**EAST COAST REPORT – ACER-CART, JANUARY 2019**

In addition to the report in Options from President Bill Berryman I would add that our Biennial gathering offered the hospitality and camaraderie that accompanies meals, social events and breaks along with an update on ACER-CART activities. It is hoped that QART will be in attendance at our 2020 gathering in Montreal.

The 8 round table discussion questions developed by the PEI organizing team are abridged as follows:

1. Provide an update on what is happening in your province
2. What seem to be the greatest successes and challenges?
3. Share ideas for membership recruitment
4. What forms of communication are used to keep members informed? What seems to work best?
5. Relate concerns received from members and identify common ones and ideas as to how Executive might address them
6. How can associations support ACER-CART’s priorities of participating in the 2019 federal election to protect pensions, advocate for a national pharmacare program, and bring our issues and concerns to the Minister of Seniors?
7. How can information and comments from members can be gathered and brought forward to ACER-CART meetings
8. Other concerns, comments, questions

An idea that emerged from this was that members wanting to share/gather information do so through the ACER-CART East Coast Representative. The thought was that doing so would support collaboration and sharing. Already sought are ideas about/practices for connecting with active teachers. Responses included workshops/seminars on adjusting to retirement, articles/messages in active teacher newsletters (NBSRT has one pending *Thinking About Retirement? Is It Time To Discuss A “New Normal*”?), involvement in active teacher retirement luncheons/celebrations, and bylaw changes to allow active teachers to join 5 years prior to retirement.

In determining the location for the 2020 gathering QPARSE was conscious of the distance and cost and sought the opinions of those present regarding feasibility. The group eagerly welcomed QPARSE’s invitation and looks forward to that gathering.

Of particular interest may be PEIRTA’s recognition of **Jim MacAulay’s** tremendous contribution to PEIRTA, its growth as an association and its involvement in ECRTO, and ACER-CART. Jim was honored on November 15th in his home community at the St. Peter’s Community Complex, the former St. Peter’s Consolidated school (closed in 2008). Jim’s tremendous work ethic, dedication and community spirit saved the school from demolition and had it converted into a very successful employment and community center . A bench with an attached plaque, “Jim MacAulay’s Bench”, was presented and placed in the foyer. PEIRTA was very pleased to honor Jim in this way in front of RTA members, community members and former pupils and teaching staff. Jim seemed very pleased and touched by the presentation.

PEIRTA is also concerned about the lack of affordable housing for seniors and, anticipating an election call in spring, will be addressing this along with support for a national pharmacare program.

All member organizations were invited to submit items for this report/conference call –albeit due to my getting caught in a time crunch of my own making, the request went out very late. They were advised a summary report of the call would be provided.

Respectfully submitted

Marg Urquhart