

The Apple Core

Dec 2025

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President's Address:

GVTA Members,

I finished up my school visits this month by taking part in Santa's Workshop in Southwood. It was a great time and a lovely reminder of the novel programming that occurs at this time of year. Thank you to all of you who continue to reach out and welcome me into your classes, it is an incredible opportunity to be able to connect with Members and see the passion, skill, and creativity in our schools around the division.

On January 13, MTS President Lillian Klausen will be coming to visit several GVSD schools to connect with GVTA Members. At the end of the school day, there will be an opportunity for members to meet and connect with Lillian at the GVTA office at GVC Tec around 4pm on Jan 13, 2026. You are all invited to attend.

As winter break begins at the end of this week, I want to recognize the work that you folks have done so far this year. Working day in and day out with students can be incredibly rewarding, but it can also be grinding. I hope that all of you take time over the holidays to take part in traditions, activities, and adventures that fuel and refresh you. I wish you great memory-building moments on your well-earned break.

I hope that you feel respect, love, and connection at this time of year. The days are long, but the years are short. Cherish your loved ones and enjoy the life you get to share with each other.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year,

Mike Urichuk

GVTA President

president@gvta.mbteach.org

Apple Core Readership Contest:

Congratulations to Jennifer Hamp who was the winner of our November readership contest! As the winner of our monthly draw, Jenn will receive a \$25 gift card to the local business of her choice!

For December's contest, send an email with the subject line "Apple Core Contest" to president@gvta.mbteach.org. Include in the email the next date (include: month, date, and year) that allowances, pay rates, and salary grids increase by 1%. Consider page 14 or 50 of the PDF version of the [Collective Agreement](#).

Entries received on or before January 4, 2026 will be entered to win a \$25 gift card to the local business of your choice!

EI and CPP Deduction Maximums Reset:

For those that have maxed out their CPP and EI deductions in 2025, I want to remind folks that CPP and EI will begin to be deducted from your paycheque starting again in January. This means that if you make at least as much as a Class 4 Step 5 full-time teacher, you may notice a significant reduction in your take-home pay between December 2025 and January 2026. Deduction [rates for CPP](#) remains at 5.95% of your salary and the [EI rate](#) is lowering to 1.63% of your salary (from 1.64%).

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please feel free to contact president@gvta.mbteach.org

GVTA Executive Policy Changes- December

At the December GVTA Executive Meeting, the GVTA Executive approved the following actions:

- GVTA will close its Charge Account with CO-OP
- GVTA will acquire a Credit Card
- GVTA is removing the requirement to have GVTA social events in addition to several other changes to Social and Wellness policies
- An Ad Hoc Committee was struck to review the Bylaws and recommend changes regarding Social and Teacher Wellness

If you would like to see more details about any of the above items, please contact president@gvta.mbteach.org.

Vacancy: Workplace Safety and Health Liaison

In December, GVTA accepted the resignation of Brenda Richer in her role as Workplace Safety and Health Liaison. We thank Brenda for the time and effort that she put into this role.

The GVTA Executive is looking to appoint from its membership a Workplace Safety and Health Liaison. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact president@gvta.mbteach.org. No previous experience required. Food will be provided at all meetings.

Local Holiday Giving Opportunities:

The holiday season is a time for generosity and community support for many. If you are looking for ways to give back locally, consider partnering with one of these organizations that are accepting donations during this time:

Genesis House

Genesis House provides essential support to women and children seeking shelter from domestic violence.

- Physical Donations: Food items for the shared kitchen, clothing, and healthcare items. Please call 204-325-9957 to arrange drop-off.
- Monetary Donations: Contribute securely online through CanadaHelps.

Central Station

Central Station serves as a hub for community support in Winkler.

- Monetary Donations: Drop off at Central Station or call to arrange payment.
- Food Donations: Contact the kitchen for a list of current needs.

Winkler Food Cupboard (Located at Central Station)

The Food Cupboard is accepting high demand staple items, including:

- Rice, oatmeal/cereal, pasta
- Canned vegetables, soup/stew, meat/fish
- Cooking oil, peanut butter, pasta sauce
- Monetary donations can be made online via CanadaHelps.

Many Hands Food Bank (Located in Morden)

Currently accepting non-perishable food donations to support local families.

Winkler and Morden Cheer Board

Although holiday hampers may have been packed and delivered, monetary donations are still needed to meet increased fundraising goals this year. Donate online at mordenchristmascheer.com or winklercheerboard.com.

Pembina Valley Humane Society (PVHS)

PVHS is hosting its annual Santa Paws Supply Drive. Items needed include:

- Wet cat and dog food, wet kitten and puppy food, cat litter
- Drop-off locations: Winkler Pet Valu, Winkler Best West Pet Foods, and Hearth and Hound in Morden and Altona.

PVHS is also seeking temporary foster homes for cats and dogs during the holidays to provide a break from the shelter environment. Contact PVHS for more information.

Clothing Store Update

The GVTA Clothing store has been updated! New colour choices! New T-shirts! Women's fit added to some items! Check out the new selection on the poster in your staff room, or scan the QR code below to go shopping:

