

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

**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

**Minutes**

**Executive Meeting via ZOOM**

**January 14, 2022**

**In Attendance:** Gerry Tiede, President

Martin Higgs, Vice-President

Martha Foster, Ontario Rep

Marilyn Bossert, Western Rep

Bill Berryman, Past President

Roger Régimbal, Executive Director

Mary Urquhart, Eastern Rep

1. **Call to Order**:
   * 1. President Gerry welcomed Executive members and called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM Eastern Time.
2. **Agenda**
   * 1. **MOTION: That the agenda be approved as amended.**
        + 1. MOVED/SECOND/CARRIED
3. **Conflict of Interest**
   * 1. No conflict of interest was declared by Executive members.
4. **Minutes**
   1. **September 30, 2021**

**MOTION: That the September 30, 2021 minutes be approved.**

MOVED/SECOND/CARRIED

**MOTION: That Katherine Snow and June McNair be appointed to the PAC.**

MOVED/SECOND/CARRIED

**5) Correspondence**

The correspondence was reviewed

**6. President’s Report**

The President referred to his written report and led a discussion on the Mandate letters to the Federal Minister of Health and the Minister of Seniors. A comparison to our Priorities and we began to discuss options for our political actions. We returned to these discussions during New Business near the end of this meeting.

**7. Financial**

* 1. The December 31, 2021, Financial report was received

**MOTION: That the December 31, 2021, Financial Report be received.**

MOVED/SECOND/CARRIED

* 1. The membership report was received, and it was noted that all fees had been paid.

**8. Executive Directors Report**

a. The Executive Director reported on his activities.

**9. AGM 2022**

1. The group expressed their hope that we would be meeting in person this June.
2. Roger will contact the hotel and the Canadian Teachers’ Federation to discuss the arrangements. He will also explore the feasibility of a hybrid model – meeting in person with some members meeting virtually.
3. An email will be sent to Members expressing our intention of meeting in person this year so they can prepare.
4. A final decision about the meeting format will be made by the Executive at a special meeting - probably in February as we see how the COVID situation develops. COVID protocols will need to be established.
5. Possible guest speakers were discussed. Names proposed were Dr. Samir Sinha, Andre Picard, Canadian Health Coalition. Gerry will contact the Minster of Seniors about her availability.
6. An orientation session for new members was discussed but there was not any support for regional meetings. A social event was preferred.

**10. Regional liaison report**

* + - 1. East Representative Report
         1. Marg highlighted her written report. Some Members have been able to have face-to-face meetings. Discussions include strategies for increasing membership. The President indicated that he would be happy to send letters of congratulations when appropriate
      2. Ontario Report
         1. RTOERO heard reports from 2 summer medical students who they hire to do research.
         2. RTOERO is focussing on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and a sustainable environment.
         3. RTOERO is holding sessions to prepare members for a position on their Board or on a committee.
      3. West Representative Report
         1. Marilyn reported that most Member offices are still closed due to COVID. ARTA has established a COVID protocol for their offices and meetings.

All Western Members are looking at improvements in their insurance products.

The need for each province to have a Seniors Advocate was emphasized.

Manitoba is lobbying to get a retired member appointed to their Pension Board.

BCRTA was commended for their response to victims of the flooding.

**11. Committee reports**

* 1. **Legislation Committee**
     1. The revised Constitution and Belief Statements are posted with a linked Table fo Contents.
     2. The Bylaws are the next priority
  2. **Communications Committee**
     1. Updates to the website were highlighted.
     2. The Photo Gallery has begun. There is a promotion banner available on-line.
     3. A discussion of social media resulted in a consensus to not pursue participating in these avenues.
  3. **Health Committee**
     1. A Health Information notice was prepared and referred to the Communication committee to determine how to pass the information on to members.

**MOTION: That the Health Information sheet be provided to members in some form.**

MOVED/SECOND/CARRIED

* 1. **Pension Committee**
     1. Resolution:“ Be it resolved that ACER-CART lobby the federal government to extend the temporary withdrawal reduction amount for RRIF’s.”
     2. MOTION:

1. That ACER-CART send a letter to the Finance Minister advocating a reduction in the amount of withdrawals from RRIF’s.
2. That ACER-CART send a letter to Members advising that there are advantages and disadvantages to reducing the withdrawal amount from RRIF’s and that their members should always consult financial advice.
   * 1. MOVED/SECOND/CARRIED
     2. The Committee recommended that we take no action on the request from the Single Seniors for Tax Fairness.
     3. An article titled Better Bang for Your Buck was discussed and it was agreed to send it to our members with a short note from the Pension Committee.

**e) Political Action Committee**

i) The Committee notes were reviewed.

ii) An information sheet is being prepared on Aging in Place.

**f) Nominations Committee**

i) The election process was reviewed. Deadline for submitting nominations is April 30.

ii) There was a discussion on the value of one or two year terms for Executive positions. The matter was left to the committee to consider.

**12. Disposition of AGM Resolutions.**

**M-2**. The President will write the Minister of Health and the Minister of Seniors encouraging their work in developing and enforcing national standards for long0term seniors residences.

**M-3**. The Pension committee Chair will draft a letter supporting the extension of the termporary withdrawl reduction amounts for RRIFs.

**E-2** – E-19 Constitution and Belief Statements have been competed in English. French versions are still in process.

**13. New Items**

1. **Political Action review.**

A prepared sheet with information on aging in place is in development by the PAC. The sheet will contain information about the need for government action on this issue. A letter writing campaign will be developed using New Mode.

1. There was a consideration of holding a special meeting of Member Presidents, Directors and staff members to promote the letter writing campaign.
2. We could do this at the AGM or at an earlier meeting using Zoom. The benefits of more frequent and face-to-face contacts with Member Associations was highlighted.
3. Discussion revolved over developing a brief concerning Seniors saying at or close to home.

**14. Information Items**

Roger suggested that if you have articles to share with the group that you include sending them to him with a note to include it in the agenda package.

**15. Next executive meeting – March 17, 2022**

A possible additional Executive meeting may be held to approve the political actions and make a decision about the format of the conference and AGM.

**16. Adjournment**