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

**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

Date:   September 25, 2023

To: ACER-CART Executive

From: Marilyn Bossert, ACER-CART West Representative

Re: ACER-CART West Members Update

Unfortunately, our ACER-CART West in-person meeting scheduled for August 8 did not become a reality for several reason – previously scheduled holidays, travel costs not in the budget, and elections. However, we are not giving up. As soon as ARTA recovers from its AGM and 60th anniversary, we will try again, although it may be via Zoom.

**BCRTA – British Columbia Retired Teachers’ Association**

BCRTA ACER-CART Director: Steve Bailey has concluded his term as BCRTA ACER-CART director. We are sorry to lose him and wish him and his wife Pam well in their new ventures. A new director will be elected at the BCRTA Conference and AGM.

BCRTA 2023 Conference will be held September 29 with live virtual sessions available.

* + **Aging in Place -** Bev Pitma
  + **Our Pension Investments -** Rob Field
  + **Housing -** Graham Freeman.
  + **Volunteering -** Jocelyn Wong

Congratulations to Steve Bailey who will receive the Golden Star Award and Tim Anderson who will receive the PostScript Award.

BCRTA’s Annual General Meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2023, at 9:30am. This AGM will be held on Zoom by invitation only.

Upcoming Events [Home • BCRTA](https://bcrta.ca/)

[www.facebook.com/BCRTA](http://www.facebook.com/BCRTA)

**RTAM - Retired Teachers’ Association of Manitoba**

* RTAM ACER-CART Director Gabe Mercier

RTAM prepared an election information package that was shared with their members on their website, Facebook and Instagram. [RTAM Election Information Package](https://www.rtam.mb.ca/images/RTAM_Election_Information_Package_4.pdf)

Dave Najduch was appointed as the first RTAM member to sit as a TRAF board member.

RTAM has a variety of seminars for their members [RTAM Events](https://www.rtam.mb.ca/events)

Food Handlers certificate program (Manitoba)

Winnipeg Art Factory present Van Gogh – Sunflowers

Aging in Place with Sue Lantz

Responses to ACER-CART questions [RTAM\_Summer2023\_Online\_LR.pdf](file:///C:\Users\bosse\Downloads\RTAM_Summer2023_Online_LR.pdf)

[(2) Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064915321103)

**STS – Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan**

* STS ACER-CART Director Helen  Sukovieff

Congratulations to STS on their 50th Anniversary celebrated in conjunction with their Annual General Meeting. [May+June+2023+Outreach+for+website.pdf (squarespace.com)](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/624f33ddc7c4b441962e85e7/t/6483435dcf0695785a4703e2/1686324062672/May+June+2023+Outreach+for+website.pdf)

STS launched a new look for their *OUTREACH* with the fall edition 2023.

In celebration of the STS 50TH anniversary, the McDowell Foundation has launched a Special Directed Call entitled *To Retirement and Beyond.* The following two projects will be founded: (1) *Towards an Understanding of Teachers’ Retirement Identity Transition in Saskatchewan* and (2) *Retired Teachers and their Ongoing Contribution to Teaching and Learning in Saskatchewan*.

Upcoming Events:

* Provincial Curling
* Provincial Pickleball Tournament
* Stitch and Quilt

[www.facebook.com/sts.sask](http://www.facebook.com/sts.sask)

**ARTA** – **ALBERTA RETIRED TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION**

* + ARTA ACER-CART Director Lawrence Hrycan

ARTA 2023 Retreat was held in Jasper at the end of May.

Although it took almost two years for approval, ARTA worked its firsts casino on August 19, 20 in Edmonton. Proceeds will support the Charitable Foundation

ARTA will be providing training for ARTA Reps on November 14-15. The purpose is to ensure that information is consistent both in sharing with the branches and the community at large when Teacher Conventions and other gatherings take place.

The Pension Committee will be hosting a webinar in the fall regarding the CPP and Alberta Pension Plan.

ARTA will celebrate its 60th anniversary in conjunction with its 2023 AGM on

October 3-4 .

**Public Interest Alberta – Seniors Task Force**

I sit as the ARTA representative on the Public Interest Alberta, Seniors Task Force, which has a membership of about 25 and represents 17 organizations in the province. The focus has been on how to liaise and work with the governments, both provincially and federally, to affect change in how we take care of our seniors.

Judy Lederer, who represents the Alberta Federation of Union Retirees on the Seniors Task Force, is a member of the CPP Working Group Steering Committee that will be contacting as many seniors and retiree groups and organizations in addition to unions as possible about their campaign. They hope to reach as many Albertans as possible in all parts of the province. Basically, the message is “Hands off our Pension.” The members of the STF felt that there needed to be unity on this issue. On January 28, 2023, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board gave a presentation to the Calgary Chapter of CARP, looking at the issue of CPP vs an Alberta Alternative.

Chris Galloway, from Friends of Medicare, reported that he received phone calls regarding increases in care fees. He also expressed concern that standards were still voluntary rather than mandated.

Concern was raised regarding the increases in rent for seniors. Seniors living in Chartwell Homes have reported an increase of 10% this year. In March 2022, the publicly traded long-term care provider Extendicare announced an agreement to buy competitor Revera’s shares in 18 long-term care homes and manage the remaining 31 Revera-owned homes. Again, it was pointed out that real estate, not caring for seniors was really the motive for these for-profit corporations.

Sam Mason, with Voice of Albertans with Disabilities, says that her organization is still fighting to have people past the age of 64 recognized as being disabled, as they do not suddenly get better at age 65.

Individuals on AISH take a cut when they turn 65 and struggle to pay bills. Sam said that they also receive numerous phone calls from people who cannot find a family doctor and individuals who cannot find housing.

In 2017, the Provincial Pharmacare Task Force was formed, and they are still lobbying for Universal Pharmacare. Bill C-213, the Canada Pharmacare Act, which would have established a universal, comprehensive, single-payer pharmacare program in Canada, was voted down in Parliament on February 24, 2021.

There is a new private member’s bill, Bill C340(44-1) which was brought forth on June 13, 2023. The Provincial Pharmacare Task Force is working with MP, Randy Boissonnault, to get names in support of this bill, and they are doing a door-to-door campaign in Edmonton Centre.

*You may have seen this recently in the news*: In an email sent to clients July 19, 2023, Marda Loop Medical Clinic in Calgary informed its clients it would be introducing a membership-based medical service”, running $4,800 a year for a two-parent family membership. Such arrangements have been growing increasingly common in recent years, experts say. (Mike Symington/CBC)

Marda Loop Medical Clinic has put things on hold …. for now.

[(1) Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AlbertaRetiredTeachersAssociation)