

THE QUEBEC PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONOF RETIRED SCHOOL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION PROVINCIALE DU PERSONNEL D'ENSEIGNEMENT RETRAITÉ DU QUÉBEC

MEMBER REPORT 2023

QPARSE has worked diligently this past year to keep in touch with our members across the province and to encourage members to stay informed and in touch not only with the Board but also with other seniors' organizations. Everyone is very concerned about the availability of health care both short and long term. It is bleak as it is everywhere.

We have tried to keep the membership aware of the current issues facing the teachers and the education system province wide. We actively support our teachers and all personnel who work in the system. We shall continue to let our members know how they can offer support at the local level. We, as retired educators, have had years of experience in dealing with issues in education and we realize we can be of help.

We have increased our communications with our super seniors, those members who are over 90 years old. This has been fun and certainly valued by the members.

Since we hosted the ECRTO conference in Montreal, we feel like an even stronger team. The conference gave us the boost to move forward and perhaps take on something else. We shall be included in the QPAT conference next fall. Several members will give a session for teachers who are thinking about retirement.

Those ECRTO members who were at the Montreal conference will remember QPAT president Heidi Yetman joined us for the dinner and line dancing afterward. She was our guest speaker at our QPARSE 2023 AGM. She was a huge hit. Even more exciting news, Heidi is the incoming president of the Canadian Teachers Federation. Her first activity as president will be a CTF conference in Montreal.

Our activities this year have been mostly on zoom for guest speakers, but we also had several social events for those members who are ready to see people in public places. Some members are still staying home due to Covid, but many went forward and had a good time. Fortunately, none of our events has had a Covid consequence.

Next year our schedule will be mostly in person events with a couple of zoom presentations given by speakers who cannot be with us in person. It is going to be another interesting year for QPARSE.

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We will continue to be active participants in the ACER/CART for the new year including the Political Action, and the Pension Committees, I hope. In addition, the ECRTO is very important to us, and we shall try to be strong participants with them as well. Our newsletter continues to be a source of pride for QPARSE. I am in awe of the editor, and the team who make it happen.

We have formed a team of volunteers who will work on new ways to increase our membership. The usual way to get in touch with educators who are retiring has been shut down due to privacy laws. This will be a challenge but one that will be addressed with vigor and excitement. Thank you to the many wonderful members of ACER/CART who are so encouraging and who help us to keep QPARSE strong and relevant. This year has been excellent and next year will be even better. We are ready!

Respectfully submitted by, Katherine Snow, President of QPARSE