

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

**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

**ACER-CART EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**Telephone Conference Call**

**January 11, 2019**

In Attendance: Bill Berryman, President Gerry Tiede, Vice-President

Marg Urquhart, Eastern Rep Martin Higgs, Ontario Rep

Gordon Cumming, Western Rep Brian Kenny, Past-President

JoAnn Lauber, Special Advisor Roger Regimbal, Executive Director

1. **Call to Order**

President Bill welcomed Executive Members and called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM Eastern Time. Bill also congratulated JoAnn Lauber on her receipt of an Honorary Life Membership Award from the British Columbia Retired Teachers Association.

1. **Agenda**

**MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented**

Brian Kenny/Marg Urquhart CARRIED

1. **Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest was declared by Executive Members

1. **Minutes of Executive telephone conference call meeting September 10, 2018**

**MOTION: That the Minutes of the Executive Meeting of September 10, 2018 be approved.**

Marg Urquhart/Gordon Cumming CARRIED

1. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting June 1-2, 2018**

The minutes were received and any corrections are to be brought to the Executive Director’s attention ASAP. Executive Members were very impressed with the excellent amount of information provided in the minutes. The President will write a letter to the Executive Director of the Canadian Teachers Federation acknowledging the excellent work of Wendy Noble in the production of the AGM Minutes.

1. **Correspondence**

The list of correspondence sent and received since the September 10, 2018 Executive meeting was provided. As the President has yet to receive a response from Federal Minister of Seniors Tassi to speak at the June 7, 2019 AGM Banquet, it was decided that another letter be written pointing out the benefit of her speaking to members from 13 organizations across Canada with an election on the horizon.

1. **President’s Report**

Bill reported on his attendance at the Pharmacare Consultation – Dr. Eric Hoskins Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare roundtable in Halifax on September 19, 2018. He also reported on Alyson Hillier’s attendance at the public meeting with Dr. Hoskins Advisory Council on November 7, 2018 in Halifax.

Bill attended the Eastern Canadian Retired Teachers Organization Conference in Charlottetown on October 24-25, 2018 and was given an opportunity to speak on ACER-CART priorities and Protocol 7 – Advocacy and Promotion Guidelines for Retired Teachers and Seniors in Canada.

Bill reported on a meeting with Dr. David Gardner and Dr. Andrea Murphy with the Nova Scotia Minister of Health and Wellness on November 27, 2018 providing information on Sleep Well, a program designed to reduce sedative-hypnotic use and associated harms to improve sleep outcomes for older adults. The Minister is prepared to look at funding to advance the program.

1. **Vibrant Voices (Federal Election)**

Bill, Gerry, Gordon, Martin and Roger reported on their attendance at the Unleash the Collaboration – Leadership Alignment Session for Canada’s Vibrant Voices conference in Toronto on November 16, 2018. All felt it was an excellent conference and agreed on the 3 key priorities for the October 21, 2019 Federal election.

The priorities are as follows:

1. National Pharmacare Program
2. National Strategy for Seniors
3. Income/Pension Security

A follow up meeting of the three sponsors – RTO/ERO, NAFR and ACER-CART was held on January 10, 2019. Discussion took place on the February 20, 2019 Federal Advocacy Day and written documentation on the three priorities. It was agreed that Gerry, Gordon and Roger will participate at the Federal Advocacy Day as ACER-CART representatives.

The agenda for the Advocacy Day will be as follows:

1. February 19th PM Participants will meet from 1:00 – 4:30 PM and decide on lead speakers and receive written documentation
2. February 20th AM Working breakfast at Marriott, followed by small group sessions with MP’s from 10:00 AM to Noon. In the afternoon members will attend Question Period
3. February 20th PM Reception with the Minister of Seniors and MP’s on the Hill from 5:30 – 8:00 PM with Gerry speaking on behalf of ACER-CART
4. February 21st AM Breakfast debrief with participants

Sayward Montague (NAFR) is working on the documentation of the three priorities and Executive members have received the first draft. Bill will invite Sayward to attend the Thursday (June 6) afternoon pre-AGM session and speak on the Vibrant Voices campaign and election planning. It was emphasized that the documentation need to be available in May as some ACER-CART organizations can discuss them at their AGM’s during that month. It is expected that all written material will also be available at the ACER-CART AGM on June 7-8, 2019.

The Political Advocacy Committee is also looking at developing a questionnaire for the political parties and results will be posted on the ACER-CART and member associations websites as well as OPTIONS.

Questions were raised about having a discussion with CTF on what initiatives they have planned for the October 21, 2019 Federal election. The Executive continues to feel that we are being excluded from CTF and wish to emphasize to that organization the importance of ACER-CART and what we have to offer to active teachers.

1. **Pension Consultation**

Bill thanked Gerry for bringing the Government of Canada Consultation on Enhancing Retirement Security to our attention in December. Bill also thanked Gerry for his input in the ACER-CART response letter of December 10, 2018. Executive members were pleased that ARTA, BCRTA, RTO-NSTU, QART and RTANL organizations also responded. Roger indicated some organizations had problems with the December 21, 2018 deadline and hoped to submit responses with the hope that the ISED Contact Centre would accept late replies. Bill will write a letter to ACER-CART Directors thanking them for writing letters and completing the questionnaire on-line.

1. **Resolution M-6**

The following resolution was approved at the June 1-2, 2018 AGM:

“That ACER-CART review and monitor the emerging 10 year Federal/Provincial bilateral funding and accountability agreements related to home and community health care services and supports, and to mental health”.

JoAnn presented a DRAFT document entitled “Funding to Improve Access by Canadians to Home and Community Services” as well as an “in progress” chart entitled “Federal/Provincial/Territorial Home and Community Care Services Funding Agreements 2018-2027”.

After some discussion it was decided that JoAnn and Marg (through her Health Services and Insurance Committee) would work together on this resolution. It was decided that most organizations would probably not be interested with all the many details of the agreements and it would be advisable to have a short document prepared for the June 7-8, 2019 AGM on the Common Statement of Principles on Shared Health Priorities.

1. **December 31, 2018 Financial Report**

Executive members reviewed the report. Roger reported that all 13 organizations have submitted their fees and the only major expenditure was $4,225.00 for Executive members’ attendance at the November 16, 2018 Vibrant Voices Conference. At this time the organization has a surplus of $32,278.00.

**MOTION:That the ACER-CART Executive approve the December 31, 2018 Financial Report.**

**Gerry Tiede/Marg Urquhart CARRIEd**

1. **Membership Report**

Roger presented the membership report for 2018-2019 and noted that we have a total of 147,231 members, an increase of 6,805 from the previous year. Roger also indicated there has been some conversation with the Northwest Territories Retired Teachers about joining ACER-CART. Gordon explained the increase of 5,002 in ARTA and indicated his organization would continue to pay the .35 per member.

1. **Liability Insurance Report**

The Executive received the report and questions were raised if member organizations have liability insurance for their Executive members and Presidents. This will be an issue that should be discussed by the regional reps when they meet with their regional organizations.

1. **Executive Director’s Report**

Roger spoke on his report and mentioned the January, 2019 renewal on investment of $23,000 in the Reserve Fund at a rate of 2.4% for a one year term and starting to work on details for the June 7-8, 2019 AGM. Roger emphasized the importance of AGM participants to complete their rooming list document ASAP as last year ACER-CART had o pay above the CTF rate for extra nights’ accommodation.

**MOTION: That the ACER-CART Executive receive the President’s and Executive Director’s reports.**

Martin Higgs/Gordon Cumming CARRIED

1. **Canadian Health Coalition Membership**

Bill spoke on the receipt of a letter dated October 12, 2018 inviting ACER-CART to become one of the Guardians of Public Health Care. This program would provide the following benefits:

1. Your organization will have the possibility of sending a participant to the annual Lobby On The Hill
2. You will receive the annual Guardian of Public Health Care badge to post on your organization’s website
3. In September and January, you will receive “News From The Hill”, an e-mail bulletin with insiders’ information mapping what we expect in the upcoming federal parliamentary session
4. Your members will be invited to participate in an on-line town hall with a special guest where a national issue will be discussed
5. When possible, the Health Coalition will make an annual presentation to your organization
6. Your organization will be included on the list of Guardians of Public Health Care on the Health Coalition website.

Brian spoke fondly on his participation with their Lobby On The Hill during the past two years and members have appreciated their presentations at the AGM in the past.

**MOTION:That the ACER-CART Executive approve the expenditure of $100 to become a member of the Canadian Health Coalition Guardians of Public Health Care Program**

Brian Kenny/Gerry Tiede CARRIED

1. **AGM 2019**

Roger provided copies of the tentative June 7-8, 2019 Agenda and memo to participants which will also include a call for nominations for the election of Executive Members for 2019-2020 and Registration/ Room reservation forms. It was agreed that the Thursday afternoon session would focus on election planning. There will be further discussion at the March 14, 2019 meeting on guest speakers and the need for an orientation session for new Directors on Thursday, June 6, 2019.

1. **Eastern Representative Report**

Marg reported on the Eastern Canadian Retired Teachers Organization Conference in Charlottetown on October 24-25, 2018 and the roundtable discussion on the eight questions developed by PEIRTA. Marg also informed the Executive that PEIRTA had a recognition event at St. Peter’s Community Complex for Jim MacAulay for his tremendous contribution to PEIRTA as well as ACER-CART.

Marg requested information from Executive members on their organizations workshops/seminars or articles/messages in active teachers newsletters informing members on adjusting to retirement. Gerry, Gordon and Martin indicated they would be sending information to her.

Marg also provided a detailed report from RTNAL and their activities since the last AGM. Issues include long-term home care, dental coverage, health related services, caps on soft tissue injury claims and the sky rocketing cost of electricity due to Muskrat Falls.

Bill reported that the RTO relationship is improving with the NSTU and he provided a one hour presentation to the NSTU Provincial Executive on November 30, 2018. He also reported that the RTO will be training some members to provide the Fountain of Health program which is a wellness model emphasizing positive thinking, physical activity, social activity, brain challenge and mental health.

1. **Ontario Representative Report**

Martin reported on the October advocacy day at Queen’s Park where RTO/ERO hosted a network lunch with MPP’s and face-to-face meetings with 60 MPP’s. Materials were sent to MPP’s who were unable to attend and the District PAC reps will be receiving materials to use when visiting their local MPP’s.

**19.Western Representative Report**

Gordon reported that Dale Lauber, BCRTA ACER-CART Director provided information on the association’s structure, teachers pension plan valuation results, Bill C-27 campaign, liability insurance covering BCRTA and Branch rentals and the pension indexing for January 1, 2019 is 2.29%.

Gordon reported on ARTA advocacy efforts as there will be a provincial election in the spring and the October Federal election and the Wellness Committee completing a Diabetes Book.

**MOTION: That the three ACER-CART Representatives’ reports be received.**

**Marg Urquhart/Brian Kenny CARRIED**

**20.Legislation Committee**

Brian reported he has reviewed the ACER-CART Bylaws, Articles, Policies and Protocols and he found no need for amendments.

**21.Communications Committee**

Martin reviewed the latest edition of OPTIONS which has been sent to all Directors. The deadline for the next edition will be March 31, 2019. Roger indicated that member organizations can post the newsletter on their websites if so wished.

**22.Health Services and Insurance Committee**

Marg provided an extensive report on the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Health Accords on improving access to mental health and addictions services; improving access to home and community care and indigenous health. Her document also provided a provincial financial breakdown of the federal funding for their Provincial/Territorial Bilateral Agreements.

**MOTION: That the ACER-CART Health Services and Insurance Committee review the recommendations of the Dr. Eric Hoskins Advisory Council On The Implementation of National Pharmacare and provide responses to the Executive on how to proceed with the report.**

**Marg Urquhart/Martin Higgs CARRIED**

**MOTION:That the ACER-CART Communications Committee consider deleting 8 links on the ACER-CART Website and replace them with 10 new links and recommend the headings “Well-being and Lifestyle for Seniors” be combined as “Health and Wellness”.**

**Marg Urquhart/Brian Kenny CARRIED**

**23. Pension and Retirement Income Committee**

Gerry reported on how quickly we were able to respond to the Federal Government Consultation on Retirement Security and the responses from ARTA members on their website to the campaign. Gerry indicated that 8 petitions on Bill C-27 from BCRTA have been read in Parliament.

Gerry provided a BCRTA Special Report on “Calculating Cost of Living Increases in the TPP” as a question asked from delegates at the 2018 BCRTA AGM. The report is well researched with comparisons to Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Canada. The end result was the committee did not find another inflation measuring instrument that met the independence, accuracy and long history of use as the Canadian Consumer Price Index.

Gerry provided information on a possible e-petition as a next step in our Bill C-27 campaign. The Executive agreed on a 60 day term starting February 1, 2019.

**MOTION: That the ACER-CART Pension and Retirement Income Committee develop language on an e-petition and once approved by the Executive be circulated to member organizations.**

**Gerry Tiede/Marg Urquhart CARRIED**

**24.Political Advocacy Committee**

Gordon provided thoughts on how to mobilize members on the October Federal Election through Vibrant Voices and possible member organizations running their own campaigns. He also emphasized the need to continue promoting the Canadian Medical Association’s “Demand A Plan” which supports our priority of a national health care strategy for seniors. Gordon indicated he would have updates for the Executive at the March 14, 2019 meeting on election planning.

**25.Nominations and Elections Committee**

Brian indicated that the Executive Director will be sending the Nomination Form for Executive Committee 2019-2020 to member organizations in January.

**MOTION: That the ACER-CART Committee Reports be received.**

**Martin Higgs/Gordon Cumming CARRIED**

**26.Motion Tracker 2018-2019**

The Executive reviewed the document and agreed that six resolutions are work in progress and two resolutions are completed.

**27.Information Items**

The Executive acknowledged receipt of the following documents:

1. British Columbia Health Coalition report on Dr. Brian Day court update
2. Toronto Globe and Mail Editorial – Let’s Make 2019 The Year Canada Finally Gets Pharmacare
3. C.D. Howe Institute – The Dirty Secret Behind Canada’s Supposedly Successful Public-Sector Pensions

**28.The next Executive meeting** will take place on March 14, 2019 at 11:00 AM Ottawa time

**29.The meeting concluded** at 2:30 PM Ottawa time

**MOTION: That the meeting adjourn**

**Gerry Tiede/JoAnn Lauber CARRIED**

Recorded by:



Bill Berryman

President