

## **Bruce Watson ACER-CART President 1997-1998 Biography**



Bruce was born in 1930 at Shoal Lake, MB south of Riding Mountain National Park. He completed his final year of high school in Winnipeg and in 1948 entered United College (now the University of Winnipeg) as a general arts student. He joined the University Reserve Officer Training Program (RCAF) in January 1949 and moved to Vancouver that fall where he completed his Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in geography, at the University of British Columbia in 1952. During the summers he was with the RCAF training program and was commissioned a Pilot Officer in September 1951.

Bruce's RCAF career took him from Aylmer, Ontario in 1952, to Ottawa, Baden-Soellingen, Germany, to Metz, France in 1954, then back to Ottawa Air Force Headquarters in 1960. In 1961 Bruce took his release from the active RCAF and settled in Burnaby, BC.

In September 1961, Bruce returned to UBC for a year of teacher training, followed by employment in September 1962 with the Burnaby School District as a teacher for four years. Bruce was back at UBC during the summers between 1962 and 1966 where he completed his Master of Education degree, with a major in education finance. Involvement with the Burnaby Teachers' Association first began when Bruce was hired as a teacher in the school district. This led to involvement with salary bargaining at the district level and to his first connection with the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF). In 1966 Bruce was appointed to the staff of the BCTF, a position in the economic welfare area he held until he retired in 1989.

Following retirement Bruce did contract work with the BC Superannuation Commission and the BCTF. He had a lead role on behalf of the BCTF in the discussions which changed the governance of the Teachers' Pension Plan to a fully-trusted plan. He served as a Trustee of the Plan and as a Director on the Management Board of the Pension Corporation until December 2003.

Bruce began involvement with the British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA) upon his retirement from the BCTF in 1989. He was a director on the BCRTA Executive (1991-1995), the BCRTA representative to the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (1995-1998), Vice-President (1996-1997), President (1997-1998) and Past-President (1998-2001). Between 1996 and 2003 Bruce was also a member of BCRTA's Pension and Benefits committee (1996-2003), and its chairperson (1998-2003).

Bruce is a current member of the Cowichan Valley Retired Teachers' Association, the BCTF retired staff group and was appointed an Honorary Life Member of the BCTF in March 2005.