 **RETIRED TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA**

**MEMBER REPORT**

**2019**

**Mission Statement**

The mission of RTAM is to serve and advocate for all retired teachers.

**Vision Statement**

The vision of RTAM is the economic well-being of retired teachers through appropriate member services and strong partner relationships.

**Values and Principles**

RTAM values belief in mutual respect, diversity of opinion, tolerance of different viewpoints, integrity and transparency while working collaboratively towards a common goal.

As of March 31, 2019 total membership in RTAM is 9921.The RTAM Board of Directors presently consists of seventeen members. RTAM’s staff consists of an Office Administrator and Member Services Coordinator to provide assistance from the RTAM office.

RTAM has completed the second year of the five pillar Strategic Plan 2017 initiated to organize operations and to establish short and long-term goals.

We are moving from a working board to a governance model.

The Strategic Plan 2017 has been amended to include 1.3. Goal: To build /strengthen better community relations.

Within the parameter of our strategic plan, issues and activities of RTAM for the 2018/2019 year were as follows:

**1. ADVOCACY**

With the goal of building better relationships with the provincial government, RTAM held the annual visit with each of the three provincial party leaders in March and April. Rumour has it a provincial election could be called soon but one is slated for October of 2020. Topics for discussion this year were: again the appointment of a retired teacher to the Teachers Retirement Allowance Board (TRAF),support for a National Pharmacy Program and the e-petition 2039 sponsored nationally by ACER-CART and thus RTAM’s continued support of a Defined Benefit pension plan.

Through its network of Chapters, and our Keep In Touch (KIT) magazine RTAM actively supported the Petition E-2039 with 492 signatures that contributed to the 13,740 signatures nationally to be presented at 10:00 AM in Ottawa on June 6, 2019 by a Member of Parliament. RTAM’s support was also solicited and given to the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Demand a Plan campaign for a National Pharmacare Program by answering and sending the surveys provided.

Contributions provided towards the goal of strengthening our relations with active teachers through the Manitoba Teachers’ Society (MTS):

1. Active participation in a rally held in May by MTS at the Manitoba Legislature in support of active teacher concerns.
2. Continued participation by two RTAM representatives on the MTS 100th Anniversary Committee and an invitation to the MTS Vice President James Bedford to update and include the RTAM Board in this year’s celebrations.
3. MTS again authorized observer status to RTAM director representatives at MTS regional meetings held throughout the province.
4. Two RTAM directors are members of the Manitoba Senior Coalition, a group of seven organizations who meet to advocate for older adults in the areas of health, income security, transportation, and other ageism concerns. The provincial government is instituting many changes in the delivery of health programs throughout the province in the hope of reducing wait times and reducing the expense of health care. Services to older adults, such as the Council on Aging and the Senior Secretariat have been eliminated which means there is no longer an elder abuse consultant for example. The process is ongoing so the impact of the change will take time to assess.
5. As part of the process to monitor the impact of Bill C-27, the RTAM members of the Coalition have been part of the Canadian Coalition for Retirement Security (CCRS) meetings electronically. ACER-CART is also part of this coalition.

**2. COMMUNICATION**

RTAM continues to support the delivery of RTAM information and news of interest to older adults through the KIT magazine, distributed quarterly to all members and to active teachers through schools throughout the province.The website was used with minimal success to conduct a Wellness survey this year. RTAM’s goal is to increase the effectiveness of the website.

**3. GOVERNANCE**

The executive function of the Officer’s Committee has been reestablished to improve our meeting and committee effectiveness.

The Board and Staff participated in another Meeting Effectiveness Workshop this winter.

By-law changes are recommended to the May AGM to lower the number of Board members and limit the length of terms for Board members in our attempt to revitalize the Board with the recruitment of new members and to establish area representation.

**4. MEMBER SERVICES**

As this report is being written we are in the process of establishing an effective office component. The Member Services Coordinator has been absent on a long term leave of absence and the present part time Executive Director has resigned. We have a new Office Administrator who, with the help of temporary support, will keep the financial records up to date and the day to day operations underway until the return of the Member Services Coordinator in late July.

The Benefits Committee met and consulted with our broker, Johnson Inc., regarding the renewals of the Premier Travel Plan and a new insurance carrier, Royal Travel Insurance with the Royal Sun Alliance Company has been hired. The other benefits remained the same with increases.

In collaboration with the Winnipeg Foundation, a $50,000 endowment fund was established in October 2013 to fund the RTAM Student Award Program. We began by being able to offer four $500 student awards in 2014 to now, being able in 2019, to offer four $850 awards. The Student Award Committee meets in early September to process applications received from high school graduates that are relatives of RTAM members entering their first year of a post-secondary program, recommends the nominees to the RTAM Board who then passes the information on to the Winnipeg Foundation for the administration of the award. We anticipate our young relatives will be receiving awards of $1000 and more in the near future from the compounding feature of endowment funds.

An RTAM bursary of $1000 to an indigenous student of the North has been suggested as a permanent item in the RTAM budget.

**5. WELLNESS**

A Wellness Survey was attempted by the Wellness Advocacy Committee, with minimal success, on the RTAM website to give members an opportunity to suggest topics of interest to older adults for the seminars and workshops that have been presented throughout the year in the past.

The number of applications for this year’s workshop on Power of Attorney, Wills and Health Directive with an objective of preventing elder abuse tripled from 25 to 79. To improve the communication to members and to provide support for these seminars and workshops the Wellness Advocacy Committee is providing an incentive grant to support seminars and workshops in other areas of the province as well as Winnipeg. Dates and presenters for two workshops in the fall to be advertised in the summer newsletter are being suggested so the incoming committee has a head start in the fall .

Links to relevant and national health programs are being suggested for the RTAM website.An incentive grant for Chapters to initiate seminars or workshops for their area is being proposed for next year.

Respectfully Submitted

Peggy Prendergast, RTAM Vice President