

ECRTO MEETING NOTES

DECEMBER 9TH, 2022

East Coast members (ECRTO) gathered by zoom, courtesy of NBSRT and all but QART were represented.

The meeting began with updates on ACER/CART Committees.

Communications: Robert Primeau, representing SERF, and Joe LaFitte, RTANL, indicate website updating is in process. Other items included determining ways to encourage visits—perhaps scavenger hunts in Member newsletters requiring visits (NS is doing this), revisiting the advocacy section, keeping posted information brief and to the point, adding links to government officials, promoting the photo gallery, making our partners evident, addressing privacy concerns. A big question is always how to get visits from retirees.

Advocacy and Health: There is crossover between these two committees Bob Fitzpatrick (NBSRT), Katherine Snow (QPARSE) and Marg Urquhart reported on the joint meeting, a positive one, sharing ideas and information for A/C's Aging In Place and Long Term Care priorities.. The Health Committee subsequently met and forwarded considerations and engagement strategy suggestions. The Advocacy Committee will present to the January Executive meeting with the expectation an action plan will be finalized at the March Executive Meeting.

RTANL Cessation Planning: (RTANL has no plans to cease but felt it important to have a plan in place.)

In the last year, prompted by the fact one division had no one ready to serve on the local executive and there was no plan for what to do, RTANL determined the need for a cessation plan. (Leadership for the division is temporarily in place.) Neither was there a plan at the provincial level. (Neither do active teachers have a plan.) A plan for the Foundation helped guide the thinking. It was determined the organization would be non-functional if there were not enough funds to cover day to day expenses, an Executive could not be formed as per the Constitution, if a division was not functioning and that it could not function as individual divisions without a provincial body, especially because of dues and pensions. Also noted was the need to pay bills with remaining funds donated to a registered childrens' charity. Pension branch would need to be notified as would members and the associations with which RTANL is affiliated. The next BGM will be presented with a motion to determine a quorum for a cessation vote. When this was discussed at the Fall 2022 BGM it was clear most present had never thought of the organization ceasing to exist and it may well have been a wake up call to generate more interest in joining and getting involved. A big factor for membership in Newfoundland, and Quebec as well, is the very large geographical area covered, remote communities and distance and time between locations.

In advance of the meeting Members were asked to be ready to share any membership initiatives, items they were most pleased about, things they look forward to between now and our March 13th Meeting and anticipated challenges.

MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVES:

NBSRT: Goals, activities and responsibilities from the Strategic Plan were shared in advance. Also noted was that a seasonal greeting was placed on ATV, Christmas Cards sent to retirees of the last 3 years featuring the NBSRT logo and in 6 branch meetings (there are 10 branches) Bob Fitzpatrick attended local Presidents underlined the importance of growing numbers. In particular it is important to involve younger retirees. Additional ideas/suggestions would be welcomed.

QPARSE: Recruiting new members began with attending an active teacher conference and offering a free membership draw. Plans are to do more of these.

PIERTA: A fall golf tournament and plans for curling and other social events will, hopefully, add to the membership.

SERFNB: Numbers are growing and a thrust is to involve younger members so they can fit in gradually and help build future leadership.

RTANL: In person retirement seminars are again underway. Membership applications are in the package, completed and collected on site and held by RTANL until the individual retires.

NSRTO: Information and applications to join are sent/provided with other retirement papers and NSTU is helpful with this.

MOST PLEASSED ABOUT:

NBSRT: A successful Board of Directors Meeting approved the strategic plan concentrating on membership, pension monitoring and group insurance. An NBSRT member was named to both the Group Insurance and Teacher's Pension Trustees. NBSRT is part of NBTA year end "road show".

QPARSE: Hosting the in person ECRTO meeting with positive feedback and program variety was the best and energizing. Member turnout at the in person "Welcome Back" event and Christmastime holiday lunch was positive.

PEIRTA: The Executive has added new members and the COLA was received by members.

SERFNB: The fall AGM was positive and SERFNB is transitioning to a new Executive Director.

RTANL: One division has set up an award for exemplary service and the association has restructured some committees to more clearly define responsibilities and balance workload.

NSRTO: Applications – over 30 from 23 branches - for Branch Initiative Grants indicate that events and activities are being planned and include workshops and such community activities as coffee and donuts on “dump day”, the day lobster traps are set.. \$1800 per branch is available using the Covid surplus. Criteria will be reviewed in January. There are now 2 proposals for a bookkeeper.

THINGS LOOKING FORWARD TO BY MARCH MEETING:

NBSRT: Hope is the free membership for one year will have an impact and almost all branches are planning special holiday activities to reach out to members, especially those who are older, ill and/or infirm.

QPARSE: Greater use of social media to reach out, writing articles featuring members – some remarkable people who should be highlighted, discussion about website revision although it is not a priority and expertise is needed. An ACER CART button was added. Acting on ideas gathered during the ECRTTO gathering.

PEIRTA: Identifying those interested in becoming more politically active and building from there.

SERFNB: A new President will be incoming in the fall. There is optimism about the future and finances are good.

RTANL: Formalizing the ability to speak for active teachers when they are unable to speak for themselves.

NSRTO: A report on the pension review is anticipate. A plan to receive and circulate is in place, one that gives accurate and clear information to members.

ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES:

NBSRT: The biggest will be financial because of rebating first year dues to those who joined during covid and a third year of doubling the rebate to branches to encourage their activities and new initiatives.

QPARSE: Generating member interest in becoming more politically active is a challenge as is how to get to/engage politicians. Suggestions included putting out an invitation for discussion on a topic and building on it, identifying members “connected” to politicians and working through them, hold a session on a topic and invite all parties to speak – they want to hear what others think, going to their constituency office and seeking a meeting for a discussion about a topic, invite a Minister to address a topic at a meeting

RTANL: Aging at home is becoming more and more important as is the lack of enough long term care spaces. Many LTC spaces are private, do not meet minimum regulations and are not regularly inspected.

NSRTO: An increasing number of venues requiring NSRTO provides liability insurance. Is this becoming more common elsewhere?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS

QPARSE: The organization is pretty well centred around Montreal although there are members all over the province. **PEIRTA:** Regular updates on both pension and group insurance are presented at meetings. As a relatively small province it is easier and less expensive to meet and there are no divisions or branches.

RTANL: The support of active teachers is much appreciated- legal work, .send out newsletters, host the website. The association is very politically active – 2 members on seniors coalition, regular meetings with MP's and Ministers (yearly/twice yearly), letter writing

NSRTO: Two members sit on the seniors coalition and there are regular meetings with Ministers. There is concern that daily newspaper delivery will not longer be available in some places and the potential impact on seniors is significant.

Best wishes were extended to both Leonard and Linda (SERFNB) in their absence.

Next Meeting by Zoom – March 13th, 1 p.m.