



NEW BRUNSWICK SOCIETY OF RETIRED TEACHERS

MEMBER REPORT to the 2023 ACER-CART AGM By: Bob Fitzpatrick, President

1. Major Concerns

- a. **Federal** – We remain very concerned about the state of health care for seniors and that there has been little real change to the plight of patients in extended care facilities. We continue to see seniors aging in home but without proper resources or forced to enter the health care system with proper facilities and care available.
- b. **Provincial** –
 - i. Health care for seniors and the use of hospitals due to a shortage of placements in long term care homes. Lack of resources for aging in place.
 - ii. Teacher negotiations have become a public issue and we are doing what we can to support teachers and education. We are supporting the teachers' federation campaign to get the government to better fund education, pay fair wages and finally do something to enhance retention and recruitment.

2. NBSRT Priorities 2023-24:

- a. Strategic Plan – get final approval of our strategic plan at our AGM on May 10th.
- b. Continue to develop strategies to increase membership.
- c. Support teachers in general and in their campaign for better resources in education and negotiations.
- d. Work with our Coalition for Seniors and Nursing Home Residents' Rights
- e. Complete a review and recommendation on dues structure.
- f. Conduct an election for new executive.
- g. Draw more members to regular use of our website.

3. Major Activities:

- a. Return to in person meeting but still conducting some business and committee meeting by zoom
- b. Membership Recruitment
 - i. Letters to retirees

- ii. TV and newspaper ads supporting teachers
- iii. Christmas cards to all retirees from the last 3 years
- iv. Piggyback on Pension Trustees Fall Newsletter to introduce NBSRT and invite new members.
- v. Recruitment posters for schools
- vi. Attendance at Branch and local activities
- c. Cooperation with ACER-CART, ECRTTO and SERFNB.
- d. Monitoring and Reporting on Group Insurance and Pension Activities
- e. Enhanced Communication with members through all social media platforms and Reflections Magazine as well as Executive Committee Highlights published monthly on our website.

4. Other

- a. Local Members - Since we do not have any form of automatic enrollment we must spend a lot of time and effort on recruitment activities. We have finally seen some good results this year but it is a continuous struggle. In addition to all of our strategies to recruit new retirees, we have members in our locals (all volunteer of course) going back through many years of retiring teacher lists and comparing them to our member lists and then reaching out to non-members to invite them to join. Just one example of our dedicated members at the local level.
- b. Super Local Initiatives – Some of our Branches instituted programs to reach out to our more elderly and/or isolated members during Covid. I am so proud to tell you that these initiatives appear to becoming permanent. One Branch has a telephone tree set up to call older members monthly and help them out with small chores or transportation. Another Branch visited lonely or isolated members around Christmas and delivered small gifts. But more importantly the members stayed to chat, did an informal wellness check, and in many cases struck up a relationship.