**ACER – CART**

**EAST COAST REPORT**

**OCTOBER 2020**

As with so many things, Covid 19 forced changes. Of the East Coast Members reporting (6 of 7) indications are they have capably adapted – and been creative.

Members were asked to address:

* Changes in Executive
* Conduct of business during pandemic
* Plans going forward
* Significant events since ACER-CART AGM
* Matters/concerns for ACER-CART consideration
* Other items to share

**Executive Changes:**

**NBSRT** changes through an online election are: President Bob Fitzpatrick, 1st Vice-President Noreen Bonnell, 2nd Vice- President Jocelyne Schwenger and Recording Secretary Linda Maxwell. Returning are Past President June MacNairn and Treasurer Paulette Moore. While not a member of the Executive the new Membership Secretary is Colleen Forsythe.

**QPARSE**’s new Secretary is Robin Narsted. 3 board members have resigned.

**RTANL**’s current Executive will stay on.

**RTO**’s President is Alyson Hillier with Eileen Cody is Vice-President with 2 new members at large

**Conducting Business:**

RTO’s AGM was in person while QPARSE, NBSRT and SERFNB had zoom AGM’s while those for RTANL and PEIRTA have been postponed/cancelled until sometime in 2021.

There are variations relative to access to appropriate space for in person meetings following mask and distancing guidelines. For the majority Executive, regional/branch/division and some committee meetings are held by zoom.

**Plans Going Forward:**

Some Members use email, facebook and local newsletters to keep members current. In addition

**PEIRTA** is working with PEITF to reschedule retirement seminars.

**QPARSE** is planning virtual events.

**NBSRT** will proceed with a strategic plan and the plan of action and recommended process will go to the November Board of Directors Meeting. The website is in the process of being redesigned and a new logo is under consideration.

**RTANL** will make constitutional changes to accommodate changes due to Covid 19 and will step up advocacy efforts for increased protection and better long term care for members facing the greatest threat from Covid 19.

**SERFNB** plans to share information from the Canadian Deprescribing Network and other information identified though a member survey. A November Presidents’ Meeting is planned.

**RTO** plans a Presidents’ Meeting the end of October and is planning meetings with full agendas, reports, speakers and discussion.

**Events/Concerns since Reports for ACER-CART AGM:**

**QPARSE** continues to be concerned about the rights of Anglophones to manage and run their own school systems. Law 40 has been legally contested and a stay on implementation granted until heard in the Quebec Superior Court. As a result November elections for school boards will follow the old rules.

**SEERFNB** continues to be concerned about hospital overnight emergency room closures in rural areas. Health issues are significant, including advocating for the use of the Canadian bilingual exam for nurses, and a member will sit on a committee of an organization lobbying for reforms/against cuts and planning information sessions.

**Matters/Concerns for ACER-CART Consideration:**

Continued advocacy for pharmacare

More emphasis on protection and long term/nursing home care for seniors

**Other items for sharing:**

**RTANL** will proceed with the Biennial Award for Service being announced October 13th and presented by the division. The Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers Foundation raised $30,000 despite difficult times for annual donations to 7 provincial children’s charities. Many divisions conducted Not Back to School Walks remotely and submitted phots. RTANL will participate in planning to celebrate 100 years of Memorial University’s Faculty of Education.

**PEIRTA** held a successful weeklong Retired Teachers Appreciation Week, replacing the annual golf tournament (plans are underway for 2021) allowing for in person gatherings respecting social distancing. Retired teachers were in discussion with the Acting Director of the Public Schools Division regarding the need for supply teachers. Members were advised of the need for supply teachers and advised to make personal decisions. While the pension fund value has decreased, it was strong enough to provide a 2% increase effective January 2021.

**RTO** completed strategic planning in August, focusing on how to best serve and keep members connected and comforted. In August the Legacy Foundation awarded 6 grants of $650 to groups supporting children. The 5 standing committees were established and meet October 20th. Branches are deciding how to communicate within their branch and determine the level of activity and engagement based on the wishes and comfort of members.

As well, seeing as how the planned October 2020 ECRTO gathering in Montreal had to be cancelled the idea of a fall zoom meeting was positively received with a date to be confirmed, possibly mid to late November.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Urquhart, East Coast Representative