



September 2019 issue

# Sunrise Horizon

## A Message from the President

Happy School Year!

In welcoming new and returning teachers, we wish you all a productive, gratifying, and healthy 2019-20 school year.

The mandate of the Sunrise Teachers Association is to provide relevant information, opportunities, representation, service, and advocacy on behalf of 430 members of this organization.

The Association encourages all Members to take advantage of the many opportunities made available through the hard work and dedication of your *volunteer* Executive, Committee members and School Reps.

### Summer Seminars

Every year, the Manitoba Teachers' Society hosts Summer Seminars and training sessions for Association Presidents, Professional Development, Collective Bargaining, and Equity & Social Justice Chairs.

I attended my 5th Presidents' Training from August 21 to 23. Topics at this year's Presidents' training included: Equity Essentials; Conflicts of Interest, Conflicts of Loyalty; Advocacy & Activism; Learning In Action; The Head, Heart, and Hands of Leading Your Local; Managing the Difficult Member; followed by Presidents' Panel - When Things Go Wrong and A Year in the Life of a President. All useful, relevant and a great investment of time.

### New Teachers' Reception

The Association proudly hosted our 4th annual New Teachers' Reception on August 26th. In welcoming 12 new teachers to our Association, some *new* to the profession, we used the opportunity to present essential information and to address relevant concerns for our newest colleagues. Feedback on the Reception was extremely positive. As the saying goes, "*You only have one chance to make a first impression....*"

The New Teachers' Reception would not be possible without the efforts of your STA Executive. Thank You.

### Provincial Election

In the interest of total disclosure, let me preface this piece by sharing my disillusionment of the Conservative government's strong arm tactics in implementing many of its fiscal policies over the past 3 years.

I think I have a reasonable understanding of the realities of debt reduction, but I feel this government has gone too far, too fast, absent of care or consultation. In my view, they've compromised their credibility and damaged the relationship they might have otherwise enjoyed with Manitoba labour groups, of which teachers are a part. While the Conservatives' fiscal plan may have been designed to address the provincial debt, the question for me is, "At what cost?"

In his *blinders on* approach to balancing the books, Mr. Pallister has seemingly discounted the value of public education and the vital role it plays in modern society.

**Bill 28** - This bill froze the wages, along with the right to engage in *meaningful* collective bargaining of teachers and other Public Sector workers for two years, followed by *allowing* Unions to (attempt to) negotiate modest increases in years three and four. The result: Your wages have remained stagnant, while the cost of bread and milk, Blue Cross, Hydro, and pretty much everything else has increased! To me, the financial penalties imposed by Bill 28 is an insult to the dignity, dedication, loyalty, and hard work of Public sector workers, teachers in particular.

**Federal Transfers** - Pallister negotiated a \$218M increase in payments from Ottawa, but virtually gave it away by reducing the PST by 1% at a cost exceeding \$330M! The \$218M could have been better spent by paying down the debt, or providing appropriate educational or health-care funding.

**Education Funding** - The Conservatives reduced funding for three successive years to 22 School divisions, including Sunrise. They are also responsible for "dumping" the K - 3 Class Caps without consultation or consider-

ation of the potential for negative short and long term effects. The Ed *underfunding* issue makes me question the level of respect the Conservatives have for education as a whole, and if they see it as an investment or just another liability. So when you see your class sizes growing year after year, and you and your colleagues experience work related stress issues, and student achievement is on the decline, you will know who to blame.

Do you realize that Sunrise has "lost" over \$1.6M in Ed funding over the past three years, courtesy of the Conservatives!

In three years of correspondence with the premier, minister, and two Sunrise area MLA's, I have yet to receive a plausible explanation for Education funding cuts! I've either been ignored or received the *Party Line*, "*Education Funding has never been higher.*", brushing aside STA's specific concerns.

Under this government, we have witnessed a decline in labour relations, less pay, diminished dignity and morale, along with increased workload and resultant stress. And the Conservatives seem to just be getting started. Eliminating school taxes is the latest election promise. Sounds appealing, until one considers the loss of \$825M in local Ed funding, and schoolboards relying on the benevolence of an unrepentant government, for 100% of the hand out!

**The election is September 10th. Advance polls are on now. Please Vote!**

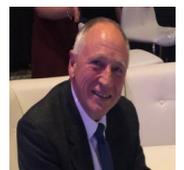
### This is Your Association

If you have a question, a concern, or a suggestion, or there is something that you would like to propose for a Council meeting agenda, please share with your school Council Rep, or contact the Association directly:

[president@sunriseteachers.ca](mailto:president@sunriseteachers.ca)

For the latest Association happenings and information, follow me on Instagram

[sunrisepresident](#)



**Welcome Back =)**

**YOUR STA EXECUTIVE**

**President**

Cole Serofin - STA Office  
president@sunriseteachers.ca

**Vice-President**

Elana Spence - EESS  
vp@sunriseteachers.ca

**Treasurer**

Christy Geith - Student Services  
treasurer@sunrisetaechers.ca

**Secretary**

Heather McBurney -  
Whitemouth  
secretary@sunriseteachers.ca

**Collective Bargaining**

Erica Massie - EESS  
cb@sunriseteachers.ca

**Benefits**

Aaron Jeninga - SCI  
benefits@sunriseteachers.ca

**Professional Development**

Lea-Anne Bangert—EBEYS  
pd@sunriseteachers.ca

**Workplace Safety & Health**

Serena Klos - Centennial School  
wsh@sunriseteachers.ca

**Equity & Social Justice**

Shauna Chanas - EESS  
esj@sunriseteachers.ca

**Wellness**

Kim Semonick - Gillis  
wellness@sunriseteachers.ca

**Public Relations**

Mary-Jo Hovorka-Seymour - EPVS  
pr@sunriseteachers.ca

## What Does The STA Do For You?

- ⇒ Communicate with the Division on behalf of Members
- ⇒ Present Members concerns to Administration
- ⇒ Negotiate and Monitor the Collective Agreement
- ⇒ Advocate on behalf of Members in the preservation of Rights and Work Conditions
- ⇒ Oversee Workplace Safety & Health policies
- ⇒ Administer the Professional Development Fund
- ⇒ Develop Social Activity opportunities for Members
- ⇒ Provide Members with Support, Advice and Resources
- ⇒ Represent Members in Personnel Matters
- ⇒ And More!



<http://sunriseteachers.weebly.com>

# Upcoming events

**Special Event!**  
**October 24, 2019**  
**MTS / TRAF Pension Sustainability Seminar**  
**STA Office**

*All Members Welcome \*Registration Required*

**Executive Meetings**

Oct 17, Dec 18, Feb 19, Apr 22, June 10

**Council Meetings**

September 24, Nov 20, Jan 16, March 18, May 12\*

**All Members Welcome**

Please provide 3 DAYS notice of your intention to attend to ensure adequate food is available on site

**\*STA Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday May 12**

Sun Gro Center-Beausejour

*All Members Welcome Registration Required*

**STA Wellness Events**

◆ STA Golf October 4th  
 Following the Divisional PD Day

- Rustic Sign Painting

- Trivia Nite

The Sunrise Teachers' Association provides financial support to STA teams for the following Manitoba Teachers Society sporting activities:

Curling, Hockey and Golf  
 Additionally,

The STA is pleased to be hosting our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Nite in Spring 2020.

and

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rustic Sign Paint Nite

**WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR OTHER IDEAS FOR MEMBER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

**CONTACT: [WELLNESS@SUNRISETEACHERS.CA](mailto:WELLNESS@SUNRISETEACHERS.CA)**

**2019 - 20 PD Fund**  
**Remaining Funds**  
**\$97,000.00**

The Out of Province Spots Available for the funding period July 1 to December 31, 2019 have all been allocated.

We are still accepting applications for Out of Province PD for the January 1 to June 30th funding period.

The Deadline for Out of Province Funding is November 1st.

**Check Out Our Website**  
[sunriseteachers.weebly.com](http://sunriseteachers.weebly.com)



**A MIXED CURLING LEAGUE WHERE FUN "TAKES OUT" COMPETITION**

**A LEAGUE FOR ALL LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE**

**WHERE: EAST ST. PAUL CURLING CLUB**

**WHEN: TUESDAYS OCT-MARCH 4:30PM DRAW**

**COST: TBA**

**SPACES ARE LIMITED. FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
[president@sunriseteachers.ca](mailto:president@sunriseteachers.ca)

# Community Connections

## 2019 Labour Day Parade - Sept 2nd

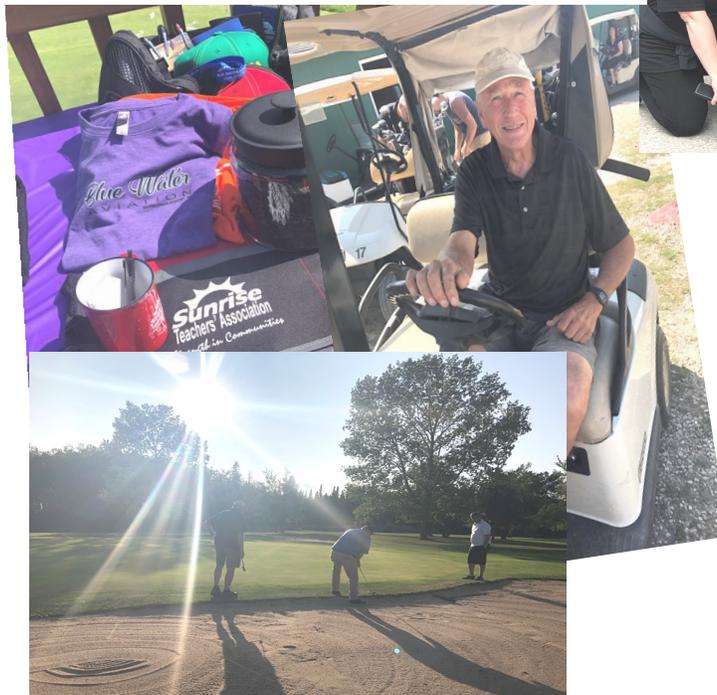


### Book Grant Donation

The Sunrise Teachers' Association is proud to announce the approval of our \$1000.00 PR Grant application from the Manitoba Teachers' Society. The project, "Books For Kids" will be providing *pre-school* books to privately funded day-care facilities, throughout the Sunrise catchment area.



### Solidarity Parade - MTS AGM



### Clubs for a Cause Charity Golf Tournament

Sunday, August 18th

Ecole Powerview School Parent Advisory Council hosted a golf tournament at the Pine Falls Golf Course to raise money towards opening and upgrading the outdoor rink/playground project for the students and community. STA donated some swag to show support! There was a great turn out and they raised just over \$3500.00 towards the new project. We commend PVS PAC Members on the success of the event!

# Meet the New Teachers

**If you are a new teacher of Sunrise School Division and were unable to attend the "STA Meet & Greet" then please feel free to call the office for your package and/or stop by anytime to get the information that you need. Don't forget to sign up for the FAB 5 new teacher conference put on by MTs! Welcome !!**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**



**WINNIPEG**

Victoria Inn & Convention Centre,  
1808 Wellington Avenue

Wednesday 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm  
Thursday 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

**BRANDON**

Victoria Inn & Convention Centre,  
3550 Victoria Avenue

Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

# STA PD FUND INFO

- STA CONTRACTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
- FUND AMOUNT - \$120,000
- UP TO \$900.00 FOR IN PROVINCE PD AND \$2,200.00 (EVERY 3 YEARS) FOR OUT OF PROVINCE PD\*
- MEMBERS CAN ACCESS \$900.00 OR \$2200.00 – BUT NOT BOTH
- \*PERMANENT TEACHERS (ONLY) QUALIFY FOR OUT OF PROVINCE FUNDING
- ALL MEMBERS QUALIFY FOR MTS PD DAY (MAX \$100.00)
- FUNDS REIMBURSEMENT MUST BE CLAIMED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF COMPLETION OF AN EVENT
- FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE STA PD FUND PLEASE SEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT:
- <http://sunriseteachers.weebly.com/professional-development.html>

## TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PD APPROVAL

### READ THE GUIDELINES

SCAN & EMAIL TO YOURSELF, THEN FORWARD TO THE PD COMMITTEE (ELECTRONIC COPIES ONLY WILL BE ACCEPTED);  
 MILEAGE IS PAID ONLY ON TRAVEL IN EXCESS OF YOUR NORMAL DAILY COMMUTE;  
 APPROVED APPLICANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING PD COMMITTEE IN THE CASE OF A CANCELLATION;  
 ALLOW UP TO 10 DAYS FOR PROCESSING;  
 NO PD IS APPROVED UNTIL VERIFICATION FROM THE PD COMMITTEE IS RECEIVED BY THE APPLICANT

## The Application Process

### 10 DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT

Please Note: If the event is in progress prior to the Application being received, the PD Committee will not be able to process your request.



Coleman B. Serofin  
President

607 Ashton Avenue (East of 3rd Street) Tel: 204.268.9241  
 Mailing Address: Box 908 Cell: 204.266.2838  
 Beausejour, MB R0E 0C0 Fax: 204.268.3801  
 www.sunriseteachers.ca  
 Email: president@sunriseteachers.ca

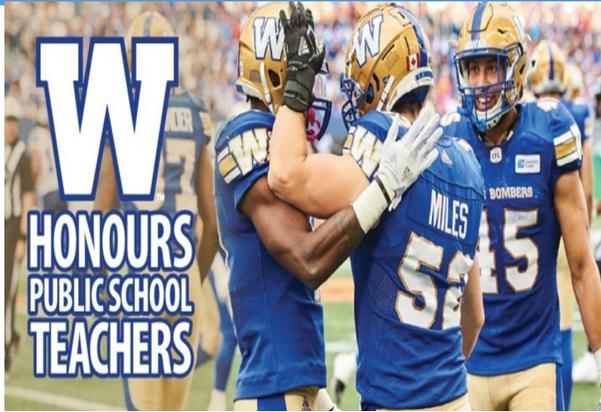
**\*Need help ???**

**Contact Cole directly,**

**Email: [pd@sunriseteachers.ca](mailto:pd@sunriseteachers.ca)**

**<http://sunriseteachers.weebly.com>**

# MTS NEWS



MTS PD DAY  
**OCT. 25  
 2019**  
 REGISTER TODAY!

Friday, September 27 Buy One Get one Free!

<http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2019/08/29/get-your-bogo-tickets/>

<http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2019/09/03/mts-pd-day-oct-25->

[mtscms/2019/09/03/mts-pd-day-oct-25-](http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2019/09/03/mts-pd-day-oct-25-)

# PENSION SUSTAINABILITY

## SEMINAR

CAN YOUR PENSION CHANGE?

Dinner will be provided. **Registration Required**

To register go to: **mbteach.org**. Log in at MY PROFILE, click on Events, choose Event Listings, then click on the applicable Early & Mid Career seminar

**BEAUSEJOUR** STA Office, October 24, 2019, 5:00 – 7:30 PM

As the seminars are generic, if you are unable or it is inconvenient to attend the above seminars, please go to the MTS website to see the complete listing and you can register for any of the sites.





# Election 2019 **My classroom. Our future.**

CHECK OUT THE MTS WEBSITE BELOW AND GET INFORMED BEFORE YOU VOTE...

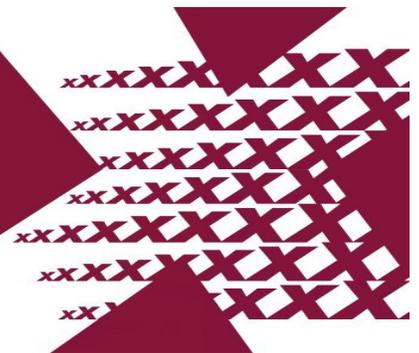
<http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2019/06/27/follow-the-campaign/>

### QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

1. WHAT ARE YOUR TWO PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION?
2. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF CURRENT SPENDING ON PUBLIC EDUCATION?
3. HOW WILL YOU ADDRESS THE HIGH RATES OF POVERTY IN MANITOBA THAT INHIBIT CHILDREN FROM SUCCEEDING IN SCHOOL, AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN LIFE?
4. WHAT WILL YOUR PARTY DO TO IMPROVE TEACHERS' WORKING CONDITIONS?

**VOTING DAY IS  
TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

*Elections  
Manitoba*



### THE NEW GOVERNMENT MUST:

- ◆ **FUND EDUCATION**
- ◆ **ADDRESS HUNGER IN THE CLASSROOM**
- ◆ **CONSIDER CLASS COMPOSITION**
- ◆ **BRING BACK THE CLASS SIZE CAP**
- ◆ **IMPROVE ACCESS TO CLINICIANS AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**