

W.A.N.T.E Bulletin Please Post

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May 12, 2021

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Letter to Education Minister



Multi Associations United (Non-Teaching Employees)



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We, the Presidents of Multi Associations for Non-Teaching Employees, which includes over 4,000 employees within Winnipeg schools, would like to schedule a meeting with you to discuss the changes that the government is requesting/proposing for the school system.

You have met with many members from the school system, government, trustees etc. for suggestions, information, to provide for your proposals regarding amalgamation etc. You have asked for their voices to be heard. However, you have never involved or asked the people who support the non-teaching employees of the schools for their voices to be heard. The support staff are who work closely with the students - more so than many of the teaching staff. They are the ones who provide much of the information for assessments to all who may be involved. They are the ones who do the majority of the documentation.

The changes being announced in this reform are significant, and will impact every single person working within, or connected with the education system.

The changes proposed by the Minister of Education and the government are unclear, and I, among other union presidents, have many questions. At this time, we are all left with unclear messages and do not have answers. One thing I know for sure is it is imperative that we use our voices during this time. We are the front lines in education, and we have the right to express our concerns, questions, and thoughts.

Continued.....



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"Members Working for Members"

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Non-teaching employees are an integral part of the school community. Support staff have gone above and beyond supporting students and have had to be extremely flexible with everyday supervision of students and most importantly have gone beyond what their job descriptions are. When a teacher is away, it falls almost completely on the Educational Assistant to take on the role as a teacher for that program or classroom. Although School Administrators say, "No it's not happening, Educational Assistant do not teach", it happens, especially in Special Education classrooms.

Educational Assistants are doing incredible jobs right now. Rules are out the window. Teachers and Educational Assistants have had to bend and be ready to change direction on a dime. Educational Assistants have been there making those transitions go well, supporting teachers, students, and each other.

Educational Assistants are at a much higher risk and struggle daily because of the inconsistency School Administrators have in interpreting directions given from one school to another as well from one division to another.

The clerical staff are the heartbeat of schools. They keep everything organized and running smoothly. Everyone, including School Administrators rely on them. They have gone beyond any and all expectations by being extremely flexible and rise to any given situation at any given time.

We know this is an unsettling and stressful time for all Manitobans. We, the Presidents of the Multi Associations for Non-Teaching Employees, write this letter to you with deep concern for all members we represent, as well as those across the province in similar situations. We again ask to set up a meeting with you to discuss the changes that the government is requesting/proposing for the school system.

Respectfully,
Presidents, Multi Associations for Non-Teaching Employees



EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS OF 7 OAKS

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