



## Retired Teachers' Association of Manitoba (RTAM)

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### Political Advocacy AGM Report

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#### Committee members

Blair, Linda	Winnipeg, MB
Hansen, Guy	Winnipeg/ Thompson. MB
Kozak, Dennis	Calgary, AB
Hoyak, JoAnne	MacGregor, MB
Hoyak, Julian	MacGregor, MB
Sushelnitsky, John	Portage la Prairie, MB

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1. One of the primary activities of the Political Advocacy committee is to advise the Board on its communications with the Government and all political parties. With the RTAM president as a member of the PA committee, it is able to communicate concerns such as COLA, senior issues and educational developments in an effective way. The PA committee acknowledges and commends the recent meeting of RTAM with the new Minister of Education.
  2. The vision of the Political Advocacy Committee focuses on both the internal workings of RTAM and also on the relationship of the organization with the wider society of Manitoba and the world in which we live. Because of that vision the PA committee has been a leading proponent of reconciliation with the indigenous community. In that direction the PA committee moved RTAM to establish four bursaries at the University College of the North, and further bursaries are being considered at other universities.
  3. The PA committee has strongly suggested that a RTAM presence be made in the communication outlets of The Manitoba Teacher, in print and online. Our RTAM symbol needs to be ever present in the minds of current teachers as they move towards retirement. Once retired, teachers need to look to RTAM because they are no longer covered by the MTS.
  4. The PA committee in years past has invited Ed Schreyer, former premier of Manitoba, Nigann Sinclair, university professor and columnist on indigenous affairs, and former Senator Murray Sinclair, head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to speak with RTAM. The committee has taken the initiative to meet with people who are key to current events affecting retired teachers and society as a whole. The PA committee has acted as RTAM's "window on the world".
  5. In line with following directives from the Board to the PA committee, the PA has been given the task of formulating RTAM's position statements on issues such as long-term care, voter reform and income disparity. The PA committee has been instrumental in assisting the Board create policies that interact with the stakeholders in society.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sushelnitsky (2006-2024)