****

**Association canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants retraités**

**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Delta Hotel Ottawa**

**Strategic Plan Discussion**

**Thursday, June 1, 2023**

Bob Fitzpatrick coordinated the activity and shared a short history of why ACER-CART is looking at its Strategic Plan and the process following today's exercise.

Roger Régimbal shared that responses will be reviewed and shared with the group at the next meeting on November 1, 2023.

Group activities:

**Task**

1. List 2-3 things you want to see ACER-CART do or be:

* Ability to provide representation from each of the organizations.
* Have the means and/or place where members can share their respective voices and ideas.
* Federal and Regional representation to support ACER-CART.

2. Discuss your list with others in your group to see if you can reach consensus

* Assuming unlimited resources, what would ACER-CART look like and what would we offer to our members:

3. Share

* Relationships with MPs and Premieres across the country to ensure that they are aware of who and what ACER-CART represents.
* Introduce an ACER-CART TV channel to share ongoing information with members that would include local activities. If TV is not viable, investigate YouTube which is currently being used by some of our groups.
* National office with a paid political staff member available to set up relationships and carry forward our messages.
* Prepare position papers on a variety of topics which would be created by our “paid political staff”.
* An open forum to allow government representatives to reach out to ACER-CART for our ideas in support their thinking going forward.

**Task**

1. What should ACER-CART’s purpose be?

* **Table 1**
  + Focus should be on ACER-CART being an advocate.
  + Bring people together to be a strong voice and share information with others on a regular basis.
  + Be a support network for all our members and share ACER-CART information widely with other groups.
  + Create and provide useful information links for members across the country.

1. What role(s) do you think it should and can fulfill?
   * **Table 2**
     + Act as a national voice.
     + Continue advocating for senior issues.
     + Act as conduit to share best practices between provincial organizations.
     + Encourage committees to collaborate when they can supplement each other’s work.
     + Seek to have PAN Canadian membership on all ACER-CART committees.
     + Encourage use of zoom to bring more people to the table including MPs and increase efficiency of everyone’s time.
     + Joining forces with other senior national groups.
2. How can ACER-CART best support its members?

* **Table 3**
  + Lobby more provincial issues.
  + Create a repository of information that can easily be accessed and shared.
  + Have a contact person who can respond to members in a timely manner and be accessible at any time.
  + The acronym ACER-CART be communicated more widely to members, so they know just who we are, and this should occur on a more regular basis.
  + Review how we can differentiate the various retired associations and what sets ACER-CART apart from other groups.
  + Share what ACER-CART has done for their members and continue to be a member of the pension committee to ensure that teachers continue receiving their COLA increases.

1. How can you, as a Member, ACER-CART?

* **Table 4**
  + The pension survey this year was invaluable and informative, and we learned that some groups at the table do not have representation.
  + Priority document should be shared with members, so they are aware of what we are doing, using New Mode software to enhance our ability to advocate and lobby our MPs would be beneficial.
  + Remind members about the picture gallery.
  + Small jurisdictions need to be included despite any financial issues that they may be facing, and we need to determine how we can support those organizations.
  + Election tool kits are invaluable, and ACER-CART can create and share those resources.
  + Importance of building up the institutional memory of ACER-CART and sharing that information with all organizations.

1. **Other** relevant comments or suggestions.
   * We need to be cognizant that many of our members are not teachers and do we need to review how we communicate with “all” member groups.
   * What makes us different from other organizations – a review of our mission statement would be necessary as part of this exercise.
   * In between and or in addition to in-person meetings and ZOOM meetings, ACER-CART could consider a forum so that members can access information easily.
   * In Manitoba, institutional memory is a priority, and a committee was formed to ensure that this very important task is captured and continually updated.
   * Length of office for executive members needs to be reviewed given that it is more difficult to fill positions and possibly a two-year time frame could be considered.
   * Are we focused on retired teachers or seniors is a question that is raised more often of late, and retiree groups are in a unique position to raise awareness about senior issues in general.
   * It would be helpful to create ACER-CART highlights for AGMs to increase our profile across the country.
   * NBSRT shared a copy of their Strategic Action Plan – dated April 25, 2023; and
   * ACER-CART provider a list of activities to members early each spring for members to use at their AGMs.