

# WINNIPEG TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION 2017-2018 EXECUTIVE ELECTION CANDIDATES' BIOGRAPHIES

An election of the WTA Executive will take place on April 17 and 18, 2017, by secret ballot in schools and other workplaces.

The following five members have accepted nominations for positions on the WTA Executive as Table Officers. Three candidates for the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer have been elected by acclamation. Two candidates are running for the position of Vice-President.

## KRISTIN INSULL – PRESIDENT ELECT

Kristin Insull has been serving at the Vice President of the Winnipeg Teachers' Association since September 2014. Prior to that, she taught mathematics in the English Academic, French Immersion and International Baccalaureate Programs at Kelvin High School. She holds a Master's Degree in Secondary Mathematics Education, has attended multiple workplace safety and bargaining seminars and conferences, and has completed coursework in Advanced Trust Management.

During her tenure as Vice President, she has also represented Manitoba's teachers as a member of the Provincial Executive of The Manitoba Teachers' Society.

As President of the Winnipeg Teachers' Association, she will continue the momentum of the last three years in improving services to members, advocating for member welfare, monitoring the implementation of the Collective Agreement and liaising with Board of Trustees and other outside bodies.

She encourages all members to keep in touch with the Association, as we are stronger together when confronted with political challenges to our profession.



## KRISTEN FALLIS – SECRETARY ELECT

I am currently in my second year on Executive and am please to be acclaimed to the position of Secretary for next school year. This is my fourth year in the division and twelfth year teaching. I have been on numerous committees, including AGM, Negotiations, and co-chairing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Reception committees. My focus this year has been member engagement. I currently teach Music at Inkster School and am committed to Arts Education. I look forward to my growth on Executive and next year's chairing of the Monitoring committee.



## GREGG WALKER – TREASURER ELECT

Gregg Walker has taught in the Winnipeg School Division for 14 years, with the last 10 years teaching Economics and History at Kelvin High School. He is a graduate of the Universities of Western Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, is married and has one teenage son. Gregg has been a WTA Council rep for 6 years, a WTA Executive member for 6 years, and was Treasurer of the WTA from 2014-2016. He is looking forward to returning to the WTA Executive after a one-year sabbatical to continue the important work protecting WTA members' interests.



**DAVE HARACK – VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE**

My name is David Harack and I am asking for your vote as the WTA Vice President. My Association work began at Council evolved into the General Executive for five years; currently I have been sitting as a Table Officer for the past three. Throughout those years I have sat on and chaired the Group Benefits Committee, Teacher Welfare Committee and Credentials. I have strong connections working with MTS as well. Perhaps the most important job I had with the WTA was sitting on the Negotiations Committee and Table Team; it was during those intense meetings that I was able to learn important skills from my veteran colleagues that I will carry on to the next set of Negotiations when they open next year.

I am passionate about our Organization and am ready to take an active leadership role. If elected I promise you will receive a member who is caring, concerned and a person of integrity. I believe in being accessible and accountable to the membership. I am ready, willing and able to accept the challenge and responsibility of navigating our Organization through these uncertain times. I will fight for our Rights.

VOTE HARACK.



**MICHELLE WOLFE – VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE**

For seventeen years, I have been an elementary classroom teacher in the Winnipeg School Division, having taught Nursery through Grade Three. I share my home with my husband, my three children, and our pets, all of whom are supportive of this new role to which I am aspiring.

With tough times fast approaching in our organization, I want to you to know that I am ready to work hard for you. From accepting the “tap on the shoulder” encouraging me to become involved in the organization, to having my job threatened for speaking out, to being part of an Executive that won a provincial labour board hearing, and now heading into a new round of bargaining in a difficult climate, my work for you has been unrelenting. I continue my learning so that I can do my very best work on your behalf.

Experience:

WTA:

- Council Rep
- AGM Chair
- Secretary
- DSA Committee Member
- Negotiations Committee Member
- Teacher Welfare Committee Member

MTS:

- Disability Benefits Plan Committee Member
- Attendance at MTS Bargaining Seminars
- Attendance at International Foundation Employee Benefits Conference

I am humbly asking for your support on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you.



**The following 11 members have accepted nominations for positions on the WTA Executive as Members at Large. The two Vice-President candidates are also running for a Member at Large position.**

**MICHELLE BRADLEY**

I am very excited to be running for the position of member-at-large for the Winnipeg Teachers' Association! I am currently the PCERC School Representative at WTA Council, member of the Finance and Workplace Health And Safety Committees, and was a member of the Special Education, Teacher Welfare, and Annual General Meeting Committees (and Representative at the Manitoba Teachers' Society AGM), and WSD Board Monitor, so I am interested to take the *next step* in the progression of involvement with the WTA. I am particularly interested in equity and diversity in Education, wellness and working conditions, and member engagement.

I have been with the WSD since 2007. I am in my second year as the Inner City Program Support Teacher. I was a high school and resource teacher, department head, and teacher in an infant lab. My first years of teaching were in Alberta where I taught Learning Through the Arts. I have taught pretty much all secondary Humanities and Fine Arts courses (including PEHE).

[Shameless plug] I am currently the Chair of the Board of Directors of ArtsJunktion, a community organization that helps reduce waste by offering art workshops, programming, an art hive, and free "junk"/materials to make art.



**RUI CARVALHO**

My name is Rui Carvalho and I would like your vote for Executive. I graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1993, and I have been teaching in the Winnipeg School Division for the past 24 years, during which time I have taught from elementary students to adults. I have been department head, teacher-in-charge, and acting Vice Principal in two schools. I currently teach grade 7/8/9 at Gordon Bell High School.

I am currently chair of Workplace Health and Safety, and have been sitting on the Education Finance committee for MTS since 2015. I am a standing member of the WTA Education Finance, Substitutes, and Parking committees. I have gained valuable experience having served on Group Benefits, AGM, Teacher Welfare, and Credentials committees during my many years on the Executive.

I enjoy helping WTA members by listening to their ideas and suggestions, and providing them with pertinent information so they have the power to achieve their goals.

As Executive I would continue to fight to maintain WTA teachers' rights, during these times of political turmoil, as I have seen the difficulties they have caused in the past for our teachers. I look forward to continuing to serving our members.



**KRISTY FROEWERK**

I currently teach grade 1 at Lord Nelson School. I have been an elementary classroom teacher for the past 9 years with experience teaching in almost every grade from Nursery to Grade 6. At home, I spend my time with my two dogs and family who are very supportive of everything I do.

I have been a WTA Council Representative for the past 6 years, attended 6 MTS AGMs, served on the AGM committee for the past 4 years where I have had the opportunity to serve as whip for the past 2 AGMs. Last year, I served on the 50th Anniversary Committee helping to plan the social event that took place in May. I have also served on the Distinguished Service Award Committee for the past two years. I am currently co-chair of the DSA committee and a Member-at-Large of Executive.

I have enjoyed this past year, learning alongside my colleagues and doing work on behalf of members. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as a Member-at-Large of Executive in the 2017-2018 year.



**DAVE HARACK**

*See this candidate's statement above, submitted for the election of the Vice-President.*



**MATTHEW JONES**

I am running for a seat on council executive so that I may continue serving members. I have served on various committees including the DSA committee, the negotiations committee and I currently chair the group benefits committee. I hope to continue to work to improve the value and increase the number of services available to members in the group benefits plan.

I am currently a third grade French immersion teacher at École Victoria-Albert School. I have first hand experience using the math pathway, doing both F&P and GB+ evaluations as well as using the French and English writing continuum. I hope to continue to serve the membership in the 2017-2018 school year.



**PAULETTE KROVATS**

Hello. My name is Paulette Krovats. I am presently a Special Education Resource Teacher at Lord Roberts School, which is an elementary school in the south area. I work as a SERT in the Nursery and Kindergarten programs. Over the years I have become very knowledgeable about the various concerns impacting early years teachers. Differentiated instruction within in any classroom is a task however, when you are also including a number of students with significantly diverse needs and the additional adults who support them, the demands of the classroom teacher are expanded. I try to encourage my coworkers and colleagues to be mindful of their well being and take advantage of the various opportunities that the WTA and MTS offer throughout the year. I have served on a variety of committees aside from being credentials chair. These include group benefits, reception, AGM, and a Special Ed. Ad hoc committee. I was also involved with the MTS wellness programs prior to the Balance program. I believe strongly in the well being of teachers in their personal lives as well as their work place.



**DAVID NAJDUCH**

- WTA President for 11 years (3 different terms in office)
- Long-time Member of the WTA contract Negotiations Committee and Table Team
- Decades of experience as a member of the WTA Executive and Council
- Served two years as a member of the MTS Collective Bargaining Standing Committee and as the Regional Coordinator of the Metro Bargainers
- Served 2 years as MTS Executive Member and Chair of the Provincial Workplace Safety and Health Committee
- WSD employee since 1985
- Currently teaching high school at Tec Voc

I bring to the WTA a broad range of experience both at the local and provincial level. My service has included chairing or working as member on many WTA committees. With the recent change in government, we are moving into what can best be called uncertain times. I believe the background and training that I have gained over the years will be an asset to the Executive as we work together to develop responses to the challenges we are about to face. I look forward to the opportunity of continuing my work on behalf of the membership as a WTA General Executive member and ask for your support in the coming election.



**CHERYL OTTENBREIT**

My name is Cheryl Ottenbreit. I have been working with the WSD for 17 years. I have taught a variety of grades from N-3. I have received my Reading Recovery Certificate, Core Competencies Certificate and am currently enrolled in The U of M's Special Education Certification program. Presently, I work at Greenway School where I am the Special Ed. Resource Teacher for N/K students in the Autism and Adaptive Skills Programs.

I believe in inclusion and giving all students what they need to succeed. I believe that all children can learn and have the right to an equitable and fair education. I believe in research based decisions that contribute to the success of all students. I believe that strong, motivated and invested schools have strong communities of learners and leaders.

I have been on the Executive committee for 2 years. I have learned many things that have benefitted myself and my colleagues. I presently sit on the Reception committee and have pursued other committees like: AGM, Teacher Welfare and DSA. I enjoy helping my colleagues learn about their collective agreement and TRAF. With your continued support, I look forward to sitting on the Executive committee for the 2017/2018 school year.



**TERRY WILLERTON**

My name is Terrence Willerton, but everyone calls me Terry. I am the Pastry Arts teacher at Winnipeg Technical Vocational High School, and have taught here for the past seventeen years.

I have been a WTA member for the past fifteen years, five years as a council member and ten years as an executive member. I am currently the AGM Chair and sit on the group benefits committee.

My goals as an executive member of WTA include; ensuring council is working in the best interest of the membership, to encourage more teachers to become involved in the WTA, and to help facilitate the meeting and interactions of teachers from all aspects of our division. With teacher engagement, it allows our Association to be viable and to have a voice with, The Society (MTS) and the provincial government.

I would like to Thank You in advance for your support in the April 17/18, 2017 WTA election.



**MICHELLE WOLFE**

*See this candidate's statement above, submitted for the election of the Vice-President.*



**SAM ZURZOLO**

My name is Sam Zurzolo. I am a teacher at Elmwood High School. I have been a member of Executive Council for two years. I have chaired the Teacher Welfare committee for both of those years. I am running for a position as a Member at Large on Executive Council. I am the right person for council. I am still a velvet brick; someone who can be respectful and soft spoken, but at the same time hammer home what needs to be done. I have no reservations in making my thoughts known. I will not relent on issues that are important.

I believe that teacher welfare is the most important issue council needs to focus on. Teachers are continually "requested" to perform tasks outside of their curricular responsibilities. As well, the division is not recognizing, nor allowing teachers the appropriate time to complete tasks *inside* our realm of responsibility. If I am voted to council, I want to focus our efforts on increasing release time for our tasks. Working with the table officers, I want to ensure that teachers are satisfied that they have enough time to do their job. Vote for Sam Zurzolo as your Executive Council Representative.

