

COVID 19 – UPDATE #14 (June 10th)

How are you doing?

It was an earlier return to our buildings than most of us had planned, but as always teachers have risen to the challenge put before them.

A colleague of ours, Wendell Head, from the Hanover Teachers' Association recently wrote a very poignant article titled, "The Weight of Straws". If you haven't had the chance, I would invite you to take the time to read the article. It does a very good job of summing up the pressure teachers are feeling right now in Manitoba. <http://www.hanoverteachers.com/the-weight-of-straws.html>

I know and understand the amount of stress you have all been feeling over the past three months and I hate to "add another straw to the pile" but the BTA would like to take a temperature check of our members thru a short survey. The BTA Executive has been discussing members' wellness and are concerned for your wellbeing. Please, if you could take five minutes to let us know how you are doing, I would really appreciate it. It is the data collected in this survey which will help the Association to advocate on your behalf. Please watch your email for a link to the survey sometime early next week.

Our return to work on June 1st has proven challenging for some members while it was welcomed by others. The principals and custodial staff, on very short notice, have done everything in their power to ensure teachers and students have a safe environment in which to return. Now as the workers in the building we need to shoulder some of the responsibility of maintaining a safe environment. I am in no way saying you need to take on extra duties. Rather, we need to support each other by diligently following the Manitoba Health Guidelines; adhere to new safety protocols, maintain physical distancing, practice proper hand hygiene and most importantly - stay home if you are sick! Teachers are a selfless bunch and they often wear it as a badge of honor that they have not taken a sick day in years. Now is not the time to drag yourself into work when you are unwell. If you have cold or flu like symptoms, it's your responsibility to stay home. Staying home from work because you are sick is not a selfish act, it is our duty to protect our colleagues and students by staying home and not risk spreading this horrible virus. Click here for document link.

We have worked together to contain the spread of Covid 19 for the past nine weeks. I think we are all thankful the community is starting to return to normal but now is not the time to let down our guard. Please venture out and interact with our beautiful city but do it with caution and keep your safety and wellbeing as priority number one.

We are all in this together!

Cale Dunbar
President, Brandon Teachers' Association.