

**Association canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants retraités**

**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

**Minutes of the Executive Meeting**

**Conference Call**

January 11, 2018

**Present**: Brian Kenny, chair, James MacAulay, JoAnn Lauber, Gerry Tiede, Martin Higgs,

Bill Berryman, Roger Régimbal.

1. **Approval of Agenda**:

Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by JoAnn Lauber that the agenda be approved as amended. Carried.

1. **Conflicts of Interest**:

None were declared.

1. **Approval of the Minutes**:

Moved by Jim MacAulay, Seconded by Martin Higgs that the minutes of the October 5, 2017, meeting be adopted as amended. Carried

1. **Correspondence**:

The list of correspondence sent and received, since October, was reviewed.

1. **President’s Report**: included various letters written and received since October. Brian is hoping to meet with the Federal Minister of Democratic Institutions to discuss ACER-CART concerns. He also talked with Geoff Norquay, political consultant with Earnscliffe, in Ottawa, who would address ACER-CART on the political scene if he were available and we wanted to hear him.
2. **Business arising from the October 5 minutes**: The request for the presence of Executive Directors to attend the AGM was discussed. Moved by Bill Berryman, Seconded by Martin Higgs that E. D.’s be invited as observers to the ACER-CART AGM in June 2018. Carried.
3. **Financial**: Roger presented an update of ACER-CART finances as of Dec. 31, 2017:

* Total revenue $72,683.45
* Expenses to date $7,942.33
* Surplus $64,741.12
* Fee Revenue $44,087.45 (One Association has not yet paid their fees)
* Reserve Fund is invested at a 1.6% rate

Moved by Jim MacAulay, Seconded by Bill Berryman that the financial report be adopted. Carried

1. **Membership**:

134,637 (1732 new members). It appears that 4 Members had a decrease in membership and 4 had a minimal increase.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**:

* Attended World Teachers Day at CTF—little concern for Bill C-27 there
* Met with the CMA/attended a roundtable on medication safety for seniors
* Dealt with the Lesotho request- this could be a presentation at AGM
* Connected with Health Partners which works with charities that try to reduce the incidence of Chronic disease in Canadians.
* Meetings with Coalition for Pension Security. Bill 27 could be coming to second reading soon. The coalition is requesting that the Government review the bankruptcy laws to make pensions the first priority in distribution of assets.
* AGM planning in the process/Gave Lynne a retirement gift from ACER-CART
* Attached a paper on Deprescribing

1. **AGM**:

Thursday’s information session was discussed. It was agreed that it would focus on Deprescribing and on Advanced Care Planning. Reservations numbers have to be in ASAP

1. **Regional Liaison Reports**

A) **East Region—Bill Berryman**

* Bill C-27 and Seniors pharmacare are important to the region. The Atlantic provinces are trying to coordinate the concept. Looking at the New Zealand model.
* Target Pensions still a major concern. PEI MP Morrissey seems not to understand how C-27 could affect retirees adversely.
* **RTO** received $25,000 New Horizons Federal grant with respect to Hospice and Palliative Care. Bill is also collecting materials on Senior Abuse.
* **PEIRTA**: hoping for a 90-day prescription. Seniors Drug Plan and Catastrophic Drug plan are of interest. Their COLA is 1.53%
* **NBSRT** will have a provincial election in the fall. Concerns include pharmaceutical inflation rates, COLA, privatization of health care services, doctor shortages
* **RTANL**: Concerns include Bill C-27, National Pharmacare, the Health Accord, a National Seniors Strategy, Pension protection. (i.e. Sears)

B) **Ontario-Martin Higgs**

* Sept. visit with MPP’s to talk about senior issues. Met with the Minister of Seniors on age-friendly communities, Bill 33, LTC Homes Act, elder abuse, Bill 27, geriatric training, and the Pensions Benefits Standard Act.
* RTO/ERO now has 75,000 members with a health plan that serves 90,000
* Charitable Foundation focuses on senior issues
* The new Board of Directors, passed at the Fall Senate, will have up to 11 members

C) **West Region- Gerry Tiede**:

* The Western Regional Meeting in Nov. was valuable for information sharing on topics such as wellness programs, strategic planning, affinity, insurance, Bill C-27, revitalizing Associations.
* Gerry expressed concerns over RTO/ERO’s assertive program to recruit members to their health plan and to a Renaissance article written by the Executive Director.
* **Manitoba**: produced a draft letter on C-27; aspires to be the Legislative Voice of Retired Teachers in Manitoba; is reaching out to the Manitoba Teachers Society; is cultivating relationships with other senior groups.
* **Alberta**: Deep commitment to public education; their Charitable Foundation is off to a great start; Provincial elections in 2 years is considered important
* **BC**: Developing video on the history of teacher bargaining; new governance model in health insurance; interested in ARTA’s Charitable Foundation; Bill C-27 a continuing concern; wondered if ACER-CART should be lobbying for free immunization and free Shingles Vaccine.
* **Saskatchewan**: negotiating a new 3-year agreement for health benefits plan; incurring in house administration costs; web site has a new look.

1. **Legislation Committee Report—JoAnn Lauber**:

Looking at updates in ACER-CART policies

1. **Health Committee Report- Jim MacAulay**:

Continuing concern over Canada’s Health Accord

1. **Communications Committee Report—Martin Higgs**:

Looking at Web site updates; Options to come out with a new edition soon.

1. **Pensions and Retirement Concerns Committee Report—Gerry Tiede**:

C-27 is the biggest concern. BC retired teachers will do an on-line petition on the topic.

1. **Political Advocacy Report—Bill Berryman**:

Issues include National Pharmacare, Elder Abuse

1. **Nominations and Elections Committee—JoAnn Lauber**:

Roger will send out the nomination forms for the elections at AGM.

**Adjournment**:

Moved by Jim MacAulay, Seconded by Bill Berryman that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

(The next executive meeting by telephone is March 22, at 11:00 ET