** THE QUEBEC PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONOF RETIRED SCHOOL EDUCATORS**

 **ASSOCIATION PROVINCIALE DU PERSONNEL D’ENSEIGNEMENT**

 **RETRAITÉ DU QUÉBEC**

**MEMBER REPORT**

1. **Major Concerns of the Association:**
2. **Federal level:**

QPARSE has endorsed the initiatives of ACER-CART in aligning ourselves with the coalition of organizations (Seniors’ Voice) that has been created to continue to lobby the Federal Government on all issues of concern to seniors. After the election of the liberal government, it is important to keep our elected officials aware of the promises they made to seniors. At the request of ACER-CART’s Health and Insurance Committee, we encouraged our members to participate as an individual member of the Association to add our voice to the call for a seniors’ focus in a new Health Accord.

QPARSE also joined the Montreal coalition of seniors and participated in the International Day of the Older Person on October 1, 2016 in Montreal. It is the first time that this coalition has had participation of a group from the English sector of education and the organizers were very appreciative of our participation.

1. **Provincial level:**

Ed Zegray continues to participate as our representative on the provincial committee known as GTAR (Groupe de travail des associations de retraites) that monitors and lobbies on our behalf in areas of pension. We continue to lobby for better indexation arrangements to our pension but to no avail.

 QPARSE continues to receive recognition from our civil service. We are

 the only group representing English-speaking retirees that has been

 asked to recommend potential candidates to sit on the pension

 committee forpublic sector retirement funds, now known as Retraite

 Québec.

1. **Main activities of our association since last ACER - CART AGM**
2. **Strategic planning:** We continue to look for better ways of addressing the needs of our members and this, in a frugal manner given our dwindling numbers and financial constraints. While we need to continue to offer services to our members, we are always looking for imaginative ways to do this. One of the areas that has been addressed more this past year, is in finding ways to coordinate our activities and services with other retired educator groups. This needs to be continued and developed.
3. **Communication with Members:** We continue to encourage our members to use electronic communications. We also approached those members who receive things by post to ask them to volunteer to pay the cost of mailing our newsletter to them and we were pleasantly surprised by the generous support from them. We have also opened a Facebook page and are working to let our members know what to look for on it and to use it. Our web site is very helpful as well. We continue to send greetings to our 25 Super Seniors upon their birthdays.
4. **Member Welfare:** Ed Zegray represents us well at the provincial level and informs us of the important work being done there. We were finally approached by our active teacher group (QPAT) to participate in a consultation about the retired teacher insurance plan that was to be renegotiated this year. We have been lobbying for years to be involved in a consultative way with QPAT and are pleased that we now are.
5. **Program Events:** We held our Fall Lunch for Retirees at one of our local school board’s culinary arts school. In December was our usual Holiday Celebration and in February we were treated to a presentation by Senior Discovery Tours. In the Spring we had fun line dancing and enjoying typical “Cabane à Sucre” food and in April we had an interesting talk by Dr. Dolly Dastoor about Strategies for Healthy Aging: An Active Brain”
6. **QPARSE Board of Director changes:**

President and ACER – CART Director: Jan Langelier

Past President: Renate Sutherland

Vice President and Program Director: Carol Klein

Treasurer: Kathleen Malcius

Assistant Treasurer: Diane Fry

Secretary: Katherine Snow

Membership Director & Website/Facebook Liaison: Terrie Kozaczynski

Events Director: Ken Cooke

Newsletter Director: Marzia Michielli

Directors at Large: Erene Anthony, Sandra Aird, Joan Ebbett, Patrick Clarke, Harold Penn and Claudia Thierry

1. **Motions from our association:** None

Jan Langelier

QPARSE Director