

SOTA

Seven Oaks Teachers' Association

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From the President

MIKE GIFFEN

Welcome to all new and returning members of the Seven Oaks Teachers' Association. SOTA represents over 900 members in promoting and advancing the welfare and professional growth of members, and promoting the cause of public education.

I am proud to belong to an executive and association that has been hard at work on your behalf. Earlier this school year at Executive training, SOTA Executive put their minds towards the challenges that face public education. Discussions around Funding for Education, College of Teachers, Provincial Bargaining, Pension reform, Removal of Principal Teachers and Vice Principal Teachers from our union, Re-certification every 5 years and of course amalgamation proved to be the fodder of many of our on going discussions and initiatives.

We also know that early in 2019 there will be a Comprehensive Educational Review. It is my hope that they will address the fact that for the past two years, education funding has fallen below the rate of inflation all the while

enrollment continues to increase.

However, I recognize that we can't get by on hope alone.

This is why the Manitoba Teachers' Society continues to work with all other educational stakeholders in advocating for a strong public education. Your SOTA Executive attends many workshops at MTS that support them in being an active voice for our membership. The road ahead offers many challenges, and right now there are more questions than answers. This is why it is even more important to stay informed, come to council meetings, and attend Regional Meetings put on by MTS.

I want to end my message with an experience I had when visiting my former school. A student came up to me and asked which school I taught at this year. I explained that this year I worked in an office. The student then said, "oh you are like a vice principal?" I answered, "no, my job was to help teachers." The student walked away, but not before I heard him tell his friends, "Hey, Mr Giffen is an EA now."

Take care of yourself and each other.

SOTA Council

Get involved with SOTA Council!

Each school or workplace is allowed one councillor for each ten members or part thereof greater than four, and at least one alternate for every two councillors.

Join us at Council, typically the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held in the Maples math open area at 4:15pm.

SOTA Committees

Get involved with SOTA

What is your passion?
What great ideas would you like us to pursue?

Most SOTA committees are looking for you, our members, to participate and help us move forward as an association.

Please contact us at the SOTA office and we will happily welcome you aboard.

Annual Fall Reception

Welcoming our New Members



On October 24th, 2018 SOTA welcomed our new members at the SOTA Fall Reception. The event was hosted by our very own President, Mike Giffen, and greetings were offered by Trustee Edward Ploszay, Superintendent Brian O'Leary as well as MTS Vice President James Bedford. Sage advice was presented by Past President Jeff Cieszecki, and Vice President Shelley Torz. The Service and Learning Centre provided an intimate atmosphere for all to gather and make new acquaintances.

2018-2019 SOTA Executive

Mike Giffen – **President**

Shelley Torz – **Vice President**

Jeff Cieszecki – **Past President**

Julie Springer – **Treasurer**

Amber Brown – **Secretary**

Members at Large

Lindsay Brown Niall McFadyen

Daniel Buchanan Lisa Meyers

Charlene Eckert Shiv Raveendrabose

Catherine Hart Elizabeth Walker

Committee Chairs

Collective Bargaining - Jeff Cieszecki

Public Relations - Shelley Torz

Employee Benefits - Charlene Eckert

Equity & Social Justice - Daniel Buchanan & Charlene Eckert

Wellness - Charlene Eckert & Elizabeth Walker

Professional Development - Shelley Torz

Social/Sport - Lindsay Brown & Shelley Torz

Indigenous Liaison - Shiv Raveendrabose & Elizabeth Walker

Scholarships - Lindsay Brown

Nominations - Jeff Cieszecki

Constitution/Policy - Jeff Cieszecki

Resolutions - Lisa Meyers





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Maternity/Adoptive/Parenting Leave Seminar

This seminar is for SOTA members who are or may be thinking about becoming parents.

Arlyn Filewich – MTS Staff Officer, will facilitate the session

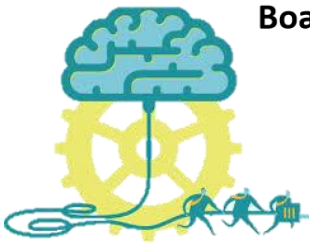
Wednesday, November 21st, 2018

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Boardroom – SOSD Board Office (830 Powers St)

Refreshments will be served

RSVP – Shelley Torz at 985-6120 or email vp.sota@mymts.net
by Thursday, November 15, 2013 (Partners welcome)



SOTA/Board Professional Development Fund

How often can I apply?

You may be approved for funding for up to TWO activities per year, not including Educational Leave and the MTS PD Day. A 6-credit hour course or two 3-hour courses will be considered as one activity.

- F** A limit of 4 applications can be approved per school/site for the same conference, workshop, classroom/site visitation, cooperating teacher/teacher candidate collaboration, or webinar.

How do I apply?

Applications prior to the PD activity must be submitted through Employee Connect. Expense forms (available on sotamb.org and the portal) must be submitted to Alison Hall after the activity. Please attach all receipts.

Please note that all applications must include rationale – relevance to teaching and summary of activity – to be considered for funding support

MTS PD Opportunities

Crucial Conversations®

November 26 & 27
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Participants will learn to skillfully and respectfully get results and strengthen relationships when stakes are high, emotions are strong, and opinions are opposing.

Managing Conflict with Clarity, Confidence, and Courage

December 10 & 11
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Teachers and leaders will build a communication and interpersonal skill set to work with all types of people and respond productively when conflict escalates, in one-on-one and group settings.

Mental Health First Aid for Adults who Interact with Youth

January 21 & 22
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Education professionals will learn how to provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health issue.

Collective Efficacy: The Power of Working Together

February 1 – 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.
February 2 - 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Recent research suggests that Collective Efficacy is the number one factor influencing student achievement. Participants will learn about leadership practices that foster efficacy and develop an action plan for implementing changes that can strengthen collective efficacy in schools and classrooms.

For more detailed information visit:

www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2017/05/02/pd-workshops/

professional development

share education engage know experience learn create two-directional corporate learn responsibility continuing

2018 – 2019 SOTA Dates

November

6 – Executive
20 – Council
21 – Parenting Leave Seminar 4-6pm

December

4 – Executive
18 – Council (if required)
Friday 21st through
Friday Jan. 4 WINTER BREAK

January

8 – Executive
16 – Pre-Retirement Seminar
22 – Council

February

5 – Executive
19 – Council
20 – Early Mid-Career Pension Seminar

March

5 – Executive
19 – Council (if required)
Friday 22nd through
Friday 29th SPRING BREAK

April

2 – Executive
16 – Council
24 – Parenting Leave Seminar

May

7 – Executive
14 - Council
22 - 25 MTS AGM
TBD Long Service Wine & Cheese

June

4 – Executive
18 – Council
TBD SOTA Retirement Dinner



ESJ Library

Visit sotamb.org to check out our ESJ Library

Books on topics such as Indigenous education, anti-homophobia, privilege and oppression, intersectional feminism, democratic classrooms, land-based education, and anti-bullying education are listed on sotamb.org.

To request a copy of a book, email vp.sota@mymts.net, and we will send a copy to your school.

The Fair Dealing Resource for Teachers

There is a great on-line resource to help teachers determine whether fair dealing permits them to use short excerpts from copyright-protected materials for the students in their classrooms.

FairDealingDecisionTool.ca

helps teachers decide, with a few clicks, whether the fair-dealing provision in the *Copyright Act* permits copying of short excerpts from print materials, artistic works, or audiovisual materials for students without needing to obtain copyright permission.

So, the next time you wonder, “*Can I use this in my classroom?*”

Can I copy it?” the answer is at your fingertips! It takes 30 seconds on

FairDealingDecisionTool.ca to have your copyright question answered. By clicking through this user-friendly resource, you will know whether the use of a short excerpt from a copyright-protected work is “fair.”

FairDealingDecisionTool.ca informs teachers about their rights and obligations when they use short excerpts from the copyright-protected works of others. The tool helps ensure that teachers better understand the law and the application of the *Fair Dealing Guidelines*. In addition to the on-line decision tool, there are other important copyright resources all teachers should become familiar with:



- the [Fair Dealing Guidelines](#)
- the Consumables [poster, which outlines the prohibitions against copying materials intended for one-time use](#)
- [Copyright Matters!](#) (“the orange book”) which provides key questions and answers on copyright law and education

All of these resources can be printed for free for teachers’ easy reference.



SOTA
Seven Oaks Teachers' Association

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