



RESHAPING THE RTAM EXPERIENCE

June 2, 2022

Retired Teachers' Association of Manitoba

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RESHAPING THE RTAM EXPERIENCE...



For too long RTAM felt more like a club and less like a professional organization

Change needed to occur!

RESHAPING THE RTAM EXPERIENCE ...



Created “five asks” (priorities) and clearly articulated them...

1. Legislative recognition of RTAM as the group which represents retired teachers in the province of Manitoba.
2. Obtain a seat on the Teacher Pension Board (TRAF).
3. Members receive a cost of living pension adjustment linked to inflation.
4. Obtain a greater say in the development of pension policy.
5. Obtain a greater say in the development of provincial education policy.

RESHAPING THE RTAM EXPERIENCE.....



PRAIRIE SKY/ POLITICAL ADVOCACY

Hired a professional lobbyist / \$15,000 plus / 3 month contract. Analyzed past lobbying and helped guide our future efforts.

The suggestions impacted.....

- Communications with various political parties.
- Development of a “go low and go slow” approach.
- Meetings with specific officials in government and opposition.
- An RTAM member survey being sent out in June.
- An RTAM provincial election strategy for October 2023.

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NEW MODE SOFTWARE / POLITICAL ADVOCACY

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More active member role in advocacy.

- RTAM contributed \$5000 to ACER-CART to access this software.
- Software supported an electronic letter writing campaign to all MLA's in the legislature.
- The letters were in support of a private members bill giving RTAM a seat on the Teacher Pension Board (TRAF).
- Just over 1600 emails/letters were sent by RTAM members.

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LOBBYING UPDATE / SEAT ON THE PENSION BOARD

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- The motion for the RTAM seat was presented as a Liberal Private Members Bill . Liberals hold 3 of 57 seats in the House.
- The consensus was that both the opposition NDP and governing Conservatives would vote against the motion.
- The voted occurred May 10, 2022 and all three parties supported the motion unanimously. It passed second reading .
- The Bill now moves to the Committee Stage.

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PROFESSIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



- RTAM had 4 different individuals in this position over a 5 year period.
- Advertised in a local paper (\$1500) no applications.
- Hired a private company (\$14,000 plus) 4 quality candidates provided. Received a 1 year guarantee.
- Offered a full time position with competitive salary and benefits to the successful candidate.

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BOARD MEMBER COMPUTER PURCHASE PLAN

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Provide the technology to allow the board to work remotely.....

- Board members live around the province & 1 lives in Calgary.
- Technology used currently was old and hindered communication.
- Board motion passed providing \$25,000 to purchase new laptops.
- A contract will be signed outlining terms and conditions of use, depreciation and a purchase plan with each Board member.

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OTHER IMPORTANT CHANGES.....

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- Five year term limits for the Board and Executive members.
- New office space saving money to be used in other key areas.
- Two full time support staff provided with health and pension benefits.
- Two year deal with the MB Teachers' Society with guaranteed regular meetings to collaborate on common issues .
- Tightening up of budget and financial controls.

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PROFESSIONALISM FOR RTAM NOW MEANS.....

RTAM
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- Working to achieve our “five asks”.
- Lobbying those in power with consistent and clear messaging.
- Engaging our membership.
- Empowering the Board and Executive.
- Making our operations more structured, transparent and accountable.
- Using the skills and expertise of paid staff to support all of the above.