**East Coast Report**

**ACER – CART**

**January 2021**

East Coast members met by zoom, courtesy of NBSRT, November 29th, 2021. All but QART were represented.

With the exception of New Brunswick where regions of the province were locked down, Members were able to hold in person meetings while observing provincial covid guidelines. These meetings included Executive, Committee and Presidents’ meetings as well as limited activities/gatherings of members. **RTO NS** and **RTANL** held meetings in different regions of the province in order to be a more visible presence and to actively engage members. They are also working on updating their archives. **NBSRT** and **SERFNB** used zoom and electronic means to conduct business. All were reaching out to, supporting and engaging members in a variety of ways, both at the association and local level.

**QPARSE** looks forward to hosting ECRTO Members in Montreal in October 2022, should circumstances allow, and Members were more than eager to participate!!! Planning will begin in February and suggestions from ECRTO Members for speakers, breakout session topics etc, would be welcome.

Recruiting members/growing membership is always a concern and so will be a topic. All take part, in some way, in pre-retirement events/seminars for active teachers.

In Addition:

**NBSRT** presented 2 Honorary Life Memberships, the associations highest honor at AGM 2021. Elections are in May 2022, using online voting if necessary, and the strategic plan will be presented at AGM 2022. As in 2021, it is anticipated branch dues rebates will double in 2022.

**PEIRTA’**s AGM voted, in September, to extend the term of the current executive for a year. They also introduced 3 new student bursaries.

**QPARSE** and **RTANL** celebrate anniversaries in 2022, 60 and 50 years respectively.

**RTANL** and **RTO NS** are updating their archives

**RTANL** had concerns regarding the use of personal emails and has switched to a association- based emails. Others are doing/have done the same. Liability may well be an issue. This approach also eases the transition when officers/contacts change.

**RTO NS** is considering hiring a part time staff person and has awarded just over $20,000 in Branch Initiative Grants. The association is also, for the first time, involved in the pension review process. RTANL, NBSRT, SERFNB and PEIRTA indicate their pensions would seem to be in “good shape”. In NB the investment corporation, VESTCOR, held a first webinar on the plan status open to all retirees. They also mailed out membership invitations and applications to all pensioners in the fall, the only sure way to reach retirees who are not members.

**SERFNB** has had a positive relationship with AEFNB, the active teacher association. Recently AEFNB approached SERFNB seeking to enhance their relationship including support in various ways – technology, use of AEFNB website for SERFNB promotion, preparation of video clips. Recently SERFNB hired a consultant to reach out to and determine what can be done to engage younger retirees in the association. Results will be shared.

All agreed another zoom meeting is desirable and it will be scheduled for late February/March.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Urquhart, East Representative