

**QUEBEC ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS**

**MEMBER REPORT**

2016-17

This last year has been quite a year for Q.A.R.T. It started a year ago with the election of a new executive committee. Four new executive members were elected to a two-year term of office: John Greene, president; Annie Schaffhauser, 1st vice-president; Alda McCaffery, 2nd vice-president; and Cécile Doucet-Greene, Secretary. Patrick Griffin retained his position as Treasurer for a new two-year term.

Q.A.R.T., being a small association, always has membership as a priority. This past year saw Q.A.R.T. add a dozen new members but this was offset by a loss of four members who had passed away.

Q.A.R.T. organizes activities for its members. There was a noticeable increase in the numbers of members participating in these activities. In fact, all activities, were filled. Not only were the activities filled but the two general meetings were filled as well. It was a pleasure to see a more pronounced membership involvement in this association.

Also, Q.A.R.T. has adopted a new format for its membership newsletter. More content. More information regarding ACER-CART. More pension information. More information about group insurance. More information about the general community. The new newsletter has been well received.

Q.A.R.T. has joined the “Forum des citoyens aînés de Montréal,’ a grouping of many diverse organizations that represent senior citizens in the Montreal area. This offers us a place to discuss issues of common local concern.

Q.A.R.T. was pleased to endorse ACER-CART’s position advocating the “National Health Care Strategy for Seniors.” Q.A.R.T. knows that this should be a priority for all, in light of the ever-increasing proportion of senior citizens in the Canadian population.

Q.A.R.T. is concerned about setbacks that have taken place in Quebec governmental civil service pensions. Though Q.A.R.T. members were mostly unaffected, Q.A.R.T. could not help but notice, with some alarm, governmental cutbacks to retiree benefits, mostly at the municipal level or to provincial pensions that had weak actuarial assessments.

Next year, Q.A.R.T. will once again focus on the maintenance of its membership numbers, as well as on improving its membership database and updating its by-laws. The organization of membership activities will, as always, be a top priority.

John Greene

President, Q.A.R.T.