



RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

MEMBER REPORT 2025

Colleagues and friends,

Representing the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (RTANL) over the past 2/3 year has been akin to captaining a sturdy vessel through shifting tides—grounded by tradition, yet responsive to changing winds. I am pleased to share highlights of our work and progress since our last AGM.

We had a successful AGM in Gander this past October, where I was elected president and we welcomed two new members to our executive, saw the retirement of our long-serving treasurer, a position we are working hard to fill. We are grateful that the incumbent treasurer has agreed to serve until his replacement is ready to take over. The BGM ran smoothly, delegates were treated to a couple of informative presentations, a guided tour of the historic Gander Airport, some healthy debates and culminated in a VP election runoff with two candidates and an ensuing election of at-large members which saw six candidates running for four positions. That was indeed very encouraging and a sign our Association is healthy.

RTANL remains an active voice on issues that matter to our members—health care accessibility, group insurance, and seniors' well-being. Over the past year, we have focused significant attention on the challenges facing our group insurance program. Our goal has been to minimize the impact these changes will have on retired members by working with the NLTA, the Group Insurance Managers to come up with equitable solutions, to seek clarity, ensure open communication, and advocate for fair options that reflect the needs of older adults on fixed incomes. We continue to monitor developments closely and remain committed to protecting the integrity and affordability of this critical benefit.

In addition to having representation on Acer-Cart Executive, and Communications Committee, we also endorsed and circulated position papers from ACER-CART, especially those addressing national pharmacare, long-term care reform, and topics for candidates on issues relating to the federal election. These national conversations ripple into our local communities, and we believe unified action strengthens our collective influence.

Our divisions across the province have continued to offer in-person events, socials, festive dinners and lunches, as well as offering sessions on various topics of interest to our members. These meetings, social events, and learning sessions have helped knit together our far-flung members like a well-worn patchwork quilt—each square unique yet stitched into a shared

identity. Under the guidance of our Division Liaison chairperson, we saw one of our regionals mature to the point of requesting to become its own Division.

Our provincial newsletter, RTANL Newsletter, remains a central communication tool. We also expanded our digital presence by starting a social media presence on Facebook, adding a member contact self-update form to our website and encouraging more members to use email communication—slow but steady, like convincing a schooner crew to trade oars for sails. In addition, we have been working with the Pensions Corporation and Belair Direct to get regular messages out to all members via their twice-yearly postal mail out. Through these efforts, we have delivered a one pager to all our members providing them with important contact information and links to our FaceBook page and website. We also requested that members ensure that we have their current contact information.

This year saw an increased focus on wellness. Several divisions partnered with local health providers to host seminars on aging well, financial literacy, and mental health. We also commend the immense volunteer contributions of our members, who give their time to everything from food banks to heritage societies. Their service is the ballast that keeps our communities stable.

In conclusion, RTANL remains a vibrant and committed organization, rooted in service and propelled by the energy of its members. We value our relationship with ACER-CART and are proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our national colleagues as we navigate the future together.

Resolutions for the ACER-CART AGM 2025

All motions were made by RTANL President, Joe Lafitte and seconded by RTANL Vice President, raig Hicks.

- 1. be it motioned “that ACER-CART engage with Members of Parliament to advocate for the reinstatement of the position Minister for Seniors”**
- 2. be it motioned “that ACER-CART be charged with using Canadian resources and sources for all business conducted by ACER-CART.”**
- 3. be it motioned “that ACER-CART make an official statement in support of Canadian sovereignty”**

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph LaFitte,
President, Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador