

This Issue

President's Message	P. 1
Professional Development	P. 2
SOTA News	P. 3
MTS Events	P. 4
SOTA Committees	P. 5
SOTA Dates	P. 6

From the President

I would like to acknowledge all the hard work SOTA members have done these past few months as we continue to navigate the ongoing challenges we face daily.

Your dedication to the teaching profession is truly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please don't hesitate to contact the SOTA office. All conversations are kept confidential and I am always happy to speak with members.



I want to wish everyone a well-deserved winter break. Enjoy your time with family and friends, and take the time to re-charge.

We will see you in the new year!

Jeff Cieszecki



Old Kildonan Park Pavillion in Winter

<https://winnipeginfofocus.winnipeg.ca/i03486>

SOTA/Board Professional Development Fund

2022-23 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.

SOTA Fall Reception

The Fall Reception took place November 3, 2022 at the Seven Oaks Maintenance Centre.

Bringing greetings to our members were SOSD Assistant Superintendent Matt Henderson, MTS President James Bedford, and SOTA President Jeff Cieszecki. Trustees Evan Krosney, Greg McFarlane, and Tiffany Winchar from the SOSD Board of Trustees were also in attendance.

The event was catered by Stella's with a coffee bar featuring a variety of warm beverages by PERKS.

Welcome to all of SOTA's new members!



New SOTA Members at the Fall Reception





FemLightenment

SERIES | 2023

The FemLightenment Series is designed to bring those who identify as women together to share their experiences in educational leadership.

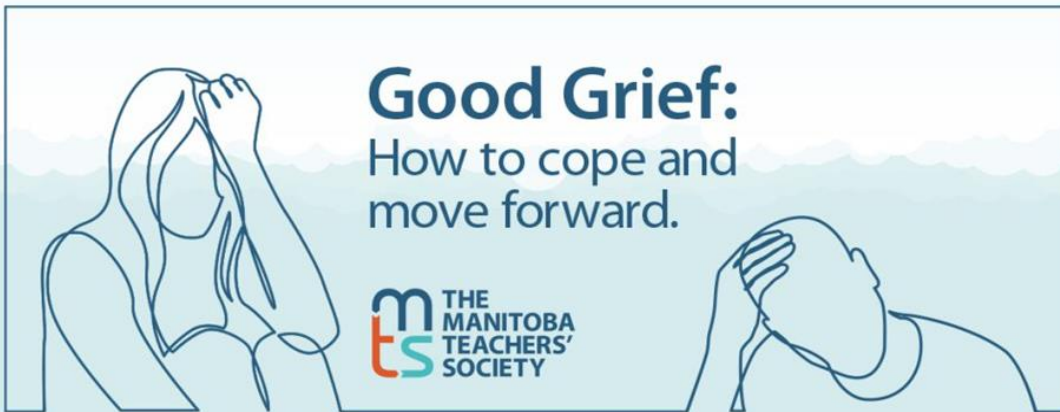
MTS Leadership Learning Series

Standing Tall – April Krahn

We commit to supporting our communities, our next generation, to serve as positive role models. Our mantra is “walk softly in moccasins with intention” yet, we quickly learn it is about wearing steel-toed boots and uncomfortable Lycra leggings while traversing a never-ending hike marred with potholes and quicksand. Thankfully, I have never worried about appearances or challenges. Looking ahead, I am standing tall and ready for the next adventure.

Date: Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023

[Click here to Register for Part III](#)



How to Cope and Move Forward

Join Angela Haig, MTS staff officer and clinical psychologist, for a sensitive and eye-opening day of discussion, exercises, and stories. Hopefully, a bit of humour, too.

Date: January 31, 2023

Join us at The Manitoba Teachers' Society building on 191 Harcourt Street from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$75 for MTS members and \$100 for non-members.

Register online at:

<https://memberlink.mbteach.org/Event.axd?e=2543>

SOTA Committees

The Committee Chair positions are filled by SOTA Executive Members at Large in September, 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

Equity and Social Justice- Chair: Julie Springer

The Equity and Social Justice Committee liaises with the Manitoba Teachers' Society to seek out community resources on inclusive and anti-oppressive education and create learning and networking opportunities for members.

Indigenous Education- Chair: Lindsay Brown

The Indigenous Education Committee liaises with the Manitoba Teachers' Society to connect SOTA members with resources related to Indigenous education.

Employee Benefits- Chair: Charlene Eckert

The Employee Benefits Committee chair disseminates information on available benefits.

Education Finance- Chair: Michelle Janzic

The Education Finance Committee liaises with the Manitoba Teachers' Society to monitor trends with regard to the financing of public education.

Scholarships- Chair: Charlene Eckert

Each year, the Scholarship Committee selects up to five graduating students who are pursuing post-secondary work in Education to receive a \$1000 SOTA Scholarship.

Resolutions- Chair: Lisa Meyers

The Resolutions Committee connects with members to create resolutions (i.e., proposed policies, actions, constitutional changes, or bylaw changes) for the Provincial Council Meeting of MTS in May.

Nominations- Chair: Mike Giffen

The Nominations Committee is established to create a slate of candidates for the following year SOTA Executive. The committee is responsible for informing the membership of the nomination slate and preparing the ballot for the May election if needed.

Policy Review- Chair: Mike Giffen

The Policy Review Committee is to meet annually to conduct a review of the Constitution and Policies and propose amendments where necessary.

Board/SOTA Advisory- Chair: Karen Vaarmeyer

The Board/SOTA Advisory Committee meets as a group to work with the Board on special initiatives.

WEL (Women in Education Leadership) Committee- Chair: Joanne Kosheluk

The Women in Educational Leadership Committee liaises with the Manitoba Teachers' Society to connect members to opportunities that support women in the development of skill sets that enhance leadership capacity.

2022-2023 SOTA Dates



December 2022

6th- SOTA Executive

January 2023

10th- SOTA Executive

24th- SOTA Council Meeting
(virtual)

February 2023

7th- SOTA Executive

21st- SOTA Council Meeting

March 2023

7th- SOTA Executive

21st- SOTA Council Meeting

April 2023

4th- SOTA Executive

18th- SOTA Council Meeting

May 2023

2nd- SOTA Executive

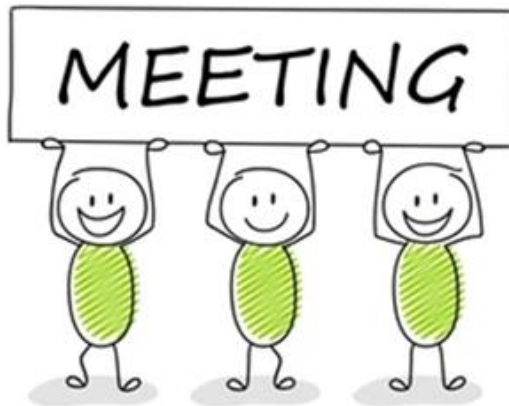
16th- SOTA Council Meeting

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
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