

HISTORY
of the
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
of
RETIRED TEACHERS
1984 - 1993

M. S. Wark

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The founding of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers was the result of inter-provincial support and encouragement on the part of retired and active teacher associations across Canada.

Thanks are due to all those individuals who shared the vision of a national association of retired teachers and who actively contributed their time and effort to make it a reality.

I especially wish to thank: Elsie McMurphy, President of the BCTF, and Robert Buzza, Executive Secretary of the BCTF, for their encouragement and active support; Sheena Hanley, President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, for making available the facilities of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and for hosting the representatives who attended the meetings in Ottawa; Lillian HOLETON, President of the British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association, and the Executive Committee of the BCRTA who continuously supported the concept of a national association; Gerine McPherson, Executive Secretary of the BCRTA and her assistant, Karen Anderson, who provided secretarial assistance.

Dr. Stirling McDowell, Secretary General of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, deserves special mention. From the time of his first involvement, he became a key member in promoting the cause of a national organization.

CHAPTER 1

NEBULOSITY 1984-1986

In 1984, I contacted other retired teacher associations across Canada to see how the British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association compared with others in terms of membership and services. To that end I prepared a questionnaire, listing the services we offered and, in a covering letter, requested each provincial association to check its services against ours. I hoped the returns would provide a national picture of the services provided Canadian retired teachers by their respective provincial associations, and that the responding members could then receive a copy of the results, which would provide them with a standard of comparative service at the national level. It must be noted however, that, at this time, my interest and focus in this initiative were purely provincial.

With the exception of the Superannuated Teachers of Ontario, no addresses of other provincial associations were available. The only way to contact them was to work through the active teachers' associations in each province. The British Columbia Teachers' Federation provided me with addresses and telephone numbers for all the active teachers' associations in Canada, and I sent the questionnaire to each of them, requesting that it be forwarded to the president of the retired teachers' association in that province.

After an extended length of time, I had received replies from only three provincial associations. This made me aware of how little contact there was between the retired teachers' associations in the country, and I realized that there was a real need for direct communication among the provincial associations of retired teachers at the national level.

That realization - that there were provincial associations of retired teachers in Canada, working for their members in a state of provincial isolation - prompted the question: "Why is there not a national association of retired teachers that can address the needs and voice the aspirations of Canadian retired teachers with cohesion of purpose and unity of effort?"

With this thought in mind I requested the permission of the British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association to contact the Canadian Teachers' Federation to see if there were interest and support at that level to form a national association of retired teachers.

The British Columbia Retired Teachers' President, Mrs. Lillian Holeton, and her Executive Committee responded favourably to my request, and I was authorized to proceed as a committee of one.

With the help of the active teachers' associations, I compiled a list of the addresses and telephone numbers of the provincial presidents of retired teachers' associations.

I found that personal contact by telephone, together with the approach of stating the purpose and rationale for the call, followed by a covering letter provided a highly successful method of direct communication. The BCTF generously absorbed the cost of all long distance telephone calls. With only two exceptions, response to the initiative to form a national association of retired teachers was favourable. On the basis of this initial support I sent the following letter to Mr. Frank Garritty, President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, in November 1986:

Dear Mr. Garritty:

In October 1985, I wrote to the provincial presidents of retired teachers' associations across Canada to see if there were interest in forming a Canadian Association of Retired Teachers.

Reasons for the formation of such an association are:

- 1) To provide opposition to government legislation which might be disadvantageous to retired teachers (the de-indexing of the OAP, and the present concerns regarding patent drugs are cases in point);
- 2) To recruit retired teachers for education duty in third world countries;
- 3) To establish contact and to work with other national associations of retired teachers at the international level;
- 4) To speak with national voice on matters affecting education at the provincial, national and international level;
- 5) To act as a clearing house at the national level for the concerns and aspirations of provincial associations of retired teachers;
- 6) To give to retired Canadian teachers a feeling of belonging and purpose.

I believe there are common causes and concerns of both active and retired teachers which might be more positively addressed by close co-operation between the Canadian Teachers' Federation and a Canadian association of retired teachers, resulting in a reciprocity of benefits.

I would appreciate your views on the timeliness and practicality of the formation of a Canadian association of retired teachers, and the role the Canadian Teachers Federation might play in its formation and eventual operation.

Yours sincerely,
M.S. Wark
First Vice-President,
British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association

A year passed by, and for whatever reason, no response to this letter came from the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

CHAPTER 2

ACCRETION 1987-1989

In April 1987, I was invited, as President of the British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association, to speak at a Solidarity rally in Victoria, which the BCTF had organized to protest government policies on education issues and labour laws. The Federation was engaged in a major battle with the Social Credit government and was seeking teacher support from across the country.

Representatives from all active teachers' associations in Canada were present, including Mr. Frank Garritty, President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. This gathering provided a unique opportunity to acquaint the active teachers of Canada with the initiative to form a national association of retired teachers, and I concluded my supporting statement by speaking directly to Elsie McMurphy, the President of the BCTF.

"Madam Chairperson, I am here to give you the wholehearted support of the four thousand retired teachers in British Columbia. If we had a national association of retired teachers, I could bring you the support of over one hundred thousand retired teachers in Canada."

I also made a point of speaking directly to Mr. Garritty and stated the case for a national association of retired teachers to him. His reaction was favourable, and he requested that I send him a letter outlining the rationale. I complied with his request but again received no response from the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

When his term ended shortly thereafter, Sheena Hanley took office as the President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. When she came out to B.C. on Federation business, I had the opportunity to speak to her and presented the need to form a

national association of retired teachers - a step that I was convinced required the support of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. She responded positively to the idea and requested that I send her a letter outlining the rationale. On October 21, 1987 I sent her the following letter:

Dear Ms. Hanley:

You may recall that the Special Meeting of the BCTF held on October 10. I spoke to you briefly regarding the formation of a Canadian Association of Retired Teachers.

Reasons for the formation of such an association are:

- 1) To provide opposition to government legislation which might be disadvantageous to retired teachers (the de-indexing of the OAP, and the present concerns regarding patent drugs are cases in point);
- 2) To recruit retired teachers for education duty in third world countries;
- 3) To establish contact and to work with other national associations of retired teachers at the international level;
- 4) To speak with national voice on matters affecting education at the provincial, national and international level;
- 5) To act as a clearing house at the national level for the concerns and aspirations of provincial associations of retired teachers;
- 6) To give to retired Canadian teachers a feeling of belonging and purpose.

I believe there are common causes and concerns of both active and retired teachers which might be more positively addressed by close co-operation between the Canadian Teachers' Federation and a Canadian association of retired teachers, resulting in a reciprocity of benefits.

I would appreciate your views on the timeliness and practicality of the formation of a Canadian association of retired teachers, and the role the Canadian Teachers' Federation might play in its formation and eventual operation.

Yours sincerely,
M.S. Wark
President,
British Columbia Retired Teachers Association

Subsequent to this letter I received a request from Dr. Stirling McDowell, Secretary General of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, to meet with me to discuss the proposal. I considered this a key meeting, and felt it was time to involve the directors of the British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association. For purposes of historical interest, the minutes of that meeting, held on January 2, 1988, are included here.

SPECIAL MEETING
January 2, 1988

This meeting was held in the BCRTA office at 10:00 am.

Present: Tom Chalmers, Jack Gilmore, Ray Wunderlich, Reg Barry, Chuck Withers, Clair Wark (Chair), and Stirling McDowell, (guest from CTF).

Discussion: Re-organizing the 200,000+ retired teachers of Canada into one Organization under the auspices of the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

Many questions arose:

- Is there an interest for teachers to join a national organization?
- CTF should propose a national conference asking each provincial group to send a representative, with CTF paying the cost for each delegate. (approx. 23-25 delegates).
- CTF should take the initiative with communications to retired provincial groups.

- Active teacher associations should provide some assistance to their retired teachers associations.
- CTF should be prepared to face the bilingual situation (i.e. - Francophones - or other ethnic groups.)

Bob Buzza from the BC Teachers' Federation joined the meeting.

It was suggested that the BCTF should be supportive of the concept of the formation of a retired Canadian teachers' association.

It was also suggested that the BCTF be notified so that the executive would be aware of the proposal.

Some areas in which the new proposed organization could be effective are:

1. Information on pensions; British Columbia Teachers' Federation;
2. Collection of Canadian health facts (medical health plans);
3. Information re income tax; and
4. Eye glasses and dental plan.

It was pointed out that most benefits would be on a provincial level.

The CTF would act as an umbrella association for provincial retired groups.

Meeting adjourned - 12:05 p.m.

Chuck Withers
Corresponding Secretary

At Mr. Buzza's request, on January 21, 1988, I sent him the following letter requesting BCTF support for the proposal:

Dear Mr. Buzza:

In accordance with your request at the meeting of the directors of the BCRTA with Dr. Stirling McDowell, I am submitting to the Executive Committee of the

BCTF the rationale for forming a national association of retired teachers, together with a recommendation from our association soliciting BCTF support for the proposal.

Reasons for the formation of such an association are:

- 1) To provide opposition to government legislation which might be is advantageous to retired teachers (the de-indexing of the OAP, and the present concerns regarding patent drugs are cases in point);
- 2) To recruit retired teachers for education duty in third world countries;
- 3) To establish contact and to work with other national associations of retired teachers at the international level;
- 4) To speak with national voice on matters affecting education at the provincial, national and international level;
- 5) To act as a clearing house at the national level for the concerns and aspirations of provincial associations of retired teachers;
- 6) To give to retired Canadian teachers a feeling of belonging and purpose.

I believe there are common causes and concerns of both active and retired teachers which might be more positively addressed by close co-operation between the Canadian Teachers' Federation and a Canadian association of retired teachers, resulting in a reciprocity of benefits.

In consideration of these reasons we request that the BCTF support the concept of a national association of retired teachers as proposed by the BCRTA.

Yours sincerely,
M.S. Wark
President, BCRTA

The response from the BCTF, contained in the following memo from Mr. Buzza, was encouraging:

At its January 12-13, meeting the BCTF executive committee considered a proposal from the BCRTA, and then approved the following motion:

"That the BCTF support the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association proposal that a national association of retired teachers be formed, and urge the CTF at its 1988 AGM to agree to convene a national conference to explore the implications of the proposal."

The CTF was informed of the foregoing proposal. On January 21, Stirling McDowell, Secretary General of the CTF, met with the executive committee of the BCRTA and offered to pursue the possibility of a founding conference with the CTF Board of Directors and AGM.

In considering budget proposals for the forthcoming year the CTF Board of Directors took the BCTF/BCRTA proposal into consideration but, because of other priorities, did not incorporate funding or staff support to give effect to it. The CTF AGM in Vancouver in July will approve a budget.

The purpose of this memo to you is to provide background information about this matter, in the expectation that delegates from B.C. will move amendments to the proposed budget to give effect to the proposal, and will lobby delegates to gain support for it.

Clair Wark's letter to the BCTF of January 21, 1988 is attached. It provides the rationale for such a conference, and outlines the modest support that is requested of CTF in convening it.

This show of support from the BCTF was much appreciated. On March 8, 1988, I wrote the following letter of thanks to Elsie McMurphy, President of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation:

Dear Ms. McMurphy:

On behalf of the membership of the Retired Teachers' Association of British Columbia, I wish to thank you and your executive committee for your support of our initiative to form a Canadian association of retired teachers. The rationale for the formation of such a body is sound and I hope that in the foreseeable future we will have an association which will promote excellence of education at provincial, national and international levels, as well as speak for the welfare of retired teachers and seniors in our society.

Sincerely yours,
M.S. Wark
President, BCRTA

Later that year, July 1988, the CTF held its Annual General Meeting in Vancouver. This presented an ideal opportunity to acquaint active teachers' representatives from all provinces and territories in Canada with the initiative to form a national association of retired teachers, and I requested permission to speak to the delegates. Permission to address the meeting was granted. The chairperson gave me two minutes to state the case which I did as follows:

Madam President and Mr. Chairman:

I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of thousands of retired teachers across Canada, many of whom belong to provincial associations of retired teachers, but none of whom belong to a national association of retired teachers, simply because at the present no such organization exists.

Realizing that there was an obvious need to rectify this situation, our provincial executive gave me permission to contact provincial associations of retired teachers' across Canada to ascertain interest in the formation of a national organization. I also contacted the Canadian Teachers' Federation, stressing that co-operation between the Canadian Teachers' Federation and a national association of retired teacher would result in a reciprocity of benefits.

The CTF responded by sending out Dr. Stirling McDowell who met with our provincial directors. We had a most productive meeting and were most appreciative of Dr. McDowell's breadth of experience and his knowledge of the Canadian educational scene - and his interest in our initiative.

As a result of the meeting, it is our hope that the Canadian Teachers' Federation will act as the liaison agent in bringing together a planning committee of retired representatives from across Canada to consider ways and means of forming a national organization of retired teachers.

I have given some thought to a name which would best symbolize the objectives of a national organization, and the name that appeals to me is The Canadian Association of Retired Educators.

That reduces to C.A.R.E. - CARE, and it is not by accident that I wrote my remarks in the booklet setting forth your constitution.

June 17, 1989



Picture taken by Bob Buzza

- (1) Back Row (L-R)
Don McOuatt, Al Robb, Mac Hone, Lionel Girard, Ron Frauley, John Rouble
- (2) Middle Row (L-R)
Bert Gordon, Doris Hunt, Leslie Coombs, Helen Anderson, Jacqueline Collette,
Lomer Collette, Monique Asselin-Gobeil, Jim Causley
- (3) Front Row (L-R)
Allison Dalton, Clair Wark (photo above), Bob Buzza (photo below), Stirling McDowell



Picture taken by Clair Wark

Your objectives are essentially the same as those of our provincial association and would undoubtedly be the basis for the objectives of a Canadian association of retired educators.

It is my hope that such an organization will be in place in the near future, and that when you retire you will become a member not only of your provincial organization of retired teachers, but also a member of a Canadian association of retired educators.

You will then have a voice at the provincial, national and international level and maintain a feeling of belonging and purpose in an organization that represents you, and expresses your concerns at the federal government level.

Ladies and Gentlemen - future retirees - again may I thank you for this opportunity to present a vision of a national organization of retired teachers, and to thank Elsie McMurphy and the BCTF for supporting our initiative.

At this meeting, doubts were expressed that the CTF would underwrite expenses for the Ottawa meeting. Then came the reality - the CTF was not prepared to finance travel and hotel expenses. That was a blow! Without financial backing, I felt that the dream of forming a national association of retired teachers could not be realized.

Nevertheless, after consulting with Dr. McDowell by telephone we decided to go ahead and send invitations to all provincial associations of retired teachers to attend a meeting in Ottawa on June 17, 1989.

Long before the invitations were sent out, I telephoned each provincial representative to acquaint him/her with the fact that the CTF was not prepared to underwrite travel and hotel expenses. I wanted the representatives to have time to bring the cost of financing the Ottawa meeting to their respective associations. I was encouraged by the initial reaction to the financing problem. The representatives were optimistic and felt assured of their association's support.

The following letter, dated February 14, 1989, from Emmet Currie, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union, is indicative of the support the active teachers of that province were prepared to give to their retired teachers' association:

Dear Mr. Wark:

Thank you for the information regarding the founding meeting of a national association of retired teachers in Ottawa, June 17, 1989.

The NSTU certainly supports this initiative and we hope you have a successful meeting. We feel that a national group that can identify and articulate the concerns of retired teachers and bring those concerns hopefully through Canadian Teachers' Federation to the appropriate agencies is long overdue.

The NSTU will certainly offer our support to the Retired Association of Nova Scotia in not only having representation at this inaugural meeting, but also on a continuing basis.

Yours truly,
Emmet Currie,
Executive Director, NSTU

CHAPTER 3

DEVELOPMENT 1989-1991

Invitations were sent to all provincial retired teachers' associations in Canada and the response was positive. With the exception of only two provinces, there was representation from all the others. The meeting took place at the CTF on Saturday, June 17, 1989. The delegates who attended this inaugural meeting were:

- M.S. Wark, President, British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association;
- Bob Buzza, Executive Director, British Columbia Teachers' Federation;
- Bert Gordon, President, Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan;
- Mac Hone, Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan;
- J. Doris Hunt, Retired Teachers' Association of Manitoba;
- Jim Causley, Executive Director, Superannuated Teachers of Ontario;
- Al Robb, President, Superannuated Teachers of Ontario;
- Madame Monique Asselin-Gobeil, Première vice-présidente,
Association des retraitées et retraités de l'enseignement du Québec;
- Monsieur Lionel Girard, Trésorier,
Association des retraitées et retraités de l'enseignement du Québec;
- Ronald Frauley, Provincial Association of Catholic Retired Teachers (Quebec);
- Don McOuat, Provincial Association of Protestant Retired Teachers (Quebec);
- Madame Jacqueline Collette, Présidente,
Société des enseignantes et enseignants retraité(e)s francophones;
- Monsieur Lomer Collette, Société des enseignantes et enseignants retraité(e)s
francophones;
- Leanne Roy, Saint Leonard (Nouveau-Brunswick);

Helen D. Anderson, New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers;

Isobel Coburn, Editor of Reflexions, New Brunswick Retired Teachers' Association;

J. Allison Dalton, President, Retired Teachers' Association of Nova Scotia;

Leslie Coombs, President, Western Division, Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland;

John Rouble, President, Northwest Territories Teachers' Association;

Sheena Hanley, President, Canadian Teachers' Federation;

Stirling McDowell, Secretary General, Canadian Teachers' Federation.

They were welcomed by Sheena Hanley, President of the CTF, who spoke convincingly in both French and English for the need to form a national association of retired teachers. She was followed by each representative who distributed copies of newsletters, bulletins and other printed materials that reflected the work and services of his or her respective association. After coffee, the following agenda was addressed:

AGENDA

- 10:30-12:00 (a) Aims and objectives of a national organization of retired teachers.
(b) What name should it have?

12:00-1:30 LUNCH

- 1:30-2:30 (a) Who should be eligible for membership?
(b) What should the membership fee be?

2:30-2:45 COFFEE

- 2:45-4:00 (a) What benefits - individual, provincial, national and international might result?
(b) Where and when should future meetings be held?

4:00 ADJOURNMENT

The main item of business was the framing of a constitution. The delegates were divided into groups, with due regard for bilingual balance, and sent to separate locations to work on basic and practical reasons for forming a national association of retired teachers. When the delegates reconvened in plenary session, each group chairperson reported. From those reports, and the subsequent interaction, the following statement of objectives was formulated:

OBJECTIVES of a NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. To facilitate and promote liaison and mutual assistance between its member organizations; | 1. Faciliter et promouvoir la liaison et l'entraide parmi les organisations Membres; |
| 2. To promote the interests of its Member organizations; | 2. Promouvoir les intérêt des organisations Membres; |
| 3. To develop strategies for joint action on matters of common concern to Member organizations; | 3. Élaborer des stratégies d'action collective sur des questions d'intérêt commun aux organisations Membres; |
| 4. To cooperate with other seniors' organizations on matter of common concern; | 4. Collaborer avec d'autres organisations de personnes du troisième âge par rapport à des sujets d'intérêt commun; |
| 5. To promote excellence in education in Canada | 5. Promouvoir l'excellence en éducation au Canada. |

While a name for the proposed national organization was not finalized, it was agreed that prospective Members would be the provincial associations of retired teachers. There would not be membership on an individual basis.

Producing a statement of objects for the national association was a major step. The delegates agreed that the five objectives would be distributed to the conference

participants and to provincial and territorial teacher organizations. It was important that the objectives receive study, and hopefully, ratification by all retired teacher associations represented at the conference.

It was also agreed that those provincial associations which responded positively to the five objectives would meet in Ottawa at a future date to form a national association of retired teachers. Because the Annual General Meetings of the provincial associations were held at various times in 1989-1990, a complete report of acceptance was not ready for a June meeting in 1990. I hoped that in the interval between 1989 and 1991, the momentum generated at the exploratory meeting would be maintained, and that the associations represented at that meeting would adopt the five objectives. I was not disappointed. In the main, letters from the following delegates illustrate that the momentum and enthusiasm to form a national association remained in force: -

- Greetings Clair:

You can chalk up Saskatchewan. I made my presentation last Thursday. I supplied the executive with most of the material that Stirling sent out. I enclose an update on the sheet filled in by the provincial groups that we received in Ottawa and that was sent out again later. This sheet is based on the notes I made during the presentations which expanded on the original material or corrected out of date information. This sheet also went to the executive.

Do you think a letter should go out to the provincial societies to outline progress to date? I'd be prepared to do that. Might seek help with the French!

Yours,

Mac Hone,
Superannuated Teachers' of Saskatchewan

● Dear Mr. Wark:

This is in response to your correspondence of 20 February, and 14 January 1991.

On Thursday, 28 February, and Friday 1, March, we had a meeting of our executive council when your correspondence was read and considered. It was agreed and decided by motion that I should attend the meeting in Ottawa, June 14 and 15, provided the NTA or some other group will finance the trip. We do not have the wherewithal for such expenditure at this time.

I have endeavoured to contact the president of the NTA to find out whether that association will finance the trip to Ottawa and to what extent they will support our participation in a national association of retired teachers. So far I have not been able to get him on the phone. Negotiations have broken off with the government and the NTA administrators find themselves very busy trying to resolve their problems.

As soon as I get a response from the NTA to our request, I shall let you know whether we shall be able to come to Ottawa or not. At the present we are depending on the NTA for an annual grant for our operational expenses. They have been very good to us. But with ongoing negotiations for a year or more and the Centennial celebration expenses the NTA has had a hard year financially.

My executive committee members are of the opinion that if there is to be a national association we should be on it right at the beginning.

Thank you for the correspondence. You shall hear from me again real soon.

Yours truly,

C. Lloyd Buffett,
President
Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

- Dear Mr. Wark:

I am pleased to report that the Annual General Meeting of the NWTTA endorsed as requested the objectives of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers'. The following resolution was carried unanimously:

"Be it resolved that the NWTTA supports the formation of a national organizations of retired teachers with the following objectives: ..."

Yours truly,

John F. Rouble
President
Northwest Territories Teachers' Association

- Dear Mr. Wark:

At the Annual General Meeting held on the above date (May 10, 1990), a motion was made and unanimously carried, as follows:

That the Provincial Association of Catholic Retired Teachers wholeheartedly support the five objectives outlined in the preliminary meeting of retired educators, held in Ottawa, Ontario, in June 1989, with the aim of forming a Canadian Associations of Retired Educators as presented to the meeting by Dr. Ronald Frauley.

Dr. Frauley will be our representative, should you decide to hold further meetings, or get in touch with our association for any purpose.

Sincerely yours

Gerald Carroll,
President
Provincial Association of Catholic Retired Teachers (Quebec)

- Dear Clair:

Thank you for your letters of February 18, dated and written from your home, also your letter of March 5, from your office, and your phone call a couple of weeks ago.

I now have the information you have been waiting for! Our Nova Scotia RTA had its annual banquet and business meeting yesterday at the Halifax Hilton Hotel with about 400 hundred members present. I, being present in person as president, had the chair. The meeting went well with all business attended to.

I spoke at one point in regard to the formation of the national retired teachers' association and presented the five objectives which we laid down in Ottawa. They were accepted without a dissenting voice - unanimous.

I also brought before them the benefits which could be obtained by having a national association. These seven points I sent to you earlier. I am pleased that you read them to your executive, according to your letter of February 18.

Keep in touch.

Yours very truly

Allison Dalton
Now Past-President of NSRTA

● Dear Clair:

The annual meeting of the Superannuated Teachers of Sask. was held on Friday, May 25/90.

At that meeting approval was given for STS to enter into discussions with the intent of forming a national association of superannuated teachers. Approval in principle as given for the five objectives that were developed last June.

We look forward to being part of such an organization and to sharing in its formations.

Our president for the 1990-1991 year will be Mrs. Helena Pike I will be serving as past-president.

I am sending a similar message to Stirling at CTF. I certainly hope that we will be successful in this venture.

Sincerely

Bert Gordon,
Past-President
Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan

- Dear Mr. Wark:

Sorry I did not answer any sooner concerning the reaction of my association towards a Canadian association of retired teachers.

At our AGM, in September 1989, our members have approved the five objectives. We were not clear about financing but considered it an interesting project.

I have enjoyed meeting with the other provincial representatives. I believe we could have an interesting collaboration.

Yours truly,

Jacqueline Collette

Présidente

Société des enseignantes et enseignants retraité(e)s francophones; Nouveau Brunswick

- Dear Mr. Wark:

This is a reply to your letter of March 5, 1990. The RTA of Newfoundland and Labrador will not be holding its biannual general meeting until October 1990. However, the executive discussed the five objectives and considered them to be very appropriate and sufficiently comprehensive as objectives.

At a recent meeting of our executive, which consists of the President, Past President, Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, one representative from each of the three divisions, and one member at large, the idea of a national association of retired teachers was discussed. It was generally agreed that, "Our association could not financially support a national association of retired teachers but that since all provinces have retired teachers' associations, if and when it is necessary we can all pull together through the CTF to make our voices heard." It was thought that the formation of a national organization with centrally located facilities and the necessary staff to successfully achieve the five objectives would be a costly operation.

At present our three divisions consider the retired teachers in each area to be members of the division for that area. There is only a voluntary fee of \$3.00

per person per year charged in the Western division and \$5.00 per year in the Central division. Each division gets a small operating grant from the N.T.A. paid through the RTA executive.

At present all funds needed to operate at the executive level of the RTA are provided by the NTA.

If there is a meeting to form a national association of retired teachers while I am President of our RTA I plan to attend. (At my own expense if necessary.)

I would suggest that prior to the meeting considerable research be done with respect to the nature of the organization, the personnel, the facilities required, the responsibilities of each member association and how the cost is to be distributed.

Thorough advance planning will be the key to a successful meeting.

Keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Leslie Coombs
President of the RTA of Newfoundland and Labrador

- Dear Mr. Wark:

Your letter of March 5, received March 12.

At our AGM on March 14 the following motion was passed.

"This meeting approves the objectives of the proposed national association of retired teachers. The motion does not commit the P.A.P.R.T. to join the national group at this stage. Further information will be required before a decision can be taken."

There are tremendous differences among our provincial associations - some are union-like and supply health plans and travel services while others provide information and opportunities for social interaction.

It is unlikely that the P.A.P.R.T. would commit itself to a national organization without a complete knowledge of the costs involved.

I send my best wishes for success in your endeavours.

J.D. McOuat
Past President
Provincial Association of Protestant Retired Teachers

● Cher Monsieur,

Le 5 mars dernier, vous écriviez a madame Monique Asselin-Gobeil et a monsieur Lionel Girard afin de leur demander si l'Association des Retraités et Retraitées de l'enseignement du Québec souscrivait aux cinq objectifs mis de l'avant en juin 1989 en vue d'une eventuelle association canadienne de retraités de l'enseignement.

Le Conseil d'administration de l'A.R.E.Q. a étudié ce projet et je veux vous faire part de sa decision.

L'A.R.E.Q. est d'accord sur le principe d'une Association Canadienne comme moyen d'unir ou de coordonner les forces dispersées.

Quant aux cinq objectifs, notre Conseil d'administration les trouve valables et acceptables. Le cinquième "promouvoir l'excellence de l'éducation au Canada" est cependant très large quoique assez naturel pour des retraités de l'enseignement.

Par ailleurs, je dois préciser que l'adhésion de notre Conseil d'administration au principe du projet d'association canadienne ne constitue pas un engagement de s'y affilier.

En effet, toute decision d l'A.R.E.Q. en ce sens devra au préalable se fonder sur une information complete sur les implications financières d'un projet, et notamment de la cotisation eventuelle a payer pour devenir membre.

A cet regard, nous comptons recevoir en temps opportun tous les renseignements requir pour une decision éclairée.

Veillez agréer, cher monsieur Wark, l'expression de mes sentiments meilleurs.

Fernand Toussaint
Président
Association des retraitées et retraités de l'enseignement du Québec

● Dear Colleague:

The Retired Teachers' Association of Manitoba endorses wholeheartedly the concept of a national association of retired teachers as well as the five objectives listed.

We are sorry that our reply has been delayed for so long.

Yours fraternally,

John Kastrukoff
President
Retired Teachers' Association of Manitoba

● Dear Clair:

I have received your letter which I will bring to the Executive Committee when we meet next.

It is enlightening to see such an interest shown in this unique organization. We are off to a good start, and I feel quite confident that more and more retirees will find it convenient and rewarding to join with us.

During my experience with retired teachers over the past even years, I must say that I have never met such dedicated people. I am looking forward to the June meeting in Ottawa.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Saad
Provincial President
Superannuated Teachers of Ontario

In preparation for the meeting in Ottawa on June 15, 1991, I sent the provincial retired teachers' associations the following tentative agenda:

1. The name of the national association.
2. The structure of the national association.
3. The incorporation of the national association.
4. The financing of the national association.

Insofar as the structure of the national organization was concerned, I suggested that:

1. There be flexibility of organization.
2. There be simplicity of organization.
3. There be cohesion and unity of organization.
4. There be use made of all available resources of provincial retired teachers' associations, of active teachers' associations and of the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

CHAPTER 4

FOUNDING June 15, 1991

The founding meeting was held at the CTF office in Ottawa on June 15, 1991 with the following representatives present:

M.S. Wark, British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association;

Mac Hone, Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan;

Valdine Johnson, Retired Teachers' Association of Manitoba;

Lyle Norman
Mary Saad, Superannuated Teachers of Ontario;

Rosamund Edwards
William A. Jones, Superannuated Teachers of Ontario;

Léo Côté, Association des retraitées et retraités de l'enseignement du Québec;

Ronald Frauley, Provincial Association of Catholic Retired Teachers (Quebec);

Bill Munro, Provincial Association of Protestant Retired Teachers (Quebec);

J. Allison Dalton, Retired Teachers' Association of Nova Scotia;

Winnifred Cutcliffe, Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association;

Stirling McDowell, Canadian Teachers' Federation.

I chaired the meeting and Stirling McDowell acted as recorder. The proceedings began with each representative providing information about his or her provincial association.

The tone of the meeting was very positive, and our deliberations, governed by the importance of providing an association of associations to promote communication between and among the various associations and to do this as simply, effectively and economically as possible, resulted in consensus on the following points:

1. A new Canada wide organization will be established, to be known as The Canadian Association of Retired Teachers.
2. The objectives of the organization will be the five that were developed at the meeting held on June 17, 1989.
3. The provincial associations of retired teachers will be eligible for membership in the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers; individual retirees will be members only through membership in their provincial associations.
4. The board of directors will consist of one representative from each provincial Member organization.
5. The Board of Directors will select from among its members a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary. These offices will be filled each time a national meeting is held and the incumbents will hold office until the next national meeting.
6. The annual membership fee payable to the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers by a provincial association of retired teachers will be twenty-five cents per member of the provincial association, with a minimum of \$50.00 and a maximum of \$300.00.
7. The persons selected to hold office from June 1991 until the next national meeting are:

M.S. (Clair) Wark, British Columbia, President;

Léo Côté, Québec, Vice-President;

Mac Hone, Saskatchewan, Secretary.

These officers will be responsible for seeing that information from this meeting is distributed to all potential Member organizations to carry out the affairs of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers during 1991-1992, and to plan a national meeting to be held in Ottawa on June 12-13, 1992.

8. The Canadian Teachers' Federation has agreed to provide the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers with some printing, accounting and secretarial services as well as facilities for arranging and holding meetings.

As a follow-up to the establishment of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers, on July 10, 1991, I sent all active teachers' associations in Canada the following form letter:

Dear.....

This is to advise you that on June 15, 1991, a national organization of retired teachers, to be known as the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers, was formed. The meeting was held at the Canadian Teachers' Federation and was attended by delegates from seven provinces representing over fifty thousand retired teachers.

The objectives of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers are:

1. To facilitate and promote liaison and mutual assistance between and among Member organizations;
2. To promote the interests of its Member organizations;
3. To develop strategies for joint action on matters of common concern to Member organizations;
4. To cooperate with other seniors' organizations on matters of common concern;
5. To promote excellence in education in Canada.

On behalf of all provincial associations of retired teachers, I wish to thank the active teachers' associations and the Canadian Teachers' Federation for their encouragement and support in bringing about the formation of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers.

I am sure that the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers, in its capacity as a national voice, will support the concerns and promote the aspirations on retired teachers in Canada.

Sincerely yours,

M.S. Wark
President

On August 28, 1991, I received, with the following letter, a cheque for \$500.00 from the BCTF:

Dear Mr. Wark:

I am pleased, on behalf of the B.C. Teachers' Federation, to make this contribution to the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers.

Congratulations on your efforts to ensure that retired teachers across Canada have an effective voice.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Novakowski,
President

On January 23, 1992, I wrote to Mr. Alan McDonald, President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, thanking the CTF for its financial support in the amount of \$2000.00

Dear Mr. McDonald:

I was delighted to receive confirmation of the contribution of \$2000.00 from the Canadian Teachers' Federation to the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers. Financial support from active teachers' associations is deeply appreciated. Please convey my thanks to the members of your board for their support in establishing a national association of retired teachers in Canada.

Sincerely yours

M.S. Wark
President

With this show of support from both active and retired teachers the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers was now in a position to work towards the realization of its stated objectives.

Social Evening—June 12, 1992 at the Venture Inn



Picture was taken by Mac Hone

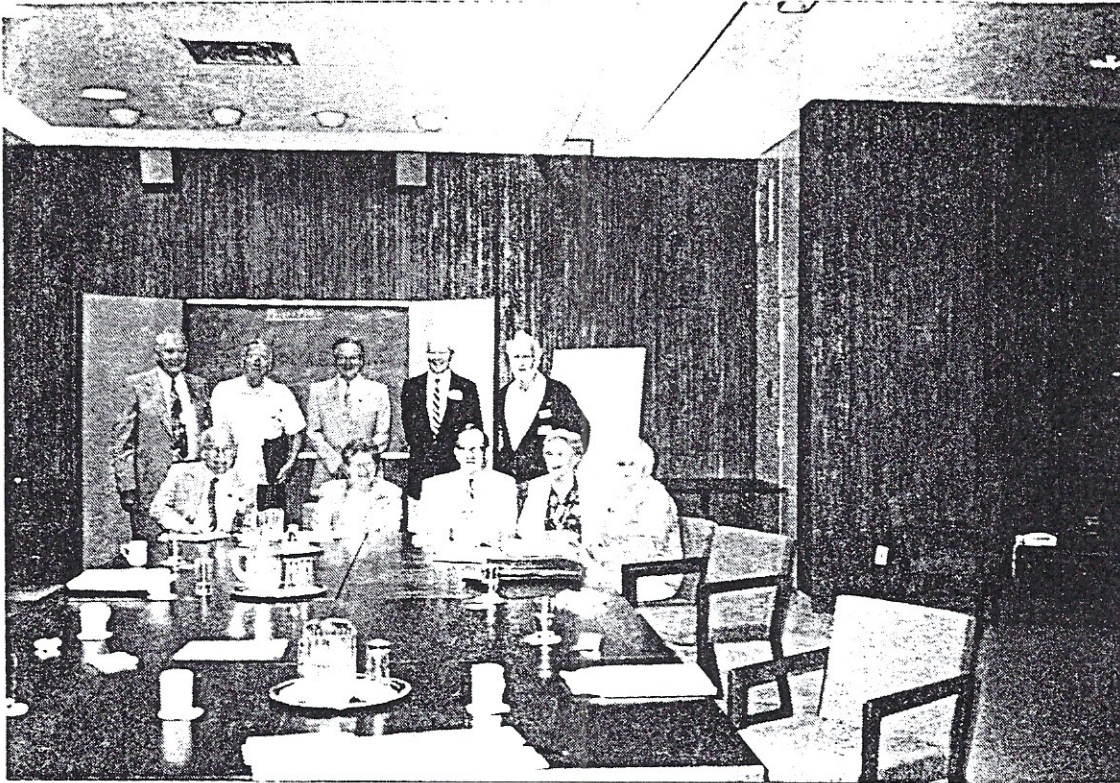
Note: Some of these people were spouses.

Mary Saad, who was absent when the picture of the delegates was taken the next day, is the lady standing behind Clair Wark on his right. She is wearing a blue? or light green? blouse.



Picture was taken by Mac Hone

First Working Meeting of C.A.R.T.—June 13, 1992



Picture taken by Bill Jones

(1) Back Row (L-R)

John Chalaturnyk, Bill Munro, Clair Wark, Ron Frauley, Mac Hone

(2) Front Row (L-R)

Leo Côté, Gisele Berube, Stirling McDowell, Winnifred Cutcliffe, Dorothy Lawrence
(absent Mary Saad)



Picture taken by Clair Wark

(1) Back Row (L-R)

John Chalaturnyk, Bill Munro, Mac Hone, Ron Frauley, Bill Jones

(2) Front Row (L-R)

Leo Côté, Gisele Berube, Stirling McDowell, Winnifred Cutcliffe, Dorothy Lawrence

CHAPTER 5

EVOLUTION June 13, 1992 -

The first working meeting of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers was held in Ottawa on June 13, 1992. I chaired the meeting as President, and Stirling McDowell acted as recording secretary.

The meeting was attended by the following persons, representing retired teachers in seven of the provinces of Canada:

M.S. Wark, British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association;

Mac Hone, Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan;

John Chalaturnyk, Retired Teachers' Association of Manitoba;

Mary Saad, Superannuated Teachers of Ontario;

William A. Jones, Superannuated Teachers of Ontario;

Léo Côté, Association des retraitées et retraités de l'enseignement du Québec;

Gisèle Bérubé, Association des retraitées et retraités de l'enseignement du Québec;

Ronald Frauley, Provincial Association of Catholic Retired Teachers (Quebec);

Bill Munro, Provincial Association of Protestant Retired Teachers (Quebec);

Dorothy Lawrence, Retired Teachers' Association of Nova Scotia;

Winnifred Cutcliffe, Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association;

Stirling McDowell, Canadian Teachers' Federation.

Regrets had been sent by New Brunswick and Newfoundland representatives at their being unable to attend.

I opened the meeting with the good news that Stirling McDowell had offered to serve the national body voluntarily as a director when he retired as Secretary General as the CTF in January 1993. This news was enthusiastically received.

The delegates then provided reports on the current activities of their respective provincial retired teachers' associations, as noted in the following summary:

PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS OF RETIRED TEACHERS
Summary of Services and Benefits
June 1992

Services Provided

Province	By the Retired Teachers' Association	By the Provincial Teachers' Association
BRITISH COLUMBIA		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5,000 members ● 26 branches ● Fee: \$22.00 / year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provincial office ● Representation on Pension Committee ● Extended Health Benefit Plan ● Provide four bulletins per year ● Socialization opportunities ● Pre-retirement seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rent-free office space ● Free telephone, utilities & maintenance ● Grant of \$12,775 per year (covers cost of June Bulletin) & photocopying
SASKATCHEWAN		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3,001 members ● Fee: \$9.00/ year plus chapter fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Five newsletters ● Information re pre-retirement through membership in CAPP through delegate ● TV tapes for chapter use on retirement subjects ● Cooperate with STF on pre-retirement seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Office in STF building and use of building for meetings and conferences ● Source of information on matters of concern; Executive Assistants are available as resources at conferences

Province

By the Retired Teachers'
Association

By the Provincial Teachers'
Association

SASKATCHEWAN
(Cont'd)

- Two day annual meeting and conferences on subjects of concern to members, with per diem for delegates and some travel assistance
- Life members recognized at conference banquet
- On going work on archives and history of STS, chapters and members
- Executive members available for chapter meetings
- Grants of five regular provincial recreational activities, others available on an ad hoc basis
- Vigilance re benefits and advocacy when needed
- Cooperation with STF on matters of common interest and sit on provincial organizations (like Senior Mechanism)
- The printing shop provides printing and mailing services at attractive rates
- The STF Bulletin carries a regular column on STS - The STF Bulletin is available to any retiree who requests it
- STS has four STF Councillors who are voting members of Council, who can take part in debate and receive all data sen to councillors
- STS, with the assistance of STF, has established a data base listing all superannuates

MANITOBA

- 1,030 members
- Newsletter - three times yearly.
- Survey done for interest in improved Health - Travel Health and Dental Coverage in progress.
- Work in progress re retirement planning (pre- and post-).
- Financial planning information.
- Executive & Standing Committee meetings held at McMaster House
- Advisory service of staff officer
- Secretarial services
- Start-up money (1989) of \$6,000
- Printing etc. at cost

Province

By the Retired Teachers'
Association

By the Provincial Teachers'
Association

ONTARIO

- 25,358 Regular members
- 2,122 Associate members
- Regular Fee: \$1.25 per \$1,000 of gross pension
- Assoc. Fee: \$5.00 per year and \$25.00 per year for two types of associate membership
- Monitors pension legislation
- Offers health insurance plans
- Offers life, accidental death and dismemberment, hospital money, home and automobile insurance plans
- Offers a travel program
- Provides temporary financial help
- Issues five newsletters per year
- Provides financial support to assist its 42 districts in providing programs to local district members
- A cooperative arrangement exists between STO and the Ontario Teachers' Federation and its Affiliates
- STO has representation on the OTF Pension Committee, which negotiates with the provincial government re changes to the Ontario Teachers' Pension Act
- STO assists at OTF workshops for prospective retirees

QUEBEC - CEQ

- 13,000 members
- Fee: \$63.00 / year
- Representation on the Administration Committee
- Accident, health, life insurance plan
- Home and car insurance
- Service and support in 10 regions and 88 districts
- Regional sessions and annual convention
- Technical and professional support

QUEBEC - PACRT

- 300 members
- Fee: \$15.00 / year
- Newsletter to members
- Cooperation between PACT and PACRT

Province

By the Retired Teachers' Association

By the Provincial Teachers' Association

QUEBEC - PAPRT

- 1,200 members
- \$60.00 Lifetime (till 1990 was also \$10 per year, at member's option)
- Operates residence for autonomous members
- Issues three newsletters annually
- Holds Spring garden party on lakeside lawn of Robinson Residence, with chartered buses from Montreal
- Holds Fall reception for new retirees
- Provides limited legal counsel
- Through goodwill committee, sends greetings to shut-ins, 90+
- Expert counselling re pensions
- Publicity in PAPT "Sentinel"
- Continuation of Service Santé Québec and other insurance
- PAPT Credit Union
- Assistance in locating lost members

NOVA SCOTIA

- 2,300 members
- Fee: \$5.00 / year
- Seminars on:
 - Finance
 - Stress
 - Pre-retirement
- Dinner and annual meeting
- Travel
- Addresses of other members
- Meetings of branches
- Free membership to all first year retirees
- Some financial assistance (\$,400)
- Liaison between NSTU and RTA of NS
- Basic grant of \$1.00 per member
- Secretarial and mailing services
- Handbook every two years
- Liaison person with NSTU staff
- One seat on NSTU Council (with right to speak but not vote)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- 200 Members
- \$3.00 / year
- We all meet twice each year for dinner, entertainment, and a social get-together
- Each of our three counties have representative on our executive
- Executive meets monthly as required
- \$1,000 each year and the use of the Teachers' Federation house for executive meetings

Province	By the Retired Teachers' Association	By the Provincial Teachers' Association
NEWFOUNDLAND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1,600+ members ● Eastern \$3.00 / year ● Central \$5.00 ● Western \$3.00 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Newsletters ● Handbook for retirees ● Visitations to shut-ins and hospitals ● Lobbying for indexing, with help from the NTA ● Opportunities for socializing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual operational grant ● Print of Newsletters, et. ● Use of meeting rooms ● Use of NA Bulletin for notices of meetings and printing of articles ● Distribution of literature

On the basis of these reports the delegates noted that the meeting represented 50,000 retired teachers who were members of provincial associations. On the basis of that number alone, CART is an influential organization. If all retired teachers joined their respective provincial association, CART could be an even more significant force in promoting the needs and aspirations of the retired teachers of Canada.

The agenda for the meeting prompted considerable discussion with the participants agreeing on the following points:

1. It would be useful to have each provincial retired teachers' association send a copy of its newsletter and other publications to each of the other Member organizations of the CART.
2. Consideration should be give to establishing a CART newsletter in 1993.
3. CART Policy - A preliminary draft of a policy statement should be prepared. This task was assigned to Bill Jones and Stirling McDowell.
4. Constitution and Bylaws - The constitutional principles upon which CART has operated thus far should be reviewed and perhaps expanded. This task was assigned to Mac Hone, Clair Wark and Stirling McDowell.
5. One Voice - This seniors' network is well established; we should examine what contact and liaison CART might establish with it.
6. CART Objectives - The five objectives proposed in 1989 were reviewed. The fifth objective ("To promote excellence in education in Canada.") was examined

with a view to replacing "in Canada" with the words "nationally and internationally." However, it was decided to make no change in the original wording at this time.

With regard to CART's financial status, Stirling McDowell submitted the following report:

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
July 1991 - June 1992

	Receipts	Amount	
Dec 6, 1991	Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association	50.00	
	British Columbia Teachers' Federation	500.00	
	Provincial Association of Catholic Retired Teachers (Quebec)	50.00	
	Canadian Teachers' Federation	2,000.00	
	Interest	5.79	2,605.79
Jan 20, 1992	Superannuated Teachers of Ontario	300.00	
	Association des retraitées et retraités de l'enseignement du Québec	300.00	3,205.79
Jan 31, 1992	British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association	300.00	
	Interest	6.93	3,512.72
Feb 28, 1992	Interest	6.96	3,519.68
Mar 31, 1992	Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan	300.00	
	Interest	8.58	3,828.26
Apr 30, 1992	Interest	8.52	3,836.78
May 30, 1992	Interest	7.86	3,844.64
June 8, 1992	Retired Teachers Association of Nova Scotia	300.00	
	Provincial Association of Protestant Retired Teachers (Quebec)	300.00	4,444.64
	Balance at June 12, 1992		\$4,444.64

Dr. McDowell noted in his report that the Canadian Teachers' Federation had contributed a variety of services to CART, including typing, printing, postage, translation, telephone, fax, and bookkeeping.

It was agreed that CART would cover my expenses, as Past-President, in attending the 1993 meeting, and that expenses incurred by Mac Hone and Stirling McDowell in carrying out the work of CART during 1992-1993 should be paid for from CART funds.

Insofar as officers of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers are concerned, it was agreed that they should consist of a President and two Vice-Presidents (rather than one Vice-President and one Recording Secretary), and that the Past President should serve for one year following his or her presidency.

On that basis the following officers were selected for 1992-1993:

President:	Mac Hone, Saskatchewan
Vice-Presidents:	Bill Jones, Ontario
	Dorothy Lawrence, Nova Scotia
Past-President & Historian:	Clair Wark, British Columbia.

CONCLUSION

How successfully the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers will develop as a national and international voice in expressing the needs and aspirations of Canadian retired teachers will depend on how well it carries out its stated objectives. These objectives are a combination of practicality and idealism - practicality in terms of service and benefits to its Members, and idealism in terms of outreach nationally and internationally in promoting and supporting the cause of education.