

East Coast Retired Teachers' Organization

We met on January 16 by Zoom and will meet again on April 9, 2024, by Zoom.

After a synopsis of the Executive Meeting of Jan 13 and 15, 2024 Bill Berryman gave a more in-depth analysis and lead a discussion on how the local associations interpret the changes in light of their own associations.

Our member organizations expressed some concerns about the changes and how our reduced numbers may impact our ability to influence decisions that affect retired teachers and seniors in general. It is a concern that such a change may result in a weakening of ACER-CART as an identity.

Conversely there was unanimous appreciation that the Executive is committed to the continuation of ACER/CART. All members pledged to support the Executives as changes are enacted. It is felt that as changes are made we need to deliberately shape the organization to meet the needs of the remaining members. The organization needs to be conscientious of how we structure ACER/CART.

Next we discussed the role of ACER/CART as we move forward.

All present were adamant that the goals and mission of ACER/CART must remain the same as they have been. There was a comment that Ontario had changed the dynamics of the organization because their membership was not exclusive to Retired Teachers.

In order to make changes to the governance model and the corporate structure of ACER/CART a special AGM on Thursday, June 6, 2024, will be convened. If accepted the new structure will come into effect at the AGM on June 7, 2024.

In the meantime, ACER/CART will continue to collaborate with other National Organizations such as the National Seniors Federation, Canadian Association of Retired Persons, Organization of Federal Retirees and Vibrant Voices to name a few. ACER/CART will continue to promote itself as the National voice for retired teachers.

Each of the East Coast Organizations gave a brief update on their activities. There is a commonality across each group in that they are actively trying to find ways to increase member engagement.

Each organization also outlined its main concerns. Again all groups see membership recruitment as an issue. This in turn affects the financial stability of the RTO's.

The Health Services Committee asked the represented RTO's to try to determine if their province has a written document on Ageing in Place and if so to share it or a little information about it at our next meeting.

Each group was asked to complete one act of advocacy on behalf of seniors. This might include emailing your MP, sign an existing petition, call your MP's Constituency Office, publishing an article in your newsletter or posting something on your website.

Sharon Penney (Chair)