



RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

MEMBER REPORT 2024

The RTANL is currently composed of eight Divisions and three Regionals boasting a membership of approximately 5325.

Our first order of business after AGM 2023 was to revive the RTANL/ NLTA Liaison Committee. The RTANL is represented on this committee by the President, and Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The NLTA is represented by the President, the Executive Director, the staff person assigned to work directly with the RTANL and the NLTA Communications Officer. This committee is scheduled to meet formally once a year. Our first meeting was productive, it ensured that we retained a presence with the NLTA upon the retirement of our long time contact, Michelle LeMarche. It also provided us with a mechanism to distribute information about the RTANL and its programs directly to teachers considering retirement. We were permitted to add printed materials to the existing pre retirement seminar packages. We availed of this opportunity to offer our voice to issues the NLTA is facing. We as retired persons are in a unique position, we are aware of the educational systems and processes, yet we can speak openly without fear of repercussions.

We, at the invitation of the President of the NLTA, attended all the Pre-Retirement Seminars. We took this time to explain the various aspects of our organization and invited new retirees to join us. We encouraged prospective retirees to submit the required forms at the same time as they are completing the other documents required for retirement. We hope that this will increase our numbers, if all documentation is completed at the same time it is less likely that we will be missed in the process. This year we shared our meeting time with representatives of the NLPSPA (Newfoundland and Labrador Public Sector Employees Association).

A replacement has not been appointed as the Retired Teachers' Representative on the Group Insurance Managers Committee. The replacement is scheduled to receive formal training in the fall. We wish them well as they take over this challenging role.

We have completed our two year term as the Education Alumni representative on the Legacy of Leadership Awards for the Faculty of Education at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. We have been involved in both the development of the criterion for the awards and in the selection process.

Our executive has met four times, one of these meetings included the Presidents of our local Divisions. We usually meet with our Division Presidents every two years. The half day meeting featured a fully packed agenda. We felt that it was time to speak with our Divisions as new Regionals had been formed. Some of the topics we prioritized for that meeting were:

- 1) 1). Sharing of Best Practices of the Division
- 2) 2). Using funds to supplement Division events
- 3) 3). Regionals
- 4) 4). Division Election of Officers / Date/ Process

- 5) 5). Recruitment of new Provincial Executive Members
- 6) 6). Constitution and By Laws (as a result of motions from last BGM)
- 7) 7). Submitting financial statements
- 8) 8). Info about attending BGM.
- 9) 9). When Divisional President is Provincial Executive Member
- 10) 10). Collecting and sharing email
- 11) Handbook update
- 12) 12). Committees that are Division based-Nominating Committee role, Biennial Awards Committee
- 13) 13). Biennial Awards -Application
- 14) 14). Divisions own Awards

Two of our Divisions initiated a new hybrid meeting scheme. Con-Tri and Tri -Bays Divisions met in Clarendville to discuss areas of mutual concern. Mona Rose, Chair, of the Retired Teachers Foundation for Children Charities (RTF) spoke of the Foundation and the good works it fosters. Our president spoke to the gathering about the positions on the executive, the elections at BGM 2024, the awards offered through the association, and the various committees of the RTANL .The meeting featured a presentation on our Health Plan by Michael Goodridge, of Johnsons Insurance. Michael provided a lot of information in a concise manner. He generated a lot of interest in the Optional Life option in our policy and in the Medoc Travel Insurance option.

We have fielded complaints from our members that people who had Education Degrees but had retired from careers in other disciplines were being hired as new substitutes, therefore being hired before retired teachers. We found that for a myriad of reasons this practice was totally legitimate and would continue.

On a more somber note, we found ourselves involved in a controversy when our Pension Plan administrators inadvertently listed one of our members as deceased. It took a bit of effort to rectify the situation. Since this occurrence additional checks and balances have been suggested to ensure that there is no reoccurrence of such an incident.

At our upcoming BGM from October 2-4, 2024 we will be bring forth a resolution to further define and clarify who is entitled to an Associate membership and when such a membership would become an option.

We expect a degree of change at our next BGM. Two of our executive members have indicated they will not be returning. Two are still indecisive, and one is unable to run for an executive position, because they have reached their maximum term.

It is always nice to celebrate our own members. Albert Legge, our Past President, and a past member of the Health Committee, has received the honour of being presented with a Seniors of Distinction Award. We are very proud of his accomplishment and are certain of him being more than deserving of this recognition. Congratulations Albert!

Sharon Penney, RTANL