

The Apple Core

February 2025

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Greetings, GVTA-ers!

Welcome to the second half of the year. Thanks to those who took time for conversation on my first round of school visits between October and January. Round 2 will begin this month. Thanks also to those of you who invited me into your teaching spaces so that I could spend time observing or reading to your students, or in the case of Lincoln Wiebe, playing my euphonium with Jr. High bands!

GVTA is always looking to increase engagement opportunities. Whether it's a quick "hello" or coming for a snack during school visits, joining us at our Social & Teacher Wellness events, work on the PD committee or on one of our many CLGs, or reading and respond-

ing to The Apple Core, we're just glad if you know that—as a union—we're here for you.

This also means that we're looking for ways for members to come to us. If you are in a CLG through the GVSD-GVTA PD Committee, did you know that you can request the use of the GVTA Office for your meetings?

If you're looking to participate in MTS sporting events like the Hockey Tournament in Dauphin in April, GVTA will cover your registration fees.

Another initiative we're looking to get off the ground is to provide voice, community, and solidarity to historically under-represented groups. The office is always open to hosting equity-deserving members who would like to meet with others who identify similarly. If you are interested in attending such a meeting, please let me, or ESJ Chairs Val Harder and Karla Rootsart know, and we'll handle the rest of the communication.

In addition to the above, if you ever just want to stop by the office for a coffee and a chat, just let me know in advance and we'll find a time together!

In Solidarity,

Joel

president@gvta.mbteach.org // 431-775-4282

GVTA Nominations 2025-2026

It is time once again to announce our Call for Nominations for candidates to serve on next year's GVTA Executive! There is no need for prior experience, only a desire to learn more about the role of the Manitoba Teachers' Society and our local Association as well as a willingness to serve for the greater good of your colleagues.

Please contact Val Harder if you are:

- Planning to continue in your current GVTA role. (Note: GVTA does not have term limits) OR
- Considering an executive position – self-nominations are welcomed OR
- Aware of a person/s that you wish to nominate – just be sure that you have their prior approval with an indication of their willingness to let their name stand.

Garden Valley Teachers' Association members work on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, and the homeland of the Métis nation. GVTA respects the Treaties that were made on this territory.

We are seeking individual candidates for the following...

President – (Please note the specific timelines for this position)

- Please submit your President nominee/s by 4:00pm – Thursday, March 13, 2025.
- If an election is required, it will be held Thursday, March 27, 2025 by secret ballot. The winner of the election will be announced on March 28th.

Nominations for all other executive positions are also open at this time. Nominations should be received by Noon – Monday, June 9, 2025. Elections will be held at the GVTA Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 with nominations “from the floor” also being accepted at that time.

Please see the upcoming March Apple Core for information about each specific role in the Executive.

Important Dates

Feb 26 – Pink Shirt Day

Mar 4 – GVTA Executive Meeting

Mar 7-8 – MTS Women’s Symposium: Empowering Capacity, Confidence, and Voice Through the Connections We Make ([Registration](#) \$100)

Mar 13 @ 4pm – Nomination deadline for GVTA President (email Val Harder)

Mar 18 – COSL Virtual Learning Series: Leading the Team! ([Registration](#) by Mar 17 @ Noon)

Mar 26 @ 4pm – GVTA President Election Forum, if more than one candidate

Mar 27 – GVTA President Elections (online), if more than one candidate

Mar 29-Apr 6 – Spring Break

Member Readership Contest:

The January contest was to send in a random number between 1-100. I used Random.org to generate a number while writing this and it generated 47. Congratulations to Roxanne Baraniski (PRS) who guessed 46, and wins a \$25 gift certificate to the local business of her choice!

To enter the contest for February, send me an article, a video, a book title, a course name, or a professional development event that has positively affected you in your role in the last year.

Policy Changes:

At the February GVTA Executive meeting, we moved three motions to change GVTA Policy. In the interests of space, we won’t print the entire current and revised policies, but we will indicate who can be contacted for more information for those interested. The policies have the option to be amended before they are passed based on feedback from members. If there are proposed changes from members or t, then we will give notice again in the March Apple Core. If there are no changes, then the policies will be put in place at the March 4th meeting. All policies are available on the website at <https://gvteach.org/contract-policy/> under “GVTA Guiding Documents”.

Policy on a Women & Leadership Committee of GVTA

MTS has been asking us for several years to have a contact person for work around Women in/and Educational Leadership. This year, we are creating a policy to guide us through the process. The women of the Executive will nominate one of their own to be the representative to MTS who be the liaison between GVTA and MTS. This motion has no associated costs.

If you would like to see the wording on this policy, please contact Karla Rootsart (Women & Leadership Policy Ad Hoc Committee Chair) or Joel.

Policy on MTS Provincial Council Delegates

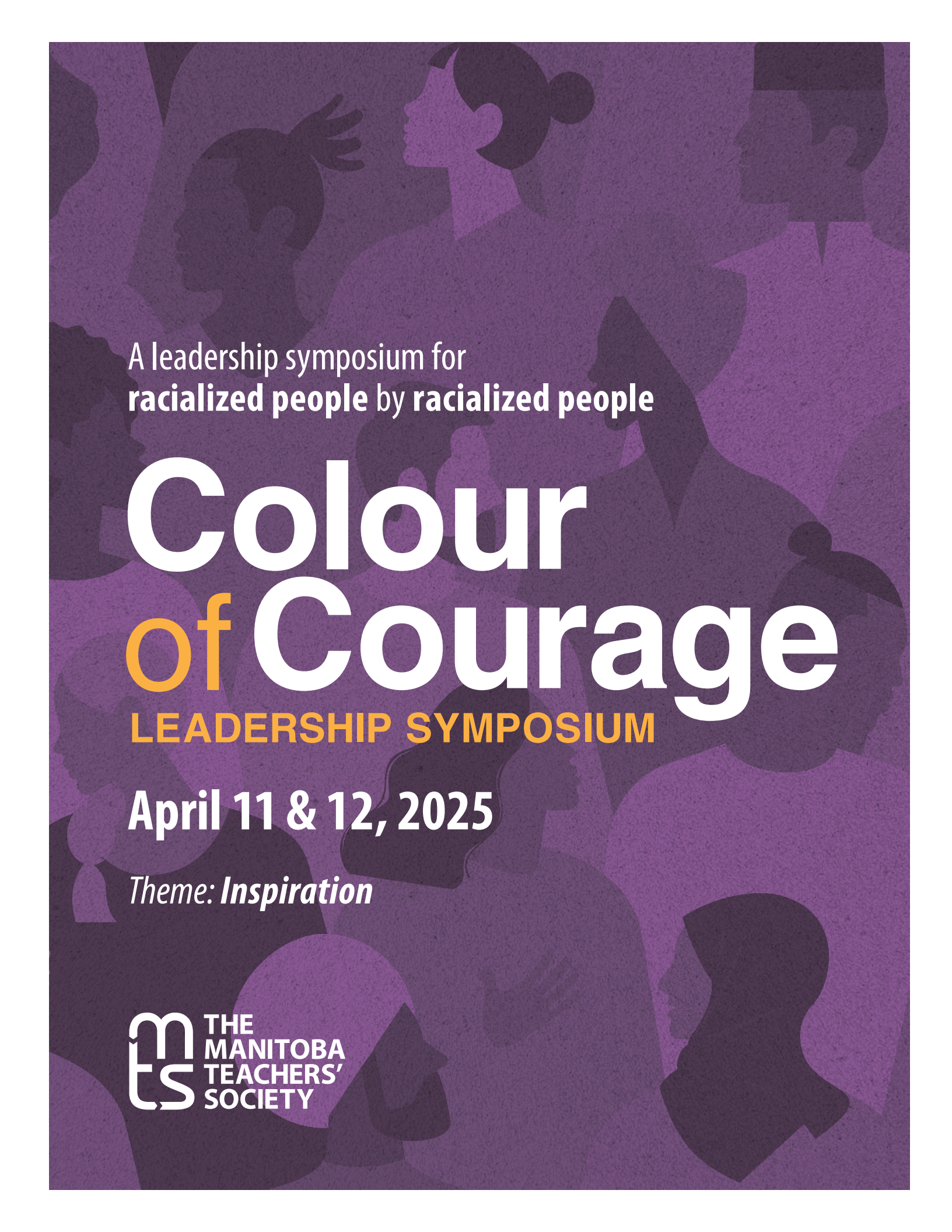
GVTA sends one delegate to MTS Provincial Council (AGM) per 50 members, plus an alternate. Lately, we've been sending seven members to this event. We've had a policy in place that sends delegates based on their role on the executive: sending committee chairs before sending co-chairs, for example. This process has meant that some members attend every year for many years while other executive members don't get to go at all. We're proposing a policy change that would involve sending the president and vice-president, and then sending people in a rotation based on how long it's been since they've previously attended, while also looping in people who have never been. After attending for two consecutive years, it would be someone else's turn. This motion has no associated costs.

If you would like to see the wording on this policy, please contact Joel.

Policy on Reimbursing Internet Costs for the President and Treasurer

Our current policy indicates that GVTA funds reasonable home internet costs of the President and the Treasurer, but it also indicates that the policy should be reviewed when we obtain a permanent office space. (Full disclosure, MTS—not GVTA—has been reimbursing my internet since 2020 as a member of the provincial executive). In reviewing this policy, we are looking to reduce the current reimbursement by half. It isn't practical for the treasurer to come to the office to perform their duties outside the school day. The president also is obligated to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. However, we also acknowledge that most people have a need for home internet regardless of this work. This policy is looking to strike a fair balance. This measure will reduce this budget line for members.

If you would like to see the wording on this policy, please contact Alyssa Friesen (Internet Policy Ad Hoc Committee Chair) or Joel.

The background of the entire poster is a deep purple color. Overlaid on this background are numerous silhouettes of people of various ethnicities and ages, shown in profile or three-quarter view. Some silhouettes are dark purple, while others are a lighter shade of purple, creating a layered, collage-like effect. The silhouettes are positioned around the text, with some appearing behind it and others in front.

A leadership symposium for
racialized people by racialized people

Colour of Courage

LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

April 11 & 12, 2025

Theme: Inspiration

**m
ts** THE
MANITOBA
TEACHERS'
SOCIETY



**WOMEN AND
LEADERSHIP**

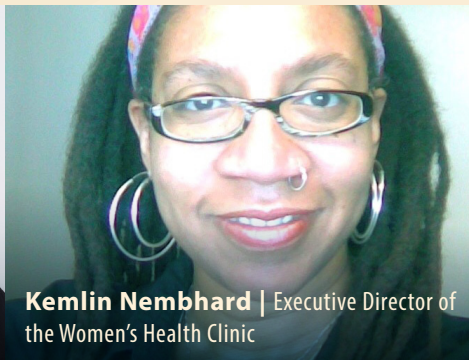
Symposium | 2025

Empowering Capacity, Confidence and Voice Through the Connections We Make

The symposium brings women and gender diverse members together to network, dialogue, collaborate and learn from each other. **Registration now open.**



Kate Davis | Actress, author, comedienne, humourist and activist



Kemlin Nembhard | Executive Director of the Women's Health Clinic



Anna Rothney | Executive Director of The Manitoba Federation of Labour



Tracy Karuhogo | Equal Voice

**McMaster House,
191 Harcourt Street**

**Members: \$100
Non-Members: \$150**

**Friday,
March 7 &
Saturday,
March 8**



Christabel Ofori | Equal Voice



Christine Higgins | President of the Costume Museum of Canada



Dawn Knight | Teacher, Pembina Trails School Division, President of the Manitoba Association for Art Education

**REGISTER
TODAY**

<https://memberlink.mbteach.org/Event.axd?e=2822>

**THE
MANITOBA
TEACHERS'
SOCIETY**

CAP 2025



Developing Centered Leadership

WINNIPEG, MB | MAY 13- MAY 16 | 2025

GUEST AND KEYNOTE SPEAKERS





mts THE
MANITOBA
TEACHERS'
SOCIETY

MTS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT APRIL 11-12, 2025 DAUPHIN, MB

**REGISTRATION: \$700
3 GAME GUARANTEE
SOCIAL EVENT
DEADLINE: MARCH 14**

REGISTRATION/QUESTIONS: MTSHOCKEY@MVTA.CA