RIVER EAST TRANSCONA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

RETTA REVIEW

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October 2026

SEMESTER 2 PPDF

Applications for **Semester 2 PPDF (February 1–June 30, 2027)** opened on October 1, 2026, at 6:30am.

To date, **67 applications have been received**. Based on available funding, RETTA currently has the budgetary capacity to approve **40 members** for Semester 2 professional development (PD).

Applicants who cannot be approved at this time have been placed on a waitlist. Should additional funding become available, waitlisted applicants will be contacted **in the order their applications were received**. Members contacted from the waitlist will be advised of the outcome of their application, including whether it has been approved, denied, requires additional information, or requires submission for an alternative conference.

Members who have been asked to **provide additional rationale** in support of their application must submit their response to the RETTA office (at treasurer@retta.mbteach.org) by **4:00pm on Wednesday, October 28, 2026,** per the instructions in their letter.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Members should **not** make financial commitments or travel arrangements, including purchasing conference tickets or booking flights and accommodations, until they have received their **official approval letter from the RETTA office**.

Members with any questions regarding their PPDF are encouraged to reach out to the RETTA office.

WORKSITE VISITS

Worksite visits are well underway! Contact Representatives are currently receiving calendar invitations to coordinate visits, and Erin and Gord plan to meet with **all RETTA worksites** during the 2026-2027 school year.

If your worksite has a preferred date for a visit, please ask your Contact Representative to contact the RETTA office at treasurer@retta.mbteach.org so we can coordinate a date that works for your worksite.

Erin and Gord look forward to connecting with all of you!

RETTA

NO-FILL Coverage Report

Substitute shortages at your worksite
NOVEMBER 2026

If you are asked/required to cover a class for a colleague due to a lack of available substitute coverage **please complete this form for each time that this occurs.**

You can include more than one period of coverage per day on one form response.

Help RETTA support it's members one submission at a time!

HOW TO SUBMIT:

To submit an occurrence, **scan the QR** code

Or **click the link** below:

[No-Fill Coverage Report - November 2026]

Please complete a form **whenever** these instances occur.

Thank you for your support!

Your personal information/responses will NOT be shared
this survey is for **data collection purposes ONLY**

WELLNESS EVENTS

The **RETTA Volleyball Social** is ALMOST here!

The annual RETTA Volleyball Social is **fast approaching**, with teams from **20 worksites** competing this year!

Team Captains have been receiving event information to share with their teams, including the required **volleyball waiver**. If you're participating, please take a moment to **complete the waiver before the event**. If you are participating in the event and have not completed your waiver, please reach out to your Team Captain or the RETTA office at treasurer@retta.mbteach.org.

🎃 REMINDER: TEAM COSTUME CONTEST 🎃

We're bringing back the highly anticipated **team costume contest**, with a prize for the winning team!

Not competing in the contest **but** still want to dress up?
DO IT! **Everyone is welcome to wear a costume** and join in the festivities. While you won't be entered into the contest, your creativity and participation will help make the evening **even more** fun! So come show off.

If your team takes fun pictures at this event and wants them included in the next **member update**, or on our **Instagram**, email us your shots at treasurer@retta.mbteach.org!
(but of course, only send with your teammate's **consent to share**! 😊)



PROVINCIAL STUDENT MESSAGING BAN

On October 23rd, Education Minister Tracy Schmidt issued a directive to all publicly funded school divisions on Friday mandating them to **update their digital communication policies**, prohibiting school employees from direct messaging students outside of approved internal school platforms.

You can read the full CBC article here:
Manitoba bans teachers from texting, messaging students over social media | CBC News

It is important to note for RETTA Members, RETSD has had this policy in place for all staff since April 2024 within Policy JLEB-R1 – Code of Conduct for Child Protection, which staff sign annually.

You can review this Divisional Policy here: JLEB-R1 – Code of Conduct for Child Protection

If you have any questions about this policy, you can speak with your Administrator, contact the RETTA office and/or contact MTS.

WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Over the past five years, RETTA's Women and Leadership Committee has worked hard to bring awareness, provide encouragement and promote women in leadership roles. Our Women and Leadership Speakers' Series has brough women in leadership roles and aspiring leaders together to build capacity in our future leaders.

We are just about to get started on our planning for this year's committee and events.

If you are interested in helping out with this committee, we would love to have your voice and ideas part our planning this year!

Please email your interest to Erin at president@retta.mbteach.org by November 15th!



HUMANITARIAN FUND

Schools are encouraged to apply for the **RETTA Humanitarian Fund**. The fund is to be used to support student-led humanitarian projects that demonstrate and encourage student empathy, compassion, creativity and leadership in advancing and promoting human welfare. A maximum donation of **$200.00 per worksite** will be made from a total fund of $1200 available per school year.

This portion of our website is currently under construction, **however**, if you would like more information on the RETTA Humanitarian Fund, or a copy of the **application form**, please reach out to treasurer@retta.mbteach.org.

HEARING PROTECTION REMINDER

As a reminder, **specialist teachers such as music/band, physical education, industrial arts, and other staff working in high-noise environments should be regularly wearing hearing protection as part of workplace safety and health practices**.

The Division **provides personalized fitted hearing protection for members**, and its regular use is an important safety expectation. If you or members at your school were fitted for hearing protection and have not received yours yet, please contact HR directly.

Members are also welcome to reach out to the RETTA office if they would like support in following up on the matter. School administration is responsible for contacting staff and submitting the names of members requiring testing and fittings. There is an opportunity each fall for members to access this testing and fitting process, typically in October.

Members who require hearing protection are encouraged to check in with their school administration early in the fall to ensure their names are included for testing and fitting appointments. Members who may fall under this process include:

- Music/Band teachers
- Physical Education teachers
- Applied Technology / Vocational Teachers
- Other staff regularly working in high-noise environments

Again, members please reach out to the RETTA office if they would like support in following up on this.

UNION SAVINGS

Established in 1989, Union Savings was founded by union members, for union members! Our simple principle; leveraging our collective strength as Canadian labour union members to deliver high quality, low cost benefits to labour union members and their families across Canada. With almost three million individual members, Union Savings leverages its strength in numbers to negotiate savings and discounts, exclusive to Canadian union members and their families.

Not-for-profit

To further reflect the values of the labour movement that we all share, Union Savings operates as Canada's only not-for-profit, union run, members' benefit program. As a registered nonprofit organization, above all else, our primary objective is to secure the most competitive rates and discounts for our members. We do not collect union dues from members or charge members fees for portal access.

Member focused

When union members experience benefits outside of the workplace as well as inside the workplace the value of their membership is enhanced. The more opportunities we create to engage with our members, the stronger our unions become. Union Savings has more than 300 participating unions representing national, provincial and local unions ranging from large private and public sector unions to regional unions and small associations.

On the Union Savings Website you can find savings on Electronics, Fashion, Entertainment, Food & Drink, Insurance, Sports & Leisure, Travel and more!

Check out the savings available here: Union Savings

OPTIONAL LIFE, CRITICAL ILLNESS AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Active members under age 65 can purchase extra Life, Critical Illness and Accident Insurance. They'll pay lower rates than similar individual products.

Typically, members (not dependents) can only apply for up to $150,000 in life insurance with no medical questions within their first 31 days of joining your workplace plan.

****From October 15, 2026 to November 15, 2026**, members have another opportunity to apply for up to $150,000 in life insurance coverage with no medical questions required.

After November 15, 2026, the non-evidence maximum will return to $25,000 and medical evidence may be required for amounts above that.

Intake Request Form: Freedom To Choose Life, Critical Illness and AD&D Intake Request Form

You can learn more by following the link: Group Life – Manitoba Public School Employee Benefits Plan

RIVER EAST TRANSCONA
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH
3:30-6:00PM
JUNCTION 59 - REGENT AVENUE

CHEERS & PEERS



UNION QUESTIONS? TEACHER TALK?
JUST WANT TO CONNECT WITH COLLEAGUES?
DROP IN, RELAX, AND UNWIND!

COME FOR A VISIT!

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MONTHLY DATES!


OCTOBER 30, 2026
HALLOWEEN
Group Costume Contest
YES!! THERE IS A PRIZE!!
PRESIDENT
VS.
VICE PRESIDENT
ERIN HAS HER BETS ON THE TRANSCONA SIDE,
GORD IS TAKING THE RIVER EAST SIDE!
(OUR MOST RECENT STOMPING GROUNDS!)
RETTA
SEND YOUR GROUP PHOTOS BY EMAIL OR SOCIAL MEDIA BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND (INCLUDE YOUR WORKSITE AND CONTACT INFORMATION) AND THEN KEEP AN EYE ON OUR SOCIALS NEXT WEEK FOR A SHOWDOWN OF OUR TOP CHOICES!!

Contest time!

This month's secret word is:

SWEATER WEATHER

You must follow us on Instragram AND Facebook to qualify. Then send us as a dm with the secret word! We'll draw for a winner on FRIDAY, NOV. 6TH!

Want an extra entry!? Tag three RETTA members in the comments on our contest post!





Teaching is deeply emotional work and it's okay to need support. Whether you're a beginning teacher, seeking workplace safety guidance, or exploring wellness resources, support is available through the Manitoba Teachers' Society. Scan the QR codes below to learn more about the services and supports available to you.

Mental health matters and **MTS Kii** is here for you. Scan the QR code for 24/7 support, or call 1-866-814-0018 anytime.

Medical Intervention: Planning for daily or non-emergency medical procedures.

Resources for reporting **violent incidents** in schools.

Allyship: How to support 2SLGBTQIA+ colleagues.

Online safety resources for MTS members.

Beginning teachers resources.

Explore **health benefits** provided by MTS.

Workplace safety, health resources and more.

THE MANITOBA TEACHERS' SOCIETY

Explore additional resources and more by visiting **mbteach.org**

RTAM
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA

ONLINE PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR INVITATION

THE SEMINAR IS OPEN TO EDUCATORS AND SUPPORT STAFF

- LEARN MORE ABOUT RTAM, ITS BENEFITS & PARTNERS
- LEARN HOW TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR RETIREMENT

GUEST PRESENTERS:

BELAIRDIRECT GROUP INSURANCE
TEACHERS' RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES FUND (TRAF)

Saturday **14** November, 2026 | Register

Saturday **16** January, 2027 | Register

Saturday **27** March, 2027 | Register

Saturday **15** May, 2027 | Register

SPACES ARE LIMITED.
REGISTER BY 12 NOON THE WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO SAVE YOUR SPOT

www.rtam.mb.ca 204-889-3660 @rtammanitoba

IMPORTANT LINKS

River East Transcona Teachers' Association – Working For Our Teachers

RETTA-Union-Learning-and-Grant-Opportunities-2026.pdf

RETTA Email Distribution 2026-2027

RETTA - Let's Chat!