



GUIDE TO COLLEGIALITY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Councillors help the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation learn about your local association, school and community. Members often prefer to connect with someone they can trust, someone close and easily accessible. Often, that person will be you. As councillor, expect teachers to approach you for information about their professional organization. According to the legislation and bylaws governing the Federation, your support is collegial. Although not an expert in STF services, you are expected to raise awareness with teachers about the many programs, services and resources available to them. Each councillor should refer a teacher or teachers requesting assistance in their professional duties or relationships to the appropriate Federation supports. You are also responsible for ensuring your colleagues are aware of the work of Council and the decisions made on their behalf.

CONNECTING THE FEDERATION WITH MEMBERS

Councillors act as a bridge between members at the local level and your Federation colleagues at the provincial level. In your role as councillor, you will receive information more frequently and to a greater depth than the Federation is able to provide to all its members. You also have the benefit of Council meetings and other learning opportunities that allow you to explore and understand complex issues in education and the teaching profession.

In part, you are provided with this information and in-service to assist you in fulfilling your legislated responsibility to carry out, and help other teachers to carry out, the policies of the Federation. It is important to remember that councillors not only contribute to making policy for the Federation; you are also responsible for communicating and implementing policy as well.

Another of your responsibilities as councillor involves communicating to the provincial organization and the local association any feedback that will assist either level of the Federation in its work with and on behalf of members. Feedback may be provided at Council meetings or at any other time a councillor believes there is significant information to be communicated from members to the Federation. Information may involve teacher responses to Federation initiatives or policies, issues and trends affecting teachers and students, or the need to develop policies that address specific problems or goals

What to Do if a Member Asks for Advice or Guidance

Although councillors can and should advise members about Federation services available, you should not be advising or guiding colleagues in conflict situations or on contractual matters. Doing so could put you at risk of losing your protection under *The Teachers' Federation Act, 2006*. The legislation protects councillors only when acting in good faith and in accordance with your official governance role. If the advice, counselling or mediation you provide to a colleague does not turn out as expected, you could be leaving yourself and the Federation open to legal action. When a colleague asks for advice of this nature, the most appropriate and best response is to refer them to the Federation's member support services to speak with a senior administrative staff member. Contact the Member Support Centre by emailing stf@stf.sk.ca or by calling us toll free at 1-800-667-7762.

MEMBER SUPPORT AND STF SERVICES

Members can call the Federation toll free at 1-800-667-7762, or email stf@stf.sk.ca, to access the following programs, services and resources:

- **Member support** provides advice and assistance in areas such as workplace relationships, employment contracts and legal matters. Services are confidential, timely and provide effective solutions to help resolve your employment and professional needs.
- **Significant supports for the well-being and financial security** of teachers and their families provided by access to health, dental and disability plans, life insurance, the Member and Family Assistance Plan, the pension plan and pension calculator.
- **Professional growth opportunities** include the Foundations of Teaching, Deepening our Understanding of Curriculum, Student Mental Wellness, Blended Learning and more. STF Professional Learning workshops feature sessions created by Saskatchewan teachers in support of provincial priorities and the Saskatchewan curriculum; customizable sessions based on professional needs; and virtual learning opportunities.
- **The Emma Stewart Resources Centre** is a library for teachers with a vast collection of books and audio-visual resources, e-reference services and journals, and a selection of teacher-prepared units to meet teachers' classroom research and professional development needs. Resources can be picked up at the Arbos Centre for Learning, or mailed directly to members.
- **Members have one professional growth membership included with their STF membership.** Professional growth networks are learning communities for teachers.
- **Grants to teachers for classroom-based research projects** provided by the McDowell Foundation, an independent charitable organization that supports teacher-led research to enhance teaching and learning within the publicly funded PreK-12 education system in Saskatchewan.

The Federation also negotiates provincial collective bargaining agreements on behalf of members to address issues related to salaries, benefits and working conditions. Collective bargaining is an important part of the advocacy work the Federation does to ensure the teacher voice is part of education discussions and decision making.

For more information, visit www.stf.sk.ca. Follow us on social media @SaskTeachersFed.

Working on Behalf of Members

- **STF Executive members**, who are elected from and by Council, manage and regulate the activities of the Federation.
- **Local association presidents and councillors** provide information and support to teachers on local matters.
- **School staff liaisons** have a formal role helping to share communication between the Federation and teachers.
- **STF staff members** administer programs and services for the benefit of the membership.

MAKE IT MEANINGFUL

Councillors' collegial and communications role is integral to the effective representation of members and governance of the Federation. Your participation in these processes can be made more meaningful if you:

- **Get to know individual provincial and local executive members in your area.** By virtue of their leadership and governance roles and responsibilities, they may be able to provide additional information or assist you in your role as councillor, and they are in key positions to influence directions taken at both levels of the organization.
- **Contact the Member Support Centre to speak with a senior administrative staff member** when you have ideas, questions or concerns about the Federation's programs, services and resources. You do not have to wait to put forward a resolution to Council to bring this information forward, and it is always welcomed and carefully considered.



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