



NEW BRUNSWICK SOCIETY OF RETIRED TEACHERS

MEMBER REPORT

Introduction

The New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers is made up of 2704 members divided into ten Branches. We have had another very challenging but rewarding year; characterized, on the one hand, by frustration, due to limitations imposed by the pandemic, and, on the other hand, by feelings of significant accomplishment and satisfaction, when we have experienced tremendous successes. Our provincial committees have continued fulfilling their mandates to monitor activity in their specialty areas and to advocate for our members. Our Branches have developed more innovative programs to serve, entertain and communicate with our members.

The pandemic has not slowed us down, it has merely caused us to do things differently. As an example, we have produced two very successful webinars (one on travel insurance and one on tax tips) and plan to do more. Our next webinar will be on Estate Planning.

Branches

I will not try to encapsulate all of the wonderful activities Branches have been initiating for their members through these difficult times. I want to commend the Branch leadership who have found new and innovative ways to serve all of our members but especially heartwarming are the new initiatives aimed at our older and vulnerable members. We all owe a sincere thank you to all of our Branch leaders for not only treading water through the pandemic but for their extra efforts to endeavour to find new initiatives that would work through these difficult times.

Committees

Our committees have also continued to excel during the pandemic. They have all held their meetings by Zoom but that has not diminished their enthusiasm for their work. The committees have been conscientious about their respective mandates and are always seeking new ways to serve us better.

ACER-CART

I continue to be very impressed with the work being done by our national organization particularly in the area of advocating for a National Seniors Strategy. The pandemic has exposed glaring weaknesses in Canada's support for seniors and especially in the area of senior care. ACER-CART has made this the centre piece of its work for the last few years and does seem to be starting to make some inroads with politicians. I am proud to be serving on the Political Advocacy Committee.

ECRTO

The East Coast Retired Teacher Organization is made up of all the retired teacher groups in Atlantic Canada plus the Quebec Provincial Association of Retired School Educators. We have been meeting by Zoom, facilitated by Dale MacRae of NBSRT, our Zoom guru, and have continued our work of sharing ideas and strategies under the leadership of our own Marg Urquhart, our East Coast representative.

Executive

I am pleased to report that the current Executive has agreed to re-offer for another two-year term. The last two years have been strange and at times frustrating, so I would have understood anyone wanting to leave, but everyone has made the commitment to stay. We have been posting Executive Highlights on the website and I invite you to keep track of our meetings and decisions there.

Strategic Plan

We have surveyed our general membership, Branch Presidents, Committees and we even consulted our sister organizations in ECRTO. We have developed 11 recommendations that the Executive is recommending to the AGM. If the recommendations are accepted, the real work will begin as we put an action plan to each of them.

Future Plans

Our priorities for the next year are pretty simple:

1. **We will create and begin to carry out action plans related to all Strategic Plan recommendations adopted by the AGM.**
2. **We will re-establish in-person contact with our members by being present at any Branch activities to which we are invited.**
3. **We will do everything possible to encourage and support those Branches that are experiencing some difficulty keeping members engaged in Branch leadership and activities.**
4. **We will Increase Membership.**

ACER-CART

We are very pleased with the emphasis on Senior's issues and particularly the emphasis on Seniors' right to age in place with dignity and with proper government supports. **NBSRT will support ACER-CART initiatives and encourage our members to do the same.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Fitzpatrick
NBSRT President