

Publication of the

Seven Oaks

Teachers'

Association

The Acorn

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From the President

The 2023-2024 school year began with a sense of uncertainty as we headed into the October Provincial election. With a new government, hope has been renewed for public education in Manitoba after years of underfunding and legislation impacting the work teachers do in schools. What the future holds for us with this government will be concretely indicated with the education budget announcement in January or early February of 2024. Stay tuned.



On behalf of the Seven Oaks Teachers' Association Executive, we wish you a restful, restorative winter break and a very Happy New Year. See you all in 2024.

Jeff Cieszecki

Skating pond at Kildonan park by Shannah-Lee Vidal/CBC



SOTA/Board Professional Development Fund

Tuition Reimbursement

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 eligible for reimbursement at 1/3 the tuition/continuance fee amount to a maximum of \$500.

ALL Tuition requests must be approved BEFORE a course starts. If the name of the course is not available at the time of submission of the Leave Request, this information MUST be updated 10 days prior to the start of the course.

Once the course has been successfully completed, the Tuition Expense Claim Form must be completed for each course you are requesting reimbursement. Attach your tuition receipt and course completion document to the form.

For the complete guidelines and tuition information, please go to the SOTA website at http://www.sotamb.org/sotaboard-pd-fund.html



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 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

Keep posting your SOTA Squishy Phone Holder Pictures to Instagram!

#sotasquishyphone holder

All posting members will be entered into the draw for a gift card and phone holder!

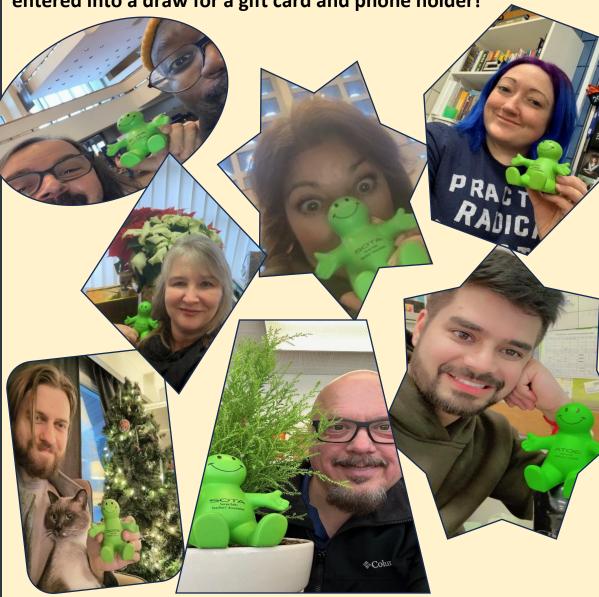
SOTA Communications

NAME THE SOTA Squishy Phone Holder CONTEST!!!!

Thank you to all SOTA members who dropped by the SOTA table on Divisional Day or sent in their photo with the SOTA Squishy Phone Holder!

December winners of a Tim Horton's gift card and a SOTA Squishy Phone Holder of their very own are Charlene Eckert, Cliff Weekes, Jatinder Jaura, and Dan Vaarmeyer. Congratulations!

How can you WIN a SOTA Squishy Phone Holder? Email your NAME suggestion to vicepresident@sota.mbteach.org by January 22, 2024 at 4:00 pm. All member submissions will be entered into a draw for a gift card and phone holder!



MTS Events



Check the MTS
Website
(www.mbteach.org)
for more on the
following:

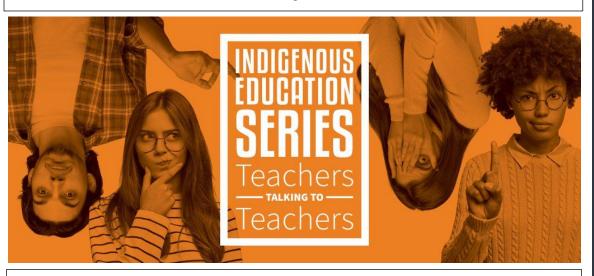
Networking and Professional Learning Opportunity for Racialized Members

Calling all racialized MTS members interested in exploring leadership. Join us for a leadership symposium for racialized people by racialized people.

This leadership seminar is for racialized members, MTS members who self-identify as Indigenous, Black or people of colour.

Dates: Friday, January 19, 2024 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 20, 2024 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Conference fee: is \$30 (includes dinner Friday and lunch Saturday)
Location: The Manitoba Teachers' Society McMaster House (auditorium)



FemLightenment — SERIES | 2023/2024

Educator Bandwidth,
Burnout and Blameless
Discernment – Jane Kise

Saturday, January 27, 2024

Getting Over Fear:

Non-Indigenous Educators and Indigenous Education

Time:

Jan 17, 2024 | 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID:

860 4599 3910



Internationally Educated
Teachers Workshop

Saturday, January 6, 2024



MTS Grants

Each year The Manitoba Teachers' Society makes funds available for projects by members and local associations for professional development and public relations



Local Equity and Social Justice Grant

At the 2023 MTS Provincial Council, a resolution was passed to make available a grant to local associations to a maximum of \$1,000 to support initiatives led by and resources to support Equity and Social Justice Chairs.

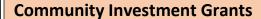
Applications will be reviewed and approved as they are received.

Each local association may submit one application up to *May 31, 2024* with the intent to use funds within the school year and submit receipts by June 30, 2024.

Local Equity and Social Justice Grant Application Form

Local Equity and Social Justice Grant Report Form

For further information, please contact Sherry Jones at sjones@mbteach.org



Every Community Investment Grant is focussed on supporting anti-racism and anti-poverty work that involves more than a financial request. All projects should include ways to build sustainable relationships and partnerships.

What is Community Investment?

Community Investment (CI) refers to collaborations, partnerships, and initiatives intended to impact social change and align activism with union values. The Manitoba Teachers' Society is committed to creating intentional and purposeful relationships with grassroots, community-based, and national organizations to promote equity and systemic change.

What is the Community Investment Grant Program?

The Community Investment grant program provides grassroots and community-based groups with access to some financial assistance as well as connecting MTS staff, teachers and community to projects that address racism and support poverty reduction.

The Community Investment Grant cannot:

Be solely financial or the sole source of funding for any organization. Be affiliated with a political party (all projects must be non-partisan). Used to cover expenses or purchases prior to project approval.

Community Investment Grant Application Form

For further information, please contact Sarah Gazan at sgazan@mbteach.org



2023-2024 SOTA Dates

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-Collège Garden City Collegiate Library

*Signed virtual agreement required to attend online council meeting- email president@sota.mbteach.org to receive a virtual agreement

April 2024

2nd - SOTA Executive 16th - SOTA Council Meeting-Collège Garden City Collegiate Library

May 2024

7th - SOTA Executive 14th - SOTA Council Meeting-Collège Garden City Collegiate Library 24-25th- MTS Provincial Council

June 2024

4th - SOTA Executive 18th - SOTA Council Meeting-Collège Garden City Collegiate Library



Meetings & Events

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

