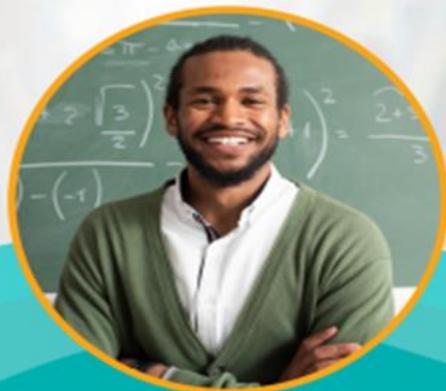


Canadian Mental
Health Association
Manitoba and Winnipeg
Mental health for all

Manitoba 

CARE FOR ALL IN EDUCATION

SUPPORTING THE MENTAL HEALTH
OF MANITOBA'S EDUCATION SECTOR.



Manitoba's education sector staff continues to provide vital frontline services while supporting the educational success of our province's students in a new post-pandemic world. Increased pressures on our education system following a worldwide health crisis have resulted in staff reaching the point of mental and emotional fatigue.

The Canadian Mental Health Association Manitoba and Winnipeg partnered with the Province of Manitoba to create the **Care for All in Education Initiative**.

The Care for All in Education program connects individuals working in Manitoba's education sector to programs and services to support their individual needs. Care for All in Education provides various services, including a digital mental health portal, courses to help you manage your mental health, and a dedicated team to support your mental and emotional well-being. We are much more than a place to access information. We prioritize connection, community resources, learning, education, training, and more!



1-877-602-1660



Info@careforallineducation.com



www.careforallineducation.com

GET THE SUPPORT YOU NEED.

Visit our website and join our live chat!

2022-2023 SOTA Dates



March 2023

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

April 2023

- 4th- SOTA Executive
- 18th- SOTA Council Meeting (virtual)
- 19th- Maternity & Parental Leave Seminar
- 26th- Trivia Night

May 2023

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

June 2023

- 6th- SOTA Executive
- 13th- SOTA Council Meeting (virtual)



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 Cieszcki
[president@sota.
mbteach.org](mailto:president@sota.mbteach.org)

Vice President
Karen Vaarmeyer
[vicepresident@sota.
mbteach.org](mailto:vicepresident@sota.mbteach.org)

All matters will be dealt with in confidence.

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