
MAPLE RIDGE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



News from the Office || Halloween 2020



What to Know About Remedy: A Fairly Comprehensive Q&A.

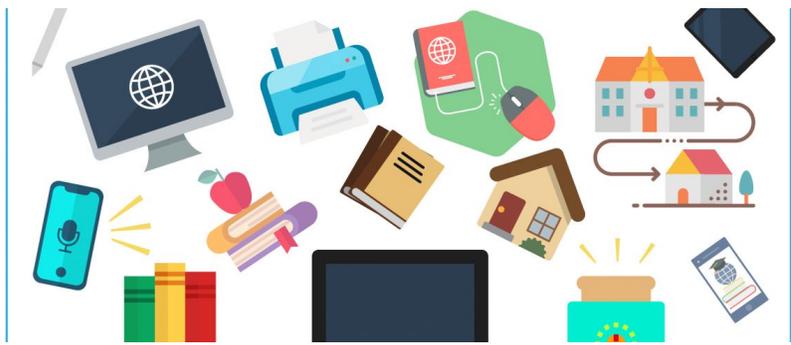
1. What can remedy funds be used for? How long do I have to submit receipts?

Purpose

Currently you can spend funds on “Learning Resources” for your school classroom and community. If you have questions on what it can be spent on, you can inquire with your Principal -- if you’d like a second opinion, feel free to follow up with the MRTA to inquire on your behalf.

Also know that:

- Computers, peripherals, and other devices should be purchased through IT
- Refer to past emails on *Amazon Business* preferred methods of purchasing non-IT resources
- Purchase receipts need to be dated after **August 1st 2019**



(reimbursement requests for purchases from 2019 need to fill out an ‘Eligible Educators Tax Credit Disclaimer’ that was included in the remedy email file attachments)

Timeline

You have from now until **Nov. 30th** to get receipts in to the district for Learning Resource Purchases.

2. What happens to my remedy after the period of time for purchasing Learning Resources ends?

Any unused remedy amounts left over, or the full amount if none is used, will be transferred automatically to the MRTA under your name. The transfer should occur around **Dec. 18th**.

Once at the MRTA, the remedy will be available to reimburse for expenses related to “Professional Learning Opportunities”.

3. What are “Professional Learning Opportunities” that I can get reimbursed for with the funds at the MRTA, once it has been transferred?

The “Professional Learning” designation includes the following:

- a. Teacher course work — this can be courses relating to teacher Education programs such as a Masters, further post-secondary course work in an ‘interest/focus area’, etc.
- b. Learning Opportunities — workshops and other shorter programming that has no attached certification.
- c. Single-copies of associated teaching resources and/or books - *items that are associated with an area of a teacher’s learning* can be purchased.

If unsure your plan meets these criteria, please email the MRTA.

**4. Once I have an idea of what I’d like to spend my MRTA “Professional Learning Opportunity” Funds, how do I get approval and reimbursement?
and
For what time period do these Learning Opportunities have to fall within?**

First - Know that these funds may be combined with any leftover funds you requested transferred to the MRTA for the 2018/19 school year.

For uses other than straight-forward tuition reimbursement, please email martin@mrttaoffice.ca with a plan of what you’d like to spend your funds on, and how it connects to Professional Learning.

Know that the current 2019/20 can be used on any Professional Learning that has / is going to occur between **July 1st 2016 to July 1st 2027**. Similar restrictions apply to the previous 2018/19 remedy amounts on hand (i.e. between 2015 to 2026).

Once approved, submit receipts, identifying which years of remedy apply. Send to: kelly@mrttaoffice.ca Ensure receipts include such information as:

- Educational Institution or Company Opportunity / Resource is from
- Your name as a registrant, where appropriate
- Date of payment / enrollment
- The amount you paid

Kelly will then work on cheques once the money arrives around Dec. 18th, but there may be a back-log for us to work through approving them all.

5. What if I am a member that is retiring? Or leaving the district?

Members will receive a *payout* on the portion of the remedy they accrue from the current teaching year they are last working (2020/21 currently). The current 2019/20 remedy amounts remain at the MRTA once transferred and *are not paid-out*. With the remaining time in the teaching year, you can purchase learning resources for the school community now. Money remains affiliated with the teacher for a full 7 years before it becomes part of a general Professional Learning fund. Retired teachers who come back to TTOC can still access the funds in their name. Anyone who does this still can access their remedy amounts for Professional Learning Opportunities as noted above while TTOCing.

Good to Know if you go on an unpaid leave due to Covid-19: Federal EI Grants

There are a number of reasons teachers may decide to take unpaid leave, due to issues related to Covid-19. If this happens to you or someone you know, they may be eligible for one of three “Canada Recovery” *taxable* EI benefits:

The Canada Recovery Benefit

Amount/duration: \$500/week for up to 26 weeks *per worker*

Purpose: For anyone who has stopped working, or had work reduced by at least 50% due to Covid-19 related reasons, and are not eligible for EI.

The Canada Recovery Caregiver Benefit

Amount/duration: \$500/week for up to 26 weeks *per household*

Purpose: For anyone who has stopped working because they must care for a child under 12 or family member because:

- of impacts on schools, day-cares, or care-facilities being closed.
- the family member is sick and/or required to quarantine, or is at high risk of serious health impacts due to Covid-19

The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit

Amount/duration: \$500/week for up to 2 weeks *per worker*

Purpose: For anyone who has stopped working:

- for at least 50% of a week due to contracting Covid-19
- due to self-isolating for reasons due to Covid-19
- due to underlying conditions, undergoing treatment, or contracted sickness that a medical practitioner or person of authority/government health body feels it would make them more susceptible to Covid-19

A Synopsis of Pertinent Details from The SD42 Q&A with Ingrid Tyler, Fraser Health Medical Director

Please note: The information presented here is based on the responses of the Fraser Health Authority Officers, and not the MRTA.

When: Oct. 19th at 3:00pm

Where: On Zoom, via District Invitation

Also present/contributing: Medical Health Officer, Ariella Zbar

Fraser Health tackled topics during the Q&A with SD42 in an attempt to bring clarity to their efforts in our communities. The health authority wants teachers to know they are pouring massive resources into contact tracing. The vast majority of cases are able to be traced to specific contacts.

Fraser Health believes schools are very controlled environments and are much safer than the majority of work sites. This, paired with a noted difference in symptom profile for children, has led to the creation of the reduced 'Student Symptom List' for schools.

Fraser Health additionally wanted us to know that emphasis is being placed on the control of transmission, rather than the elimination of transmission in our schools. They also remind us that the use of masks in a school environment is decided at the provincial level, not by Fraser Health.

Finally it was confirmed that students and adults can come back if symptoms improve after 24 hours. However they emphasized 'improved' should be a significant level of improvement.



The SD42 “Refer A Teacher” Program

Due to the Teacher Shortage in our Province, SD42 is challenged in recruiting qualified teachers.

Some of you may be familiar with a previous recruitment program that SD42 is now relaunching. The program recognizes teachers can play a role in promoting our local as a good place to work.

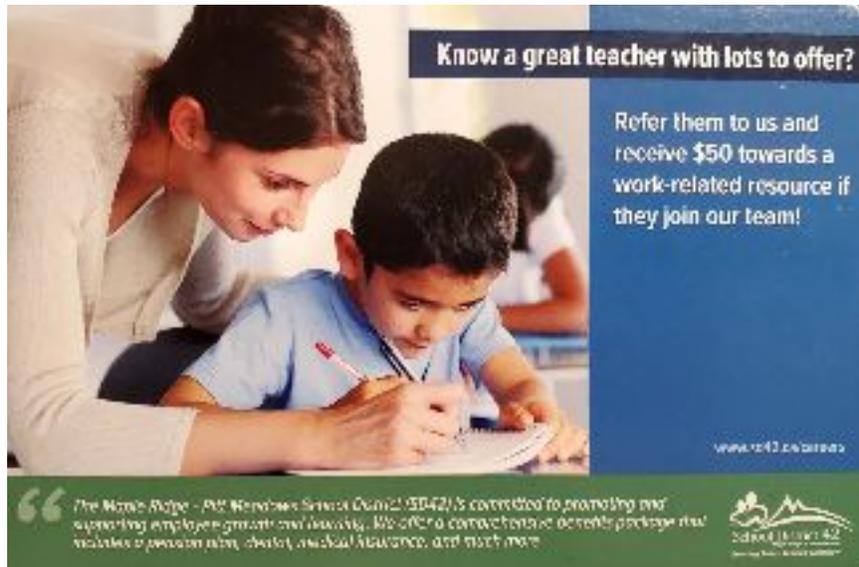
The Teacher Referral Program for hiring TTOCs is now back up and running.

SD42 knows that many of us have a network of friends and family, & other acquaintances, of which some are teachers in other jurisdictions.

Colleagues that formally refer a contact to SD42 and are hired will receive \$50 towards a work related resource.

To refer someone:

- 1.) Find a copy of Teacher Referral cards school offices will be sent and take one or two.
- 2.) Complete the official Teacher Referral card for every teacher you refer.
- 3.) Send the completed card to Roxane Carwell in the HR department through internal mail.
- 4.) If HR hires your referral, they will give further direction regarding the \$50.



Employee	Candidate
Employee's First Name <input type="text"/>	Candidate's First Name <input type="text"/>
Employee's Last Name <input type="text"/>	Candidate's Last Name <input type="text"/>
Employee's SD42 email address <input type="text"/>	Candidate's email address <input type="text"/>
Employee's location (school) <input type="text"/>	Candidate's telephone number <input type="text"/>

Get to Know the Contract

Each month, the MRTA will be featuring a part of the Collective Agreement that may be useful to members around the District. This month's featured section of the Collective Agreement is regarding:

Article D.21 - Hours of Work

Did you know that loss of your Prep time should be made-up?

It is protected in the contract! This

is especially important to know when some teachers are being pulled away from their Prep to cover classes due to Failure to Fill, when a teacher is on leave and a TTOC is not available.



5. When a Teacher Teaching on Call is not available, the preparation time of a teacher may be rescheduled as follows:

- a. The Principal will advise the teacher of such rescheduling in writing;
- b. The teacher may accumulate rescheduled preparation time, using it within the school year in which it was earned;
- c. The redemption of the accumulated rescheduled preparation time by the teacher will be undertaken as one-half (0.5) day or full day(s);
- d. The teacher will take the rescheduled preparation time at a time that is mutually agreed upon by the teacher and principal;
- e. The teacher will spend the rescheduled preparation time at a location that is decided by the teacher in consultation with the Principal.