



Special Recognition Award

This award recognizes members of CTF/FCE Member Organizations or Associate Organizations who have made major contributions to their provincial/territorial organization, the CTF/FCE, labour rights in education, and/or public education in general.

Nello Altomare (posthumously)

Nominated by The Manitoba Teachers' Society (MTS)

Throughout his career as a teacher, vice-principal, principal, and elected official, Nello Altomare made significant contributions to public education in Manitoba. A dedicated educator and lifelong advocate for equitable and accessible public education, he left a lasting impact on countless students and colleagues through his commitment to excellence and inclusion in schools.

A former school principal who spent much of his time in education in the River East School Division, Nello was first elected as an MLA for the New Democrats in September 2019 and was re-elected in 2023. As Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, Nello was steadfast in his commitment to Manitoba's public schools and ensuring that every student had access to quality education. His passion for the profession and deep understanding of the challenges faced by educators will be remembered by all who had the privilege of working with him.

Nello was a vocal proponent of school breakfast, lunch, and snack programs, both as a critic and cabinet member. He repeatedly made clear that poverty reduction was key to improving academic outcomes. Before he passed, Premier Wab Kinew announced the government would introduce Nello's Law, ensuring a universal school nutrition program. With this legislation, Nello will always be remembered as an educator who changed the lives of Manitoba students forever. His legacy will endure in every classroom, in every meal shared, and in the countless lives he touched.

