

November 1, 2016

## Organization and Preparation Phase Launched

The evaluation and learning phase of provincial collective bargaining concluded with the submission of the *Collective Bargaining Working Committee Report and Recommendations* to the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Executive in June 2016. Subsequently, these recommendations informed Executive and administration planning for the organization and preparation phase that will occur during the 2016-17 school year leading up to the beginning of provincial collective bargaining negotiations in May 2017.

The overall purpose of this phase is to establish the needs and aspirations of the wider membership within the political, social and economic context of the day. This is accomplished through a work plan approved by the Executive in August 2016 that includes a variety of member education and engagement opportunities to inform the decision making of the STF Executive and Council.

Planned organization and preparation phase activities include:

- Development of new teacher resources about provincial collective bargaining principles, processes and history.
- Councillor discussions and feedback at the Councillor Conference in October 2016 on drafts of renewed Federation policies on collective bargaining and compensation, the draft principles for proposal development and the early identifications of potential priorities for the draft set of proposals for teachers' consideration.
- Member education and engagement opportunities that include an online member survey in November 2016 and regional focus groups in January 2017 to inform the development of the set of proposals for teachers' consideration.
- Councillor debate and decision making on the proposals for teachers' consideration for provincial collective bargaining at the Annual Meeting of Council in April 2017.

## New Resources for Teachers

The timeline and planned activities for the organization and preparation phase as well as additional information on the principles and processes for provincial collective bargaining can be found in the new resource, *Introduction to Teacher Collective Bargaining in Saskatchewan*. Members are encouraged to check out this booklet along with a companion video, and the *History and Significant Events* in provincial collective bargaining booklet that are now available on [www.stf.sk.ca](http://www.stf.sk.ca). Copies of the booklets have been distributed in the monthly school staff liaison mailing in November 2016. Additional video resources will be posted to the website as they become available.

When accessing the website please remember to sign in to your MySTF account so you can see the confidential member-only updates and content on current issues.



## Enhanced TeacherTalk Discussion Forum

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In anticipation of a renewed focus on collective bargaining this school year, the Federation has enhanced the TeacherTalk discussion forum on [www.stf.sk.ca](http://www.stf.sk.ca) with user friendly features to work similarly to other social media sites. When you are signed into MySTF, you now have the ability to:

- Search the forum by topic or keyword and sort by date to find relevant posts more easily.
- “Like” or “unlike” a post or comment by clicking the thumbs-up icon.
- Subscribe to receive email notifications when a message is posted to a topic.
- Subscribe at the folder level to receive email notifications for all topics in a certain folder.

Members are encouraged to use the TeacherTalk forum for discussions about collective bargaining and other professional issues, and to provide feedback on its functionality and further potential enhancements. Federation staff members monitor the forum activity during regular business hours. Direct inquiries to the Federation are managed and responded to within 24 to 48 business hours. Specific questions regarding bargaining should be emailed to [bargaining@stf.sk.ca](mailto:bargaining@stf.sk.ca).

Public posts or discussions on other social media sites of confidential communications or materials that are sent by the Federation for members’ eyes only should be avoided at all times. Twitter and Facebook sites are monitored by government, school divisions and others, and public discussions by members can sometimes affect the Federation’s advocacy and negotiations with these parties, which is counter to the collective interests of teachers.

## Online Member Survey

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The Federation will be conducting an online survey open to all members from November 14 to December 1, 2016. On November 14 members will be sent an email to their preferred email address provided to the Federation with a link to the survey. If you do not receive an email or are a substitute teacher, please contact the Federation at 1-800-667-7762 or 306-373-1660 in Saskatoon and we will send the link to the email address you supply at that time.

The results of this survey will be an essential part of the research and analysis that go into the preparation of a set of proposals for provincial collective bargaining negotiations. This proposal development process also includes the examination of the current context for collective bargaining in Saskatchewan, issues identified through STF member support services, adopted resolutions and priorities identified by Council, and unachieved previous proposals. The principles to guide this proposal development process are informed by Council and approved by the STF Executive.



Questions about teacher collective bargaining?  
Contact STF Bargaining Support by email at [bargaining@stf.sk.ca](mailto:bargaining@stf.sk.ca).

Discussions about teacher collective bargaining?  
Use the TeacherTalk private members’ forum in MySTF on [www.stf.sk.ca](http://www.stf.sk.ca).

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