

Major Concerns & Initiatives:

- Enhancing our external relationships, both federally and provincially for our members in all provinces has been very much a focus of what we do and we continue our liaising with organizations that deal with senior issues.
- This year, to our list of existing partners (Elder Abuse Ontario, National Association of Federal Retirees, Choosing Wisely Canada, National Institute on Ageing, Canadian Health Coalition, McMaster Optimal Aging Portal) we have added Canadian Medication Appropriateness and Deprescribing Network, la Fédération des aînés et des retraités francophones de l'Ontario (FARFO), CanAge and the Canadian Federation for Economic Education (CFEE).
- We continue to offer our high-quality health insurance for our members, which includes travel insurance. This plan is not only for our members but decisions are made by our members who make up the Benefits Committee.

Federal Level:

- **Bill C-228:** the Pension Protection Act, received Royal Assent and is now law. As a result, pension plan deficits will be required to be paid in priority to most other creditors, including secured creditors, during bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings. We are excited to see this happen, as this was one of our advocacy issues for the last number of years.

Provincial Levels:

- We continue our political advocacy under the name Vibrant Voices. Our three specific areas that we addressed this year with MPs, MPPs and MLAs were: Senior Strategy, Geriatric Health Care and Environmental Stewardship.
- In the last year, there were elections held in Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and Alberta. Support was provided to districts in these regions to inform and address senior issues in these provinces.

Main Activities

- We continue implementing our **Strategic Plan**, with our three main strategic goals are: to improve the lives of members and seniors, to be the trusted voice for the broader education community and to expand the membership base. This plan is the focus of all we do. Every line of our annual budget must align with the strategic plan.
- Since last June, we have offered a number of webinars in the areas of Advocacy and thought leadership: An Introduction to Cybersecurity, Cybersecurity Part 2, Une participation efficace des aînés dans les politiques publiques, Challenging Agism, Diabetes Prevention and Management: What you Should Know, Re-Imaging a New Way Forward with Intention, Collaborative Care: Rethinking how we are caring for people with Dementia and Shaping your community through planning, patience and persistence.
- The summer of 2022 saw the First of our Summer Scholarship individuals carry out their research. These are offered in conjunction with the National Institute on Aging(NIA). The topics researched this year were: Reimagining the Role of the Postal Worker - Leveraging Canadian Postal Workers to Enable Aging in Place; Ageing with Diabetes in Canada - An examination of

the literature and gaps in how we manage diabetes in older adults and Long-Term Care Services Standard Project.

- We continued to support the fundraising efforts being undertaken by our **Charitable Foundation** which aims to raise funds to increase the numbers of professional and support staff qualified and trained in geriatric care as well as to support research and programs that improve the quality of life of our members and seniors in Canada.

History

- Established in 1968, RTO/ERO is celebrating its 55th year of providing excellent programs and services to its 83,000 members. While the majority of these members are retired teachers, RTO/ERO welcomes all retired employees who have worked in some aspect of education, including school and board administrative and support staff, early childhood educators, child care workers and college/university faculty and support staff. We also have an increasing number of individuals joining who are still actively employed as we are providing free membership to these individuals approaching retirement, until they retire. We continue to aggressively market to these sectors.
- RTO/ERO is currently governed by a nine member Board of Directors that is elected by our Corporate Members. We own our Health Plan which is managed by members through the Benefits Committee and administered by Johnson Inc. There are over 100,000 insured individuals in our group insurance program, which includes members and their dependents. Our Executive Director leads a dedicated team of eight senior staff and twenty one administrative support staff in our Central Office.

Communication

We strive to keep our membership apprised of all that happens with both hard copy and electronic versions of all our publications.

- *RENAISSANCE*, our award winning bilingual magazine, is published four times a year and sent directly to members' residences except for the many who opt to receive it electronically.
- *LIAISON*, a bilingual newsletter sent to Board Members, advisory committee members, and district executive members, is published several times a year. It is also available for all members to read in the Members' Centre of our website.
- We have produced webinars to keep our members updated on current issues and are on highly engaged on most social media platforms.

Committees

RTO/ERO has four standing committees, each chaired by a Board member: Audit, Benefits, Governance, and Nomination. Our advisory committees are: Marketing and Communications, Member Services (retirement planning, recruitment, travel, and goodwill), Political Advocacy and Community Grants and Scholarships (scholarships and grants).

RTO/ERO annually provides grants to various community that serve older adults. The organizations apply for support and their requests are adjudicated by a committee of members; annually up to \$100,000 is awarded. Additionally, Districts may recommend charitable organizations to which a \$10,000 donation is provided by RTO/ERO. In 2023, this donation was given Alzheimer's Society of Canada.

Martha Foster
Chair/ Présidente
RTOERO