**RETIRED TEACHERS’ OF ONTARIO**

**LES ENSEIGNANTES ET ENSEIGNANTS RETRAITÉS DE L’ONTARIO**

**2018 AGM**

**Major Concerns & Initiatives:**

**Federal Level:**

1. We continue to be concerned with the need for the government to institute a **national pharmacare** program where people of Canada have equal access to essential medications, purchased under a national formulary resulting in safe, cost-effective drugs.
2. **Bill C-27**, An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985, is still a concern for us as well. Although if it comes to pass, it does not affect us directly, it could be the ‘thin edge of the wedge’. We have met with NAFR (The National Association of Federal Retirees) on this issue.

**Provincial Level**:

1. Enhancing our external relationship has been very much a focus of what we do.
   1. We have had a number of **meetings** with various associations from which we obtain members to ensure that we had access to schools to advertise our Retirement Planning Workshops. The meetings resulted in great success, with a letters going to all principals in Ontario, allowing us access to schools.
   2. We have also joined in partnership with **The National Association of Federal Retirees**.
2. Our three foci for the upcoming **Ontario election** which we profile under the name Vibrant Voices are: geriatric training, age friendly communities and elder abuse.

**Main Activities**

1. This year has been an exciting year, as we celebrate our **50th Anniversary**. The actual date was March 14, but activities and celebrations are taking place in all 48 Districts as well at the Provincial level throughout the year.
2. We continue implementing our **Strategic Plan**, with our three main strategic goals are: to improve the lives of members and seniors, to be the trusted voice for the broader education community, and to expand the membership base.
3. Our **governance restructuring** is now complete, with the titles of Chair and Vice Chair being the new titles for the leaders of our organization. Our new By-Laws are now totally in effect.
4. We continued to support the fundraising effort being undertaken by our **Charitable Foundation** which aims to raise funds to increase the numbers of professional and support staff qualified and trained in geriatric care as well as to support research and programs that improve the quality of life of seniors in Ontario and Canada.

**History**

Established in 1968, RTO/ERO is in its 50th year of providing excellent programs and services to its 76,000 members. While the majority of these members are retired teachers, RTO/ERO welcomes all retired employees who have worked in some aspect of the education system, including school and board administrative and support staff, early childhood educators and child care workers, and college/university faculty and support staff. We continue to aggressively market to these sectors.

Our Executive Director leads a dedicated team of eight senior staff and seventeen administrative support staff in our Provincial Office. RTO/ERO is governed by an eleven member Board, with nine elected from the membership at the Annual Meeting and two voluntary external experts. We own our Health Plans which are managed by members through the provincial Benefits Committee and administered by Johnson Inc. There are almost 100 000 insured individuals in our group insurance program, which includes members and their dependents.

**Communication**

We strive to keep our membership appraised of all that happens provincially both with hard copy and electronic versions of all our publications.

1. *RENAISSANCE*, our award winning magazine, is published four times a year and sent directly to members’ residences except for those who opt to receive it electronically on their mobile devices.
2. *LIAISON*, a newsletter sent directly to Board Members, provincial committee members, and District Executive members, is published several times a year. It is also available for all members to read in the Members’ Centre of our provincial website.
3. We have produced a number of Webinars to keep our members updated on current issues and are active on social media.

**Committees**

RTO/ERO has four standing committees, chaired by a Board member and consisting of members: Audit, Benefits, Governance and Nominating. Our advisory committees are: Communications, Member Services (recruitment, travel, goodwill), Pension and Retirement Concerns, Political Advocacy and Service to Others.

RTO/ERO annually provides grants to various community organizations in which District members are involved. The organizations apply for support and their requests are adjudicated by a committee of members; annually up to $100,000 is awarded. Additionally, Districts may recommend charitable organizations to which a $10,000 donation is provided by RTO/ERO to one selected by the Board. This year this donation will be given to The Alzheimer Society of South Western Ontario. We also provide $25 000 in scholarships of university students.

Martha Foster  
Chair/ Présidente

RTO-ERO