

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

**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

**ACER-CART Executive Meeting**

**Telephone Conference Call**

**March 14, 2019**

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

Mary Urquhart, Eastern Rep Martin Higgs, Ontario Rep

Gordon Cumming, Western Rep Brian Kenny, Past-President

JoAnn Lauber, Special Advisor Roger Régimbal, Executive Director

1. **Call to Order**

President Bill welcomed Executive members and called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM Eastern Time.

1. **Agenda**

MOTION: That the agenda be approved with the addition of Liability Insurance Under (4) New Items.

Mary Urquhart/Brian Kenny CARRIED

1. **Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest was declared by Executive members.

1. **Minutes of telephone conference call meeting January 11, 2019**

MOTION: That the minutes of the Executive Meeting of January 11, 2019, be Approved as circulated.

Gordon Cumming/Gerry Tiede CARRIED

1. **Correspondence**

Bill spoke briefly on his letters written after the January 11, 2019, meeting and the response from Minister Tassi to the ACER-CART response to the Federal government. *Consultation on Enhancing Retirement Security*. Gordon asked why he could not open the documents and Roger indicated the page was set up as a listing of documents written or received.

1. **Letter from the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada**

There was a discussion on the letter of March 13, 2019, and possible implications for ACER-CART. Roger said that we do not have paid staff and we advocate for our members, rather than lobbying. Roger indicated Jim Grieve, Executive Director RTO/ERO has written a letter to the Commissioner stating that their organization is similar to ACER-CART. Roger will write a letter on behalf of ACER-CART indicating that the organization does not engage in registrable lobbying and there is no need to register a member.

1. **President’s Report**

Bill thanked Gerry, Gordon and Roger for all their efforts in representing ACER-CART at the February 20, 2019, Advocacy Day on Parliament Hill and making the day successful. Bill also provided background of his presentations on the e-petition and concerns about the recent discussion on the “fill in the gaps” pharmacare plan. He also thanked Executive members for their input in the three Vibrant Voices documents that were prepared for the Advocacy Day.

1. **Business Arising from January’s Conference call**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the January 11, 2019, Executive Meeting.

1. **Financial Report**

Roger spoke on the financial report and provided descriptors of each expenditure. The two meetings with Vibrant Voices cost $6,346.64 and the budgeted amount was $7,000. At this time there is a surplus of $65,937.93 and $45,100 in the Reserve Account.

**MOTION: That $5,000 be taken out of the Operating Fund (403) and placed in the Federal Elections Fund (402).**

**Gordon Cumming/Gerry Tiede CARRIED**

1. **Membership Report**

Roger reported all organizations have submitted their 2018-2019 dues and the membership number is 147,231 an increase of 6,805 from the previous year.

1. **Executive Directors Activity Report**

Roger reported on meetings of the Coalition for Financial Security, the hiring of the former Executive Secretary of the Director of Education in Ottawa to take minutes of the June 7-8, 2019 AGM and the Hilton Hotel on Queen Street, which will be the AGM Hotel for the 2020 AGM. Roger reported on the second information document sent to directors on the 2019 AGM and at this time 28 out of the 29 possible participants have provided registration. He also emphasized the need for directors to have their reports to him no later than April 30, 2019, and advised Executive members who were re-offering to update their curriculum vitae.

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

**Mary Urquhart/Brian Kenny CARRIED**

1. **AGM 2019**

After much discussion the following was approved:

1. There will be a telephone conference call for Executive members on Monday, June 3, 2019, at 11:00 AM Eastern Time.
2. The Executive supper will be on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at 7:00 PM
3. If necessary, the Executive would meet at the Marriott Hotel on Thursday, June 6, 2019, at 8:00 AM to tie up any loose ends.
4. The Executive and Directors attend the petition presentation by M.P. Mark Warawa at 10:00 AM on Thursday.
5. That Members of Parliament Mark Warawa, Peter Julian, Darrell Samson and Karina Gould be contacted to provide seating for Executive members and Directors in the House of Commons.
6. The pre-AGM meeting on Thursday PM will be the following:
7. 1:00–1:45 PM New Directors Orientation
8. 1:45–4:00 PM Sayward Montague Elections 2019
9. 4:00 PM Wrap Up Discussion/Regional Meetings
10. AGM Friday, June 7, 2019
11. Guest speakers from the Canadian Medical Association at 11:00 AM needs to be confirmed. If no one available Roger will seek a guest speaker from the Canadian Institute for Health Information.
12. There will be no presentation on Seniors Voice
13. Minister Tassi will receive flowers, an RTO pin and an RTO portfolio with RTO documents as a thank you for her speaking at the banquet.

* AGM Saturday, June 8, 2019

For the 10:30 AM session, there will be a discussion on how to make ACER-CART more visible in the 13 organizations, possible follow-up after Minister Tassi speaks at the Banquet and ACER-CART Directors concerns/issues.

1. **Eastern Representative Report**

Marg spoke on “outreach” to remote areas of the province and NBSRT revisiting facets of their Constitution as a result of member suggestions.

1. **Ontario Representative Report**

Martin reported on the province-wide discussion on a single fee structure and the possible rebranding of the RTO/ERO.

1. **Western Representative Report**

Gordon spoke on the BCRTA Strategic Planning process which will be an integral part of the BCTF AGM in Victoria. Gordon stated that he was “hanging up his spurs” and will be replaced as ARTA Director by Lawrence Hrycon, past-chair and continuing member of the Strategic Planning Committee. Gordon will not be putting his name forward as the ACER-CART 2019-2020 Western Representative and is actively looking for a replacement. He also reported that RTAM is very concerned about the pension plan with more retirees than active teachers and the faint hope of getting COLA addressed because of this.

**MOTION: That the three ACER-CART Representative’s Reports be received.**

**Brian Kenny/Gordon Cumming CARRIED**

1. **Legislation Committee**

Brian reported that he did not see any changes necessary in the ACER-CART Bylaws, Articles, Policies or Protocols.

1. **Communications Committee**

Martin reported he would like to have the third edition of OPTIONS for 2018-2019 available before the AGM. Deadline for submissions is mid-April and Martin is looking for articles on Vibrant Voices and the 2019 Federal Budget. Martin is working on helping navigate through the links on the ACER-CART website.

1. **Health Services and Insurance Committee**

Marg provided an extensive report on Federal/Provincial/Territorial Home and Community Care and Mental Health Services Funding Agreements 2018-2027 which she developed with JoAnn. They are still waiting for information from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and the Yukon. Executive members decided to provide all documentation (14 pages) for every member in attendance at the AGM including the Common Statement of Principles on Shared Health Priorities. Roger will decide which documents need to be translated.

It was also decided that the President will write a letter to Executive members and directors on information in the March 19, 2019, Federal Budget and in particular if there is any mention of a national pharmacare program.

Brian reported on a meeting he attended which was hosted by his M.P. Karina Gould. In a question about the direction of the national pharmacare program, her response was that there would be no decision before the next election. There was also discussion on her statement that the poverty rate has declined by 850,000, fewer people since 2015 and how were the figures derived.

1. **Pension and Retirement Income Committee**

Gerry was thanked for his tremendous efforts in getting the e-petition up and running on February 7, 2019. He is still hoping for 10,000 signatures and some organization are now starting to get their members involved.

Gerry questioned if many Canadian retired teachers know anything about ACER-CART. This will be a discussion topic on the AGM Saturday morning 10:30 AM time slot. Gerry believes that if we are going to run campaigns across Canada it will be necessary for members to understand who we are and what we stand for.

1. **Political Advocacy Committee**

Gordon provided documents from the Vibrant Voices Advocacy Day and a “mock up” of a proposed ACER-CART “Seniors’ Issue for the 2019 Federal Election.” Members were impressed with the format still in a DRAFT form and Gordon will send copies to all Executive members for input or suggested changes. Roger suggested once completed that ACER-CART provide a certain number of copies for each organization to be distributed at the AGM. There would also be a “camera-ready” version for organizations to place on their website and make extra copies.

Gordon suggested a second document on the “Positions of Political Parties on Our Issues.” This would be in the form of a questionnaire seeking responses from all political parties. Questions were raised if Vibrant Voices (NAFR or RTO/ERO) were doing the same and why not use the other groups’ information.

Gordon wondered is we should have a section in our pamphlet about opposing the privatization of medical services as this was one of the 2018 AGM priorities. It was decided to work with the three issues developed by Vibrant Voices and JoAnn will provide a document on the Dr. Day case for the 2019 AGM.

Gordon also updated the Executive on a telephone conference call with Sayward Montague and Candace Zazvac in preparing for the June 6, 2019, pre-AGM two-hour presentation on political advocacy. He feels that participants will leave the presentation with lots of good ideas and energized to get involved in the October election.

1. **Nominations and Elections Committee**

Brian indicated he has received nominations for the President, Eastern Representative and Ontario Representative. He is expecting to receive a nomination for Vice-President. At this time the position of Western Representative is available and Gordon is searching out individuals who might be interested.

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

**Gordon Cumming/Gerry Tiede CARRIED**

1. **Motion Tracker**

M-1 Followed up by letters to the Government of Canada Consultation on Enhancing Retirement Security and the e-petition.

M-2 Followed up by the “Seniors’ Issues for the 2019 Federal Election” pamphlet.

M-3 Followed up by the “Seniors’ Issues for the 2019 Federal Election” pamphlet.

M-4 JoAnn will write a document highlighting the Dr. Brian Day court case.

M-5 Achieved with the appointment of Minister Tassi.

M-6 Marg and JoAnn will be providing extensive information to the AGM delegates.

M-7 To be debated at the 2019 AGM.

M-8 Followed up by the “Seniors’ Issues for the 2019 Federal Election” pamphlet.

1. **New Business–Liability Insurance**

Gerry questioned if ACER-CART has liability and travel insurance for the Executive and members when travelling to the AGM. Roger indicated that there is only liability insurance. Members should check and see if travel insurance is provided by your local organizations when travelling out of the province.

1. **The Executive acknowledged receipt of the following documents:**
   1. Health Canada Report
   2. The Secret Moves to Increase Private Health Care
   3. Ontario Signs Two Health Funding Agreements with Health Canada
   4. Pharmacare Advisory Council Calls for National Drug Agency, But No Guidance Yet on Universal Coverage
   5. Canadian Labour Congress: Pharmacare – A Plan for Everyone
   6. Exclusive: Canada Budget to Include Limited Coverage for Prescription Drugs–Study
   7. The Trudeau Government’s Weak Start on Pharmacare
   8. The Liberal Government Shouldn’t Go Soft on Pharmacare
   9. National Pensioners Federation: Pharmaceutical Corporations’ Secret Kickback, to Pharmacies
2. **The Next Executive Meeting will take place on June 3, 2019, at 11:00 AM Easter Time.**
3. **The meeting concluded at 1:30 PM Eastern Time**

MOTION: That the meeting adjourn

Gordon Cumming/Martin Higgs CARRIED

Recorded by:



Bill Berryman

President