

**Canadian Association of
Retired Teachers**

**Minutes of the 2023
Annual General Meeting**



Delta Hotel Ottawa

**Thursday, June 1, 2023 – 1:00 pm
Friday, June 2, 2023 – 9:00 am**

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NOTE: These minutes reflect the business of the meeting only. They do not reflect what was said, except in special circumstances, or where required to support motions.



Thursday, June 1, 2023

1. Welcome/Call to Order

President Martin Higgs called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

- a) Land Acknowledgement
- b) Welcomed delegates and observers to the 32nd Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- c) Members introduced.
- d) Regrets—Alyson Hillier (RTO-NSTU), Linda LeBlanc (SERFNB), Luc Handfield (SERFNB), John Green (QART).
- e) Shared Covid-19 health protocols for today's meeting.
- f) A reminder that only the executive and directors can move and second a motion.
- g) Executive resolution to suspend Bylaws and Constitution - [AGM23-T1-001](#)

Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede

THAT the following articles of the Bylaws, and the Constitution be suspended for the 2023 AGM:

- a. **Bylaws**
 - i. **6.05... by adding the first Thursday**
- b. **Constitution**
 - i. **7.4... by adding the first Thursday**

Approved as presented—CARRIED

2. Agenda

- a) Approval of Agenda - [AGM23-T2-001](#)

Moved by Steve Bailey seconded by Ambrose White

Added conflict of interest—Bill Berryman shared that he has a conflict of interest as he is putting his name forward during today's elections.

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented—CARRIED

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 2022 AGM

- a) Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes - [AGM23-T3-001](#)

Moved by Bob Fitzpatrick, seconded by Helen Sukovieff

THAT the minutes of the 2022 ACER-CART AGM held June 3, 2022, be approved as presented—CARRIED

4. Business Arising from Minutes

- a) Disposition of the 2022 AGM Resolutions—[AGM23-T4-001](#)

M-2 2022—BCRTA - That ACER-CART priorities for 2022-2023 include the following:

- 1. A continuation of the goal of Aging in Place and 2. A Universal Pharmacare Plan—



added to priorities.

M-2 2022–BCRTA - That ACER-CART develop a campaign to push for a universal Pharmacare plan for all Canadians–**Referred to PAC, included in advocacy goals.**

M-4 2022–RTO-NSTU - That beginning at the Annual General Meeting of ACER-CART in June 2024, the election of members to the Executive, be set at a 2-year term. At the end of that term, they may re-offer for a second term in the same position. No member can serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position–

Legislation report.

M-5 – RTAM - That the ACER-CART Executive develop a 3-year plan which includes lobbying objectives, member services, and communication strategies. This plan will include appropriate budget allocations and recommend fees to be collected. The plan will be presented for approval to the 2023 Annual General Meeting- **Studied, part of the 2023 AGM discussions.**

M6 - That the executive recommends to Members that they

- a. Familiarize their members with and keep abreast of Power of Attorney Legislation
- b. Determine if their jurisdiction has an independent seniors' advocate/ombudsperson and, if so,
- c. Advocate for the high dose flu vaccine if it is not available in your jurisdiction through Medicare–**Letter sent.**

5. Correspondence

- a) List of correspondence sent/received was shared with participants–[AGM23-T5-001](#) -
- b) Video received from Kamal Khera, Minister of Seniors was shared today and will be forwarded to members for posting to their respective websites.

6. Financial

- a) 2021-22 Year-End Final financial report - [AGM23-T6-001](#)
Roger Régimbal shared that the financial situation is in good standing and provided a copy of the year end financial report–no questions.

Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede

THAT the Year End 2021-22 financial report be received–CARRIED

- b) 2022-23 Year to date financial report - [AGM23-T6-002](#)
Roger Régimbal presented the 2022-23 financial report dated May 12, 2022

Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede

THAT the 2022-2023 Year to Date Financial Report dated May 12, 2023, be received as presented–CARRIED

- c) Presentation of the Budget 2022-23 - [AGM23-T6-003](#)
Roger Régimbal presented the 2023-24 Budget and provided a copy of the report for review–approval of the budget will take place under **item 14**



- Gayle Manley sought clarification related to yearly priorities.
- Bob Fitzpatrick suggested that consideration be making funding available in the future to support strategic plan initiatives.
- Martha Foster shared that rather than a separate line for “strategic plan,” it should be part of everything that we are doing.
- Confirmation related to the ACER-CART insurance coverage will be reviewed and information will be shared with the group under separate cover.

d) Membership Statistics - [AGM23-T6-004](#)

Roger Régimbal presented 2022-23 data. We have 167,852 members across the Country, and this represents an increase of 3,968 members.

7. Executive Reports

a) President - [AGM23-T7-001](#)

Martin Higgs presented his report. A special thank you to all for working together as a team for the betterment of ACER-CART. Appreciation was extended to Roger Régimbal, Executive Director for his diligence, experience, knowledge, and respectful advice.

b) Executive Director

Roger Régimbal presented his report. He thanked members and executive for their diligence and friendship.

Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede

That the executive reports be received. CARRIED

Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede

That the actions of the ACER-CAERT Executive since the 2022 aGM be approved. CARRIED

8. Member Resolutions - [AGM23-T9-001](#)

M1-2023-BCRTA

Moved by Steve Bailey, seconded by Phyllis Horne

That ACER-CART priorities for 2023-24 continue to include the following:

- a. A continuation of the goal of establishing support mechanisms for seniors to “age in place” for as long as possible
- b. Advocacy for public control of and the establishment of national standards for care homes
- c. A Universal Pharmacare Plan



– **CARRIED**

M2-2023-BCRTA

Moved by Steve Bailey seconded by Helen Sukovieff

That ACER-CART continue to support the territorial integrity of its members through membership recruitment directed solely to their immediate constituency and the maintenance of Member branches in other provincial/territorial constituencies where there is a need.

Discussion:

- a. Gayle Manley, RTOERO suggested that this motion is not necessary at this time
- b. Tim Anderson, BCRTA supported the motion and referred to protocols and marketing issues that may exist where teachers across the country are invited to join other associations in another province. Shared concern that ACER-CART cannot be viewed as supporting any individual province on matters like this motion.
- c. Martha Foster, RTOERO spoke against the motion and explained that Ontario has no intention of recruiting members from other provinces. Communication is forthcoming to clarify further.
- d. Gabriel Mercier RTAM spoke in support of the motion.
- e. Sharon Penney, RTANL sought clarification related to the ability of other provinces reaching out to members outside of their respective provinces.
- f. Katherine Snow, QPARSE shared her concerns and spoke against the motion.
- g. Bob Fitzpatrick, NBSRT requested that the protocols dated 2018 and June 2021 be reviewed for clarification.
- h. Steve Bailey, BCRTA is seeking to reaffirm the protocols.

**Motion to table the motion moved by Gerry Tiede and seconded by Bill Berryman –
CARRIED**

Motion to reaffirm protocol 8 moved by Bob Fitzpatrick and seconded by Steve Bailey–CARRIED****

M3-2023-BCRTA

Moved by Steve Bailey seconded by Helen Sukovieff

That ACER-CART monitor any attempts to increase the eligibility age for pension programmes such as OAS and CPP that might impact our members and Canadian seniors in general and advocate as necessary–**CARRIED**

9. **Elections - [AGM23-T11-006](#) (timed item–10:45)**



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| a) President: | Martin Higgs, RTOERO - AGM23-T8-001 |
| b) Vice-president: | Bill Berryman, RTO-NSTU - AGM23-T8-002 |
| c) Regional Representative East: | Sharon Penney, RTANL- AGM23-T8-003 |
| d) Regional Representative Ontario: | Martha Foster, RTOERO - AGM23-T8-004 |
| e) Regional representative West: | Marilyn Bossert, ARTA - AGM23-T8-005 |

Moved by Gerry Tiede, seconded by Margaret Urquhart

THAT the slate of candidates be approved for the 2023-24 Executive Committee.

CARRIED

10. Member Reports

- a) **British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA)** - [AGM23-T10-001](#)
 - Steve Bailey, Tim Anderson, and Grace Wilson presented their report.
 - Bill Berryman sought clarification on what method was used to introduce New Mode to members and Tim Anderson shared that it was sent to members via email, through the newsletter and during meetings.
 - On the BCRTA website, a link is available for the Pharmacare website where interested parties can register and obtain information as well as having the ability to send a template letter to political representatives in support of a Pharmacare plan.
- b) **Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA)** - [AGM23-T10-002](#)
 - Lorna Macilroy and Deb Gerow presented their report.
 - A select area in Alberta has opened a pharmacy for ARTA members and are awaiting permission to open additional locations in the province.
 - In addition to walk-ins, prescriptions can be delivered to members either by a driver or by mail.
 - All proceeds from the pharmacy will be returned directly to the benefits plan.
- c) **Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan (STS)** - [AGM23-T10-003](#)
 - Helen Sukovieff presented her report.
- d) **Retired Teachers Association of Manitoba (RTAM)** - [AGM23-T10-004](#)
 - Gabriel Mercier and Linda Blair presented their report.
- e) **RTOERO** - [AGM23-T10-005](#)
 - Martha Foster presented her report and highlighted the importance of the Strategic Plan which drives many of the decisions being made.
- f) **Québec Provincial Association of Retired School Educators/Association provinciale du personnel d'enseignement retraité du Québec (QPARSE/APPERQ)** – [AGM23-T10-06](#)
 - Katherine Snow presented her report.
- g) **Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association (PEIRTA)** - [AGM23-T10-007](#)



- Phyllis Horne presented her report.
 - Bob Fitzpatrick shared that some insurance companies are still not accepting e-signatures and is looking to anyone who may have been successful in having this done successfully. Tim Anderson, BCRTA and Joseph Lafitte, RTANL shared their experiences.
- h) **The Retired Teachers Organization of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (RTO-NSTU)**–[AGM23-T10-008](#) - Ambrose White presented his report.
 - i) **Société des enseignantes et enseignants retraités francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick (SERFNB)** - No delegates were present but a written report was submitted. T10-009 –
 - j) **New Brunswick Society of Retired Teachers (NBSRT)** - [AGM23-T10-010](#) Bob Fitzpatrick presented his report.
 - k) **Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (RTANL)**–[AGM23-T10-011](#) - Sharon Penney presented her report.
 - l) **Québec Association of Retired Teachers (QART)** - AGM22-T10-012 –no report submitted.

**Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede
 THAT member reports be received–CARRIED**

11. Committee Reports

- a) **Communications Committee** - [AGM23-T11-001](#)
 Marilyn Bossert Chair of Communication committee presented the report and shared pertinent information on the website including the addition of new committee members Robert Primeau (New Brunswick) and Alyson Hillier (Nova Scotia). The report focused mainly on the review of the Website
- b) **Health Services Committee** - [AGM23-T11-002](#)
 Margaret Urquhart presented the report and highlighted that the committee is represented by seven provinces.
 Members were reminded of the Canada Health report card and the responsibility this group must keep abreast of the various by-lateral accords by keeping local politicians accountable.
 - Appendix A - Political Advocacy - [AGM23-T11-002a](#)
 - Appendix B - Suggestions for Committees to consider–[AGM23-T11-002b](#)

**Moved by Margaret Urquhart and seconded by Bill Berryman
 THAT ACER-CART work with Members to plan and initiate a campaign for a national Pharmacare program using New Mode–CARRIED**

- c) **Political Advocacy Committee** - [AGM23-T11-003](#)



Martha Foster Chair of PAC presented the report and extended special thanks to Gerry Tiede for attending meetings and for his contributions. Shared information related to The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education–Money and You Seniors Edition which includes invaluable resources. The link will be posted to the website.

- Aging at home #1 - [AGM23-T11-003a](#)
- Aging at home #2 - [AGM23-T11-003b](#)

d) **Pension and Retirement Income Committee**–[AGM23-T11-004](#)

[Appendix A](#)–Survey of Cost-of-living arrangements- February 2023

[Appendix B](#)–Pension and retirement income committee–February 2023

[Appendix C](#)–Provincial Teacher Pension CPI adjustments 2023

Gerry Tiede Chair of Pension and Retirement Income Committee presented the report.

- Special note regarding Bill C28, the Act progressed through all the legislative processes and received royal assent on April 27, 2023.

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e) **Legislation Committee** - [AGM23-T11-005](#)

Bill Berryman Chair of the Legislation Committee presented the report.

Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede

THAT the Bylaws be amended by substitution and/or revisions as proposed at the AGM–[CARRIED](#)

Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede

THAT Article 6.05 of the Bylaws be amended by the deletion of the words “and following Saturday”–[CARRIED](#)

Legislation Committee–[AGM23-T11-005b](#)

- A motion is necessary to recognize the disbanding of YRTA and their withdrawal from ACER-CART

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Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede

THAT the 2023 AGM acknowledge the disbanding of Yukon Retired Association and accepts request to withdraw their membership from ACER-CART - [CARRIED](#)

f) **Nominations and Election Committee** - [AGM23-T11-006](#)

Gerry Tiede, past President and Chair of the Nominations and Election Committee presented the report.



Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede
THAT the Committee reports be received—**CARRIED**

12 Resolutions

1. Executive Resolutions—[AGM23-T12-002](#)

E1-2023 (11E) - Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede.

a. Bylaws

THAT Bylaw 6.05 be suspended for the 2023 AGM.

6.05 The AGM shall be held on the first Thursday of June and the following Friday—**CARRIED**

b. Constitution

THAT article 7.4 be suspended for the 2023 AGM

7.4 The Annual General Meeting, hereafter called the AGM, shall normally be held in Ottawa on the first Friday in June—**CARRIED**

E2-2023 (12b) - Moved by Bill Berryman seconded by Gerry Tiede

7.4 The Annual General Meeting, hereafter called the AGM, shall normally be held in Ottawa on the first Friday in June.

THAT “as determined by the By-Laws as approved by the Minister of Industry Canada”. be deleted to read:

By-Laws shall mean the standing rules governing the membership of ACER-CART—**CARRIED**

E3-2023 (11E) - Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede.

THAT in Article 7.4, that the first Thursday is added to read:

The Annual General Meeting, hereafter called the AGM, shall normally be held in Ottawa on the first Thursday in June and the following Friday—**CARRIED**

E4-2023 (11E) - Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede.

THAT 11.1.c be deleted and substituted to read:

1. ACER-CART finances all its activities from:
 - a) Fees received from the Members
 - b) Money given by sponsors approved by the Board
 - c) Grants provided by Members
 - d) In-kind donations from Members and partner organizations
 - e) Grants obtained for projects approved by the Board—**CARRIED**

E5-2023 (11E) - Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede.

THAT the wording” by the Board or the AGM” be deleted in section 15.02(b), 15.03(b), 15.04.10 and 15.05. (b)—CARRIED****



**E6-2023 (11E) - Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede.
THAT Numbering and grammatical correction be made when
updating the document—CARRIED**

**E8-2023 (11E) - Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede.
THAT no further action be taken on resolution 2022-M-4—CARRIED**

**E9-2023 (12E) - Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede.
THAT the 2023 AGM acknowledges the disbanding of Yukon Retired
Association. It acknowledges the request to withdraw their
membership from ACER-CART and the appropriate changes will be
made to the constitution and by-laws - CARRIED**

13 Priorities 2022-23—AGM23-T13-001

- Martin Higgs reported that ACER-CART will continue elevating the profile of our National Association in our provincial associations and at all levels of government and beyond.

ACER-CART members will

- a. Advocate for the development and implementation of National Senior's Strategy.
- b. Advocate for the federal government's implementation of a national universal Pharmacare program, including the establishment of a Canada Drug Agency and implementation of a national formulary.
- c. Advocate for a public health care system that prioritizes care in seniors' own homes for as long as possible.
- d. Advocate for public health care to combat the move towards privatization.
- e. Advocate for regulations governing Retirement and Long-Term Care Homes with emphasis on improving patient respect, working conditions, training, and staff wages.
- f. Support members in their efforts to achieve the full cost of living pension adjustments; Complete the strategic plan.

**Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Bob Fitzpatrick
Recommend that the Executive adopt the 2023-24 priorities as presented -
CARRIED**

14 Adoption of the Budget—AGM23-T6-003

**Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede
THAT the Budget 2023-24 be adopted as presented - CARRIED**

15 New Business

- i. Margaret Urquart took the opportunity to thank the East Coast Leadership



past and present who are a dynamic group to work with.

- 16** Closing remarks, Martin Higgs thanked all involved on the Executive and in particular Roger Régimbal who does magic in organizing our meetings.

The message from President-elect Martin Higgs reiterated words that were said yesterday which included success breeds success and the expertise available on the Executive is greatly appreciated and will be utilized to the benefit of this organization.

- 17** Adjournment–meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Moved by Bill Berryman, seconded by Gerry Tiede
THAT the ACER-CART 2023 assembly be adjourned - CARRIED**

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on June 6 and June 7, 2024.



AGM 2022/AGA 2022 LIST OF PARTICIPANTS LISTE DES PARTICIPANTES ET DES PARTICIPANTS – [AGM23-T1-002](#)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF

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Regrets/Désolés

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Linda LeBlanc (SERFNB)

Luc Handfield (SERFNB)

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