

ELECTION INFORMATION PACKAGE

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Welcome to election time in Manitoba, everyone!

We as your RTAM Board have been busy preparing the concerns and questions that you can express to any or all the candidates that you encounter. Speaking to every candidate is important as they all need to know about our concerns, why they are important and how they can be resolved.

Remember, Bill 208 (RTAM seat on the TRAF Board) was passed unanimously by all the parties. Raising our concerns to everyone was successful. Now we look forward to accomplishing new goals. Please read this flyer carefully.

Every vote counts. Be sure that you vote and encourage others to do the same. The various polls can indicate all sorts of trends. Remember, actual votes decide the outcome of the election.

Please read this brochure, ask questions, discuss issues and finally, vote. You can help us make a difference.

Linda Blair, President



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QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, comments or concerns email RTAM at office@rtam.mb.ca or call the office at 204-889-3660.

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● ASKING QUESTIONS ●

You can write an email, send a letter to the editor, attend meetings or discuss issues with individuals as they campaign at your front door.

As a voter you might want to probe a little more deeply into the candidate or parties position on topics important to you. The following is a way to identify yourself and ask questions.

“ I am a retired teacher who worked for ___ years and have a concern about _____.”

1. What is the plan to fix / address _____?
2. Where can I see a written copy of the plan? Optional....Saying the party will spend money on the issue is not a plan.
3. How do you and your party intend to report specific progress on the plan and what will that look like? Is this reporting process in the written plan
4. Optional.... This is an important issue, why are your answers so general in nature?

ISSUES IMPORTANT TO US AND OUR COMMUNITY



Hospital Emergency Rooms:

As an older adult who may need to access this service, I have seen 3 emergency room closures, a shortage of nurses in the public system, lengthy backlogs in ER rooms and a difficulty getting admitted to a hospital.

Long Term Care Facilities

As an older adult who may need to access this service, I saw a number of deaths related to a lack of staffing in long term care facilities and poor care during the COVID crisis. This poor level of service has now continued into the post COVID period.

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ISSUES CONTINUED

COLA Funding

A cost of living adjustment (COLA) is important to RTAM and all retired teachers. The loss of purchasing power to inflation over time hurts everyone collecting a TRAF pension. Improvements in the rate of COLA should at least match current rates of inflation. This payment model would impact all retirees but be of special importance to those TRAF pensioners living below the poverty line in Manitoba.

The Manitoba Education Council

RTAM members have a vast wealth of experience and knowledge in public education, this can be used to help improve the system for all. How will you work to establish a seat for RTAM on this or any other government board where education stake-holders are being asked for input?

Home Care

As an older adult who may need to access this service, remaining at home as I age is important to my physical and mental health. There is currently a serious shortage of home care workers to assist me when I need support to remain in my home?

Pension Review Task Force

The Pension Review Task Force recommends changes which impact both retired teachers and those currently working in the public system. As a member of the Retired Teachers' Association, it is important that our voice is heard at the table during these deliberations.

Teacher Pension Funding TRAF

Account B in the teacher pension plan is funded by the government.

The province needs to bring TRAF account B to fully funded status and increase funding available to the Pension Adjustment Account (PAA) to help fund a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The issues are complex and the solutions could require significant investment by the government, but the longer it takes to address the concerns related to account B and the PAA account, the more expensive it becomes for the government and tax payers.

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GENERAL INFO

Elections and you.....

- What constituency / riding do you live in?
- Do you have an incumbent candidate running for re-election?
- Who are the other candidates running in your constituency?

Showing your support.....

- Volunteer to work for a candidate or a party.
- Put up a lawn sign.
- Make a financial contribution to the candidate or party of your choice.
- Use your influence with family and friends to encourage them to get out and vote.
- Work for MB elections as a paid staff member or volunteer.

Vote.....

Either in the advance poll or on election day. If you need a ride to the voting location on election day, contact the candidate you are supporting and ask for a ride.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE PARTIES



Special Thank-you.....

- RTAM would like to acknowledge and thank Cindy Lamoureux of the Liberal Party for proposing new legislation which was eventually passed in the Legislature during the fall of 2022 providing RTAM with a seat on the TRAF Board (Bill 208).
- RTAM would also like to acknowledge and thank the Conservative and the NDP parties for their unanimous support of this legislation when voted upon in the house.

NEED YOUR FEEDBACK.....

If you hear anything of interest from a party or candidate, please share this with the RTAM office.

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