

FTA VOICE

A Publication of the Frontier Teacher's Association **New Teacher Orientation Issue**

August 2007

President's Message

By Michael Ferchuk, FTA President

Welcome to Frontier School Division. Your adventure begins. As a teacher in Frontier School Division you are now a member of the Frontier Teachers' Association (FTA) of the Manitoba Teachers' Society (MTS). Within each school division, local teacher associations have been established. The Frontier Teachers' Association is one of the 39 local teacher associations in the province. The Manitoba Teachers' Society is the umbrella organization for all local teacher associations and represents the 14,000 public school teachers in the province.

The Manitoba Teachers' Society advocates the protection of teachers' right and working conditions and is committed to the advancement of public education. MTS provides a variety of services to individual members including seminars and workshops, advice and assistance with professional matters and assistance with contract grievances. MTS also provides a variety of services to local teacher associations including seminars and workshops, advice and collective bargaining assistance.

As a professional association one of the objectives of the FTA is to promote and advance the welfare of its members. In the province of Manitoba, Collective Agreements are negotiated locally between the association and the employer. One role of the FTA is to enter into the collective bargaining process with Frontier School Division and the Board of Trustees.

As a member of the FTA you will have the right to vote and to hold office in the association. You also have the right to ask questions of your executive. Enclosed in this new teacher edition is a list of all the contact people of the FTA. Keep that list handy and feel free to call the members that work hard on your behalf. The Executive of the association is composed of the President, President-Designate, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President and ten electoral district representatives who serve as chairpersons of

committees. Elections are held in the spring of each year and all members are eligible for nomination.

Throughout the upcoming year you may have questions or concerns about a variety of situations or topics. For help obtaining answers to your questions, refer to your Collective Agreement or the Frontier School Division Policy Manual. If you have a question or concern not addressed by the Collective Agreement or Policy Manual, or you are not sure, I encourage you to contact an FTA representative or an MTS staff officer.

I hope you will enjoy the New Teachers' Orientation and benefit from the information presented to you. On behalf of the Frontier Teachers' Association, I offer you best wishes in the 2007/2008 school year.

Welcome!

This year's F.T.A. Executive would like to welcome all new association members.

The FTA Executive Are:

President - Michael Ferchuk
President Designate - Scott Miller
Past President - Dean Elliot
Vice President - Wendell Head
Treasurer - Dodie Johnston
Secretary - Laurie Fourre
Equality in Education - Edie Turner
Employee Benefits - Heather Paul
Collective Bargaining - Wendell Head
Housing - Shawn Hafenbrak
Workplace Safety & Health - Linda Smerch
Public Relations - Krista Kristajandson
Archival - Byron Apetagon
Professional Development - David Milley
Grievances and Disputes - Dean Elliott
Ad Hoc - Joanne Stover
Area 1 Representative - Vacant

FTA EXECUTIVE

President:

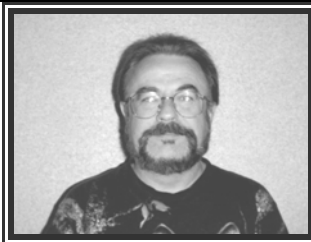
Michael Ferchuk

Wanipigow School – Wanipigow

Work: 363-7253

Home: 363-7317 Fax: 363-7459 (secure)

Email: mferchuk@frontierteachers.ca



Duties:

- calls and chairs meetings
- chairperson of the executive
- authorizes expenditures of FTA funds
- acts as spokesperson for the FTA and its membership
- performs other duties as authorized by the executive

President-Designate:

Scott Miller (Gillam school – Gillam)

Work: 652-2193 Home: 652-2316

Fax: 652-2150

Email: smiller@frontierteachers.ca



Duties:

- takes charge of the Association during the absence of the President or at the request of the President
- other duties as authorized by the Executive
- member of the Collective Bargaining Cmt.
- Chair of Executive Nominating Committee and Chief Returning Officer for elections

Past-President / Grievances & Disputes:

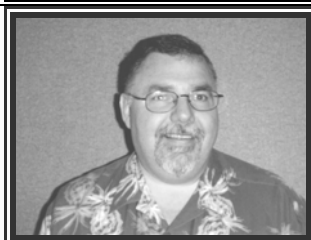
Dean Elliott

Joseph H. Kerr School – Snow Lake

Work: 358-2281

Home: 358-9143 Fax: 358-2116

Email: delliott@frontierteachers.ca



Duties:

- assists the president and executive
- investigates each grievance against either the Division or another employee
- attempts to settle disputes by mediation / applying terms of Collective Agreement
- reports to the President of the Association and to the General Secretary of MTS

Vice-President / Collective Bargaining:

Wendell Head

HBOIERC – Norway House

Work: 359-4100, ext. 2228

Home: 359-8037 Fax: 359-4803

Email: whead@frontierteachers.ca



Duties:

- chairs the Collective Bargaining Committee, to prepare for, conduct and conclude negotiations on Collective Agreements with Frontier Board.
- Maintains Association Website

Secretary:

Laurie Fourre (Grand Rapids School)

Work: 639-2451

Home: 639-2527 Fax: 639-2605

Email: lfourre@frontierteachers.ca



Duties:

- keeps record of all proceeding of the FTA out official notices and communications from the Executive to the membership
- makes / submits to MTS statements or reports of FTA as required

Treasurer:

Dodie Johnston

FCI – Cranberry-Portage

Work: 472-3431

Home: 472-3072 Fax: 472-3992 (secure)

Email: djohnston@frontierteachers.ca



Duties:

- prepares and sends statements / reports to MTS from the FTA as required
- records / manages finances of FTA
- prepares / presents a budget and an updated review of financial statements annually
- audits all expense accounts
- recommends cost saving measures

Equality In Education:

Eddie Turner

Cormorant School - Cormorant

Work: 357-2225

Home: 357-2057 Fax: 357-2178

Email: eturner@frontierteachers.ca



Duties:

- promotes equity in all areas of Association work in issues of human rights and discrimination
- disseminates new MTS policies and materials relating to equality in education issues

FTA EXECUTIVE

Archival:

Byron Apetagon

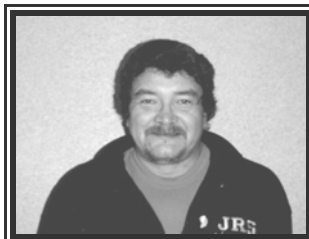
HBOIERC – Norway House

Work: 359-4100

Home: 359-4587

Fax: 359-4803

Email: bapetagon@frontierteachers.ca



Duties:

- keeps orderly files of all documents received from the secretary
- sends copies of original documents in response to requests for information

Employee Benefits:

Heather Paul (HBOIERC – Norway House)

Work: 359-4100

Home: 359-6698 Fax: 359-4803

Email: hpaul@frontierteachers.ca



Duties:

- keeps informed on the teacher pension plan
- keeps members informed on matters relating to all group benefits plans
- ensures that members get updated information regarding all benefit plans

Workplace Safety & Health:

Linda Smerch

Cranberry Portage Elementary

Work: 472-3250

Home: 472-3388 Fax: 472-3622

Email: lsmerch@mts.net



Duties:

- acts as liaison between members and the Division on all matters relation to workplace health and safety
- represents the Association in activities concerning workplace health and safety
- disseminates information to all the workplaces in the Division

Housing:

Shawn Hafenbrak (Waterhen School – Waterhen)

Work: 628-3443 Home: 628-4132

Fax: 628-3571

Email: ShawnH64@hotmail.com



Duties:

- investigates issues of the Landlords Tenants Act, FSD Lease and policies
- helps resolve concerns involving maintenance in FSD housing units
- if unresolved, reports to Executive with recommendation for further action

Area 1 Representative:

Nancy Whiteway

Beren's River School – Berens River

Work: 382-2153

Fax: 382-2422



Duties:

- Responds to questions and concerns from members in her area;
- other matters arising and not covered by the above may be considered and acted upon

-----No Photos Available-----

Public Relations:

Krista Kristajandson (Gillam School)

Work: 652-2193

Email: krista@frontierteachers.ca

- publish the Association newsletter
- writes articles pertaining to the FTA
- other actions related to public relations other duties as authorized by the Executive

Professional Development:

David Milley (Area 2 Math Consultant)

Work: 638-6839

dmilley@frontierteachers.ca

Duties

- collects a list of upcoming PD opportunities
- requests reports on inservices from schools
- encourages the research and development of improved curricula and methods of instruction

Ad Hoc:

Joanne Stover (Churchill)

Email: jstover@frontierteachers.ca

Duties:

- investigates and reports on issues relevant to the FTA as required
- other matters arising and not covered by the above may be considered and acted upon

Electoral Districts

In addition to the described portfolios, many of the executive members have responsibilities to the membership in their electoral district. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact the FTA Executive member responsible for your Electoral District.

Area 1

Krista Kristajandson
VACANCY

Area 2

Shawn Hafenbrak
David Milley

Area 3

Nancy Whiteway
Joanne Stover

Area 4

Linda Smerch
Edie Turner

Area 5

Heather Paul
Byron Apetagon

Check out our WEBSITE!!!

Last year, the FTA created its own website in order to better provide our membership with important information. Though it is still under development, we will be working very hard this year to develop and improve it. Check it out at:

www.frontiteachers.ca

MTS Code of Professional Practice

(Revised, Annual General Meeting, 2003)

The Code of Professional Practice establishes the required standards of conducts for all members of The Manitoba Teachers' Society. A teacher's professional behaviour must reflect the spirit as well as the letter of the Code.

1. A teacher's first professional responsibility is to her or his students.
2. A teacher acts with integrity and diligence in carrying out professional responsibilities.
3. A teacher avoids involvement in a conflict of interest, recognizes that a privileged relationship with students exists and refrains from exploiting that relationship for material, ideological or other advantage.
4. A teacher speaks and acts with respect and dignity, and deals judiciously with others, always mindful of their rights.
5. A teacher respects the confidential nature of information concerning students and may give the information only to authorized personnel or agencies directly concerned with the student's welfare.
6. A teacher's conduct toward colleagues is characterized by consideration and good faith.
7. A teacher first directs any criticism of the professional activity of a colleague to that colleague in private. Only after informing the colleague of the intent to do so, the complainant may direct in confidence the criticism to appropriate officials. It shall not be considered a breach of the Code:
 - a) to report reasonable grounds for suspecting child abuse to proper authorities according to legal requirements.
 - b) to consult with The Manitoba Teachers' Society or the president of the member's local association in good faith.
8. A teacher does not bypass immediate authority to reach higher authority without first exhausting the proper channels of communication.
9. A teacher makes an ongoing effort to improve professionally.
10. A teacher adheres to collective agreements negotiated by the professional organization.
11. A teacher neither applies for nor accepts a position which is included in a Society in-dispute declaration.
12. A teacher or group of teachers makes only authorized representations to outside bodies on behalf of the Society or its local associations. Without the express permission of the Society, no member(s) conferring with outside bodies may explicitly or implicitly claim that they represent the Society or its local associations.

Let Us Hear YOUR Voice!

The FTA Voice is a publication by Association members **for** Association members. The goal is to keep FTA members informed of the business that the Executive is undertaking on their behalf.

Let us hear what you have to say. Questions, comments, or any concerns, can be sent to **Wendell Head** at HBOIERC.

Email: whead@mts.net

(Violation of the Code shall be addressed through application of MTS bylaws.)