



NEW BRUNSWICK SOCIETY OF RETIRED TEACHERS

MEMBER REPORT to the 2024 ACER-CART AGM By: Bob Fitzpatrick, President

1. Major Concerns

- a. **Federal** – We remain very concerned about the state of health care for seniors and that there has been little real change to the plight of patients in extended care facilities. We continue to see seniors aging in home but without proper resources or forced to enter the health care system without proper facilities and care available.
- b. **Provincial** –
 - i. Health care for seniors and the use of hospitals due to a shortage of placements in long term care homes. Lack of resources for aging in place.

2. NBSRT Priorities 2024-25 (To be established by new Executive but tentatively)

- a. Increase membership.
- b. Support teachers
- c. Work with our Coalition for Seniors and Nursing Home Residents' Rights.
- d. Support ACER-CART priorities.
- e. Draw more members to regular use of our website.

3. Major Activities:

- a. **Election** – Although all of our Executive positions were filled by acclamation, it should be noted that we had considerably more interest than in the past with many people declaring their willingness to serve but not to take part in a runoff or election.
- b. **Meetings** - Return to the possibility of in-person meetings but many of our committees choose to stay with the Zoom format.
- c. **Membership Recruitment** – Our recruitment strategy stays pretty much the same but we are dropping the first year dues rebate. Activities include:
 - i. Letters to retirees.
 - ii. TV and newspaper ads supporting teachers.
 - iii. Christmas cards to all current-year retirees.
 - iv. NBSRT Flyer to piggyback on Pension Trustees Fall Newsletter to invite new members.
 - v. Participate in NBTA Retired Teachers' Luncheon to honor retiring teachers and to recruit.
 - vi. Recruitment posters for schools.

- vii. Attendance at Branch and local activities.
- d. **Cooperation with ACER-CART, ECRTTO and SERFNB.**
- e. **Monitoring, influencing and reporting** on Group Insurance and Pension Activities.
- f. **Redesign Website.**
- g. **Enhanced Communication** with members through all social media platforms and Reflections Magazine as well as Executive Committee Highlights published monthly on our website.

4. Other

- a. **Local Members** - Since we do not have any form of automatic enrollment we must spend a lot of time and effort on recruitment activities. We have finally seen some good results this year but it is a continuous struggle. In addition to all of our strategies to recruit new retirees, we have members in our locals (all volunteer of course) going back through many years of retiring teacher lists and comparing them to our member lists and then reaching out to non-members to invite them to join. Just one example of our dedicated members at the local level.
- b. **Super Local Initiatives** – Some of our Branches instituted programs to reach out to our more elderly and/or isolated members during Covid19. I am so proud to tell you that these initiatives appear to becoming permanent. One Branch has a telephone tree set up to call older members monthly and help them out with small chores or transportation. Another Branch visited lonely or isolated members around Christmas and delivered small gifts. But more importantly the members stayed to chat, did an informal wellness check, and in many cases struck up a relationship.