



Report to the ACER-CART AGM June 6th 2025 from the British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association

Present Status:

- 17,706 members.
- 47 local branches throughout the province. These are gathered regionally into 7 zones which meet in person approximately twice a year.
- BCRTA membership fee is presently \$56.00 with each branch adding a local fee determined by the branch which ranges between \$5 and \$12. The provincial fee is increased annually by the CPI percentage which provides for a continuing reliable and stable level of funding. The first year is offered free for new members as an incentive and hopefully a commitment into the future.
- 13 Board Meetings are scheduled for 2024-25, most in conjunction with committee meetings which have been a mix of in-person and virtual.

Major Events

- AGM in September 2024: all Board positions filled. As is usual the AGM is preceded by a Conference Day featuring guest speakers on varied topics. On this occasion we had presentations on Appraising Special Objects, an international digital learning project in conflict zones initiated by a retired BC teacher, and advice from a notary public on wills and power of attorney.
- In April of this year we held a Super Zone at which representatives from all the local branches were brought together by Zoom for a number of short timely topics. Featured were Caroline Malm speaking on the election materials produced by ACER-CART and the additional issues identified by the BCRTA which included Climate Change, Senior Housing, and Tax Fairness for Singles. Al Cornes provided an overview of the pension plan and recent developments. Gerry Tiede gave an update on the BCRTA retiree benefit plans which are to be known as Dogwood.
- As is customary a delegation of BCRTA members attended the part of the BCTF AGM which dealt with pension and related investment matters. A number of motions were on the agenda dealing with divestment from funds in the pension plan that had ties directly or indirectly to fossil fuels, armaments and countries abusing human rights.

Projects

- Preparation of the additional items to the election booklet produced by ACER-CART: sovereignty, climate change, senior housing and tax fairness for singles.
- A major undertaking has been a lengthy negotiation with our Pension Plan Board of Trustees concerning a letter/brochure we wish sent to prospective retirees and those who are not members inviting them to join the BCRTA. The TPP finally agreed on a format and content that did not compromise what they considered to be the integrity of the plan. It is hoped this initiative will provide a significant boost to our membership numbers.
- Following Johnson Insurance becoming Belairdirect, the BCRTA is going to rename our own insurance plans Dogwood. i.e. Johnson Dental becomes Dogwood Dental. Gerry Tiede is spearheading the change and has registered the name Dogwood Retiree Benefit Plans and chosen a new logo.
- A significant effort has been made to expand our presence on social media. We can now be found and followed on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, BlueSky and Youtube. Along with other forms of communication it is a means to extend our reach and relevance.
- Planning is under way for the Conference Day in September when we have our AGM. A number of speakers have agreed to speak on topics that are particularly pertinent to our well-being and future; climate, demographic change and related issues, the state of 'end of life' care, followed by a summary of provincial issues by the BC Seniors Advocate.

Communications

- Our Connections newsletter which is distributed on a regular basis keeps members up to date with recent developments and emerging topics. This is circulated digitally so it's important that we have a member's current email address and permission to send. The latest issue can be found on the BCRTA website.
- Post Script is a quarterly magazine that features articles submitted by members which cover a wide variety of activities and interests. The latest as well as previous issues can be found under 'Publications' on the BCRTA website.

The ACER-CART in-person AGM will be held in Vancouver in 2026. The BCRTA is already in the process of making arrangements and plans for a memorable event. Updates will be provided as further details become available.

Respectfully submitted:

David Denyer,
BCRTA representative to the ACER-CART.