



January 2014

W.A.N.T.E.

January 2014 NEWSLETTER

WORKING FOR YOU

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Happy New Year!

W.A.N.T.E. Nominations

Have you ever thought about putting your name forward and becoming an elected representative of the W.A.N.T.E. Executive or Council?

Not sure of what's involved or what time commitment is required?

Read on!

Who Can be a Member of Council?

Council Representatives are comprised of the various components within the Association. Any member who is employed in a permanent position in that component may submit to let their name stand for election to be the representative.

Council positions open for Election for 2014/2015

Educational Assistant A & B** 2 positions
**(includes Food Coordinators & Crossing Guards)

Educational Assistant C 2 positions

Educational Assistant D 2 positions

Computer Technician / Library Technician
Elementary School Clerk
Senior/Junior High School Clerk
Non-School Sites Clerk

All members are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Who Can be a Member of Executive?

Any member employed in a permanent position within our bargaining unit may submit their name. To run for the office of President the member must have served as member of the Executive for two consecutive years and be a current officer of the Executive. To run for the office of Secretary or Member at Large you must have served as a member of Executive or Council at any time in the past.

Executive positions open for Election for 2014/2015

President

Secretary

Members-At-Large (2 positions)

What is the Time Commitment for an Elected Officer?

Meetings are held monthly. The Executive meets on the second Wednesday of the month and the Council and Executive meet on the third Wednesday of the month. Meetings start at 5:00 p.m. and usually run no later than 7:30 p.m.. An elected member will also be appointed to one or more of our various committees and these committees meet at times determined by their mandate or need and can vary from two to three times per year.

Nomination forms will be going out to the members on January 31, 2014 as a separate mailing and nominations will need to be returned by February 19, 2014.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Cynthia Hornstein, Chairperson, Nominating Committee at memberal1@wante.org

Message from the President - Barbara Morrison

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back to work! The Association would like to extend to all our members best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and you were able to spend some quality time with family and friends.

I would like to thank those of you who sent their Get Well Wishes while I was in hospital and then recuperating at home, it meant a lot to me that so many kept in touch. I am back to work and enjoying my new hip! Now I am just waiting for the right side to be done!

Please look over the Nomination information in the newsletter and seriously consider submitting your name for a position for election. You will be receiving a separate mailing on January 31, 2014 with more Nominating information and the forms to fill out to submit your name for election. Being part of the Executive and/or Council can be rewarding learning experience. If you have any questions regarding nominations please contact:

Cynthia Hornstein, Chairperson Nominating Committee
email: memberal1@wante.org

In Memory of:



On September 23, 2013 - Amelia Mederski, Retired Clerk, a member of our staff for 25 years.

On November 7, 2013 - Mary Zamparutti, Retired Secretary, a member of our staff for 23 years.

On December 10, 2013, Nelli Justine Dumas, Retired Educational Assistant, a member of our staff for 12 years;

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T4 Slips

T4's will be available for print through Employee Connect in February. You should receive an email notification as soon as the 2013 T4's are available.

Remember: The Web print option makes the T4s available to members sooner than waiting for a printed copy to be sent to work locations via division courier.

Please take a minute to ensure that the email address you have recorded in Employee Connect is current.

Monday, February 3, 2014 is the next WSD common closure day and all Educational Assistants will be laid off that day.



If your school is holding a PD and you are able to attend, that is one of your EAAD days. If not, it is a No Class Day. Please remember that you can use your Discretionary Day that day as well.

Please be sure to advise the Head Clerk at your work location if you are planning to use an EAAD day or Discretionary Day, otherwise your absence will be recorded as a No Class day and therefore you will not be paid for the day.

2013/2014 Important Dates

Monday, February 3, 2014 Non-Instructional Day

Wednesday, February 5, 2014 Creating your Retirement Workshop

Thursday, February 6, 2014 Liaison Meeting at Admin. #2

Friday, March 14, 2014 Non-Instructional Day

Mon, March 31 - Fri, April 4, 2014 Spring Break

Thursday, April 10, 2014 Liaison Meeting at Admin. #2

Thursday, April 24, 2014 Interview Skills Workshop

Friday, April 25, 2014 Non-Instructional Day

Monday, May 12, 2014 Non-Instructional Day

***NEW DATE** Thursday, June 5, 2014 Liaison Appreciation Dinner

Friday, June 27, 2014 Last Teaching Day

In addition to the Non-Instructional Days indicated above, each school is allotted two additional days that are to be used at their discretion. However, staff, parents and communities must be notified well in advance.



Snow Days

Winnipeg winters have been very unusual in the past couple of years, and we have not had a closure day due to inclement weather.

Please remember that on storm days when the schools and Administration Buildings are **open**, any time taken because of weather conditions is the responsibility of the individual employee.

All absences due to weather, should be reported in Aesop as **Reason Code 99 - Inclement Weather**.

W.A.N.T.E. wants to keep in touch!

If a member at your work location is off for an extended time due to illness or has had a bereavement in the family, please advise the W.A.N.T.E. office and we will send out a "Thinking of You" card.



****NEW** Health & Dental Benefits**

As of January 1, 2014, all WANTE employees who are enrolled in the Health & Dental benefits have changed to Blue Cross.

If you have outstanding bills that need to be submitted to Manulife you must do that before February 28, 2014.

Please make sure that before you have your first prescription filled at your pharmacists that you inform your pharmacy that you are now with Blue Cross. Bring in your new card and let them take the info from the card. Everyone should have already received your new card over the winter break. The cards were mailed to your home by Blue Cross. If you didn't receive cards you should contact Sue Lee, Benefits at WSD at 204-775-0231.

Both our Extended Health Benefits and Dental Plans are still **MANDATORY** for any employee who has a permanent work schedule of 25 hours or more per week but if you have permanent hours that are less than 25 hours per week you may still join the plan(s) voluntarily.

The WANTE website will be updated with the new information as soon as the booklet is received.



If you would like to take more of an active role in your Extended Health Plan and your wellness, go online and sign up for Customer E-Service. This online service provides you with tools and resources to keep you informed about managing your plan, your health and helping you save costs.

Managing your plan

Once registered for Customer E-Service, you can easily:

- Submit many claims online
- Register for direct deposit and have claim payments deposited directly to your bank account for fast processing.
- Find out what you need to include in your submissions for services that may require more than a receipt
- Check the status of a claim
- View your claim history to find out if you are near or if you have reached any maximum limits (ex. vision or dental)
- Print a temporary ID card and have a new card automatically issued

Managing your health

Besides managing your plan, Customer E-Service can also keep you healthy by providing access to information specific to you and your health needs through My Good Health. After you have answered a few questions, you will receive a health report with steps to help you become healthier. It also keeps you motivated with interactive calculators and quizzes so you stay on track with your personal health goals.

Managing your savings

Customer E-Service also lets you save through the Blue Advantage program. You will have access to deals on medical, vision and a range of other products and services offered by participating service providers across Canada, regardless of whether your plan covers the item or not.

To find the complete list of participating service providers and eligible savings available, while in Customer E-Service select Blue Advantage or visit www.blueadvantage.ca. You will need to present your Blue Cross ID card to participating providers at point of sale and mention the Blue Advantage program to be eligible for savings.

How to Sign up for Customer E-Service

To sign up for Customer E-Service, go to www.mb.bluecross.ca, click on the link on the right hand side of the page and then simply follow the steps to register. You will need your Manitoba Blue Cross ID card handy to complete the registration process. Once registered you can change your password, e-mail address and secret question at any time.

Help reduce your prescription drug costs...

...by shopping around and comparing prices when filling a prescription. Dispensing fees are not typically disclosed, but you can ask your local pharmacist about the dispensing fees they charge. You might also try asking family and friends where they purchase their prescription drugs to learn about the fees they pay.

The following table shows the approximate average price of pharmacy dispensing fees in Manitoba.

Cost Comparison from 2012 to 2013 Dispensing Fees			
Pharmacy	2012 Fee	2013 Fee	% Increase
Costco* <small>*Membership is NOT required to purchase prescription drugs</small>	4.47	4.47	0%
London Drugs	8.35	8.44	1%
Walmart	9.68	9.68	0%
Superstore	9.65	9.75	1%
Sobey's	10.40	10.64	1%
Pharmex Rexall	11.15	11.51	3%
Shoppers Drug Mart	11.76	11.77	0%
Safeway	11.21	11.79	5%
Pharma Plus	11.75	11.92	1%
Pharmasave	11.52	12.28	6%
Independents	N/A	13.14	

On Line Training Available

W.A.N.T.E. in conjunction with VuBiz, offers members and their families an opportunity to on-line training home.

VuBiz offers a huge list of courses available on subjects such as:

- Communicating Cross Culturally
- Managing Work & Family
- Office 2010
- Harassment Prevention for Employees
- Healthy Workplace Culture
- Working Well with Others

The complete list of On-Line courses as well as the on-line training, may be accessed directly from the WANTE website (www.wante.org).

Online training allows the you the flexibility to work at your own pace and in the comfort of your own

The first time that you access the on-line training, you will be required to enter your email address (home or personal) as well as your first and last name. The system uses your e-mail address to create a unique identifier to ensure that you are properly identified in the system which allows for the tracking of your results and printing of certificates in your name.

All subsequent log ins will require only your email address and the WANTE password: WANTE.

We are proud to be able to make this opportunity available to you, our members and their families **all free of charge** and hope you will take advantage of this opportunity and begin your on-line learning experience today!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

www.wante.org (Training - On Line)



Professional Development funding is available to our members from The Winnipeg School Division and from W.A.N.T.E.

Any members seeking funding must first apply through WSD and then to W.A.N.T.E.

WSD PD Funding forms should be available at your work location and WANTE PD Forms are available on the WANTE Website.

Funding is given up to \$250.00 to an individual once per year or \$500.00 for group funding of more than 5 people.

Remember...We want to hear from you!

Whether it's a suggestion for the Collective Bargaining Committee, an idea for a Labour Ed workshop you'd like to see, or questions about available WSD or WANTE Professional Development funding, ideas, comments etc., we want to hear from you!

Please feel free to contact the WANTE office at (204) 953-0250 or email Barb Morrison, President at wante@wante.org.

W.A.N.T.E.

LABOUR EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Creating Your Retirement Paycheque for Those 1 - 15 Years from Retirement

**Do you know how much money you need to retire comfortably
and remain comfortably retired?**

Paul Fust, a Senior Consultant from Investors Group Financial Services will be on hand to discuss recent changes to Canada Pension Plan & Old Age Security, Pension Income Splitting, Sources of Pension Income, TFSA, RSP, RIF, LIRA, LIF and strategies to reduce taxes during retirement.

If you're thinking about retiring in the next 1 to 15 years, you won't want to miss this very informative workshop! Join us and learn how to create the cash flow needed for a worry free retirement.



Wednesday, February 5, 2014

5:00 pm - 6:15 pm

Room 106, Administration Building #2



Presented by: Paul Fust, Senior Consultant, Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

A light snack and refreshments will be served from 4:30 - 5:00 pm.

Please complete and return to: W.A.N.T.E. office by Wednesday, January 29, 2014



YES, I would like to attend the "Creating Your Retirement Paycheque" workshop being held on **Wednesday, February 5, 2014** in Room 106, Administration Building #2.

I will only be notified if the workshop is full.

Name: _____
(Please Print)

Workplace: _____

Signature: _____

Email Address: _____