

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

**RETIRED TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION**

**MEMBER REPORT**

1. **Major concerns of our association:**
2. **Federal Level:**
3. Our concerns remain the same as last year: increasing senior poverty caused by price increased not met by pension increases.
4. Pharmacare
5. **Provincial Level:**
6. Subsidized senior housing and the need for more units
7. Spousal poverty caused by one partner living in community or long-term care.
8. **Main activities of our association since last ACER-CART AGM:**
9. After several meetings with other labour groups and seniors’ groups about the International Day of Older Persons, very few showed up at the raising of the flag. At our ECRTO meeting in St. Johns in October, other provinces had similar experiences. We will have to decide what we will do in future years.
10. We met with other union groups in June about health plans. Other groups fear they will be facing premium hikes. During the meeting, Julie White came on line to speak about Labour Force Issues. She also talked about how Canada & US drug prices were the highest in the world which is why we need a National Drug Plan.
11. I continue to attend retired group luncheons; it is usually just a general chat. Most retired teachers have few issues.
12. PEIRTA funds a scholarship and a bursary to the University of PEI and a bursary to Holland College every year.
13. Our AGM was held Nov. 3, 2016; the attendance was a bit lower than I anticipated. We currently have 1055 members; we had 21 deceased members this year and 33 new members. The guest speaker, Arlene Powers, spoke on Provincial Health Insurance while travelling. Johnson’s Insurance, Dale Weldon, was able to tag team with her on our plan travel insurance. Everyone agreed it was a very informative session. This year we added a new member to PEIRTA Executive. Maria Bernard will represent the French Language School Board retirees. This puts our Executive number to 9 members.
14. Vice President Cynthia MacDonald and I attended the ECRTO meeting in St. John’s, NL in October. It was, as always, a learning and sharing experience. NLTA has put a lot of pressure on us for 2019 when we host the meeting. It will be difficult to follow their entertainment and organization.
15. We had a slight increase in travel insurance and life insurance. However there was a 20% decrease in our health premiums. Despite the Government’s legislation to make our plan first payer and other issues, few have dropped the plan.

2016 was a pretty quiet year for PEIRTA; hopefully this will continue for the remainder of my tenure.

Joyce McCardle

PEIRTA President