



Member report 2022 ACER-CART AGM

RTOERO federal Level advocacy across Canada:

1. National Seniors' Strategy - We continue to have a focus in our Vibrant Voices Advocacy program the development of a Canada-wide national seniors' strategy. We visualize that such a strategy would optimize health, financial security and social inclusion so all Canadians can age with dignity.

2. National Pharmacare Program - All Canadians should have access to the medications they need and reasonable cost. A universal, comprehensive, accessible and portable program would reduce costs and lead to a healthier population.

RTOERO provincial, territorial and municipal advocacy

- Geriatric Healthcare and Environmental Stewardship along with the development of a Seniors' Strategy—These are the three topics on which we focus our social media and direct advocacy. We contact all municipal, provincial and federal officials and people of influence on our advocacy themes. This is one of our strategies for becoming the trusted voice for our members and seniors.
- National Institute on Ageing - We have a formal partnership with the National Institute on Ageing and have included activities which involve funding two summer internships in support of research into healthy active ageing and two scholarships for post-graduate studies into the ageing process for each of the next five years.

Main Activities

- Focussing on our three main advocacy issues, we have interviewed a number of Members of Parliament during the months of April and May
- During the month of October, we interviewed MPPs from Ontario via zoom.
- We held three town hall meetings with panellists from the major political parties of Ontario prior to the June 2, election.
- The town hall meetings focussed on the main advocacy issues of Seniors' Strategy, Geriatric Healthcare and Environmental Stewardship.
- We recognize the invaluable leadership of our volunteer members who have contributed greatly to RTOERO throughout the years. We provide unique gifts to our volunteer members of the RTOERO Board of Directors, committee chairs and members as well as our 51 district presidents their executive members.
- RTOERO and the National Institute on Ageing have agreed on a partnership to advance research and scholarship in areas related to healthy active living for older adults in Canada.

- Through regular virtual meetings, we have created a new level of communication across our organization that has strengthened our close-knit community.
- Our Community Grants and Scholarships are in alignment with the goals in our Strategic Plan 2025. The scholarships are awarded to post-secondary individuals who demonstrate that they will pursue a course of study which will assist in improving the lives of our members and seniors. The grants will positively impact the lives of our members and senior and/or display environmental stewardship.
- We developed the Strategic Plan 2025 with the goals “To Improve the lives of members and seniors,” “To be the trusted voice of the broader education community,” and “Broaden the membership base.” This includes fifteen focus areas which feature key performance measures designed to measure our progress toward the objectives in each goal.
- RTOERO developed an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Policy with which our staff provide the Board of Directors with a clear understanding of how possible risks or missed opportunities are identified, reported and managed. A few examples of risks in our ERM are: Risk to financial investments, operational inefficiency, decreasing growth of membership, information technology threats, and improper governance decisions.

Communications

- Our Renaissance magazine is distributed on a quarterly basis throughout the year via hard copy and/or electronic copy.
- We have an excellent website which provides all the information needed for the members of RTOERO
- Liaison is our bi-monthly newsletter, designed to help our members stay connected and informed.
- The Chair’s Newsletter is published on a six-week cycle and addresses the highlights and decisions of the Board of Directors.
- RTOERO is heavily committed to communicating with our members via social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram)
- Throughout this pandemic year, we have become strong and effective users of Zoom communication technology. RTOERO will undoubtedly continue to use this resource to maintain strong communication with our 51 districts even when we are able to return to in-person meetings.
- An excellent means of communication for socially isolated members, is a program adapted by the RTOERO Foundation, called Chime-in which allows our members across Canada to interact with one another via zoom for an hour once a week.

Organization

- RTOERO is composed of 51 Districts of which 46 are in Ontario; one covers all of our members who reside in the four Atlantic provinces; one covers our members in the Province of Quebec; one covers all of our members who reside

in the three Prairie provinces; and two cover our members who reside in British Columbia.

- We have approximately 7,500 non-OTPP (Ontario Teachers Pension Plan) members and this category of membership is growing quickly.
- RTOERO has 82,157 members
- We have four Standing Committees: (Audit, Benefits, Governance and Nomination, and Human Resources).
- There are four advisory committees: (Marketing and Communications, Member Services, Political Advisory, and Community Grants and Scholarships)
- There are thirty, three thousand dollar, scholarships allotted annually, and \$125,000 worth of community grants distributed annually. There is a Charitable Donation of \$10,000 awarded annually to a recognized organization in one of our Districts.
- There are nine members on the Board of Directors of RTOERO and twenty-six members of staff under the direction of the CEO.

Rich Prophet
RTOERO Chair