



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

MEMBER REPORT

The Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association is made up of 1066 members. 28 new members joined this year. We hold 8 regular meetings throughout the year and will have our AGM on November 5th, 2025, in Summerside as we rotate locations from Central to Western PEI.

Our current executive for 2025: President is Lise Morin, vice -president is Charlene Cain. Phyllis Horne is past president. A complete list of members has been forwarded to ACER-CART.

At the Charlottetown PEIRTA AGM in November 2024, the attendees appreciated the information and interactive question period on Long Term Care with Trevor Waugh and Keith O'Neill from Health PEI. Dale Weldon from Johnson Insurance informed us about the upcoming merger with Belair. He also compared our current Health Benefits to the Ontario Health plan currently being offered to our members.

The well attended annual golf tournament was held last September and the second successful Curling Bonspiel in March. Wayne Denman, Kimball Blanchard and Marg Stewart put a lot of effort into organizing these events.

Last November, Marg Stewart and Lise morin attended the press conference release of a new report called A Proposal for a Guaranteed Basic Income Benefit in Prince Edward Island. This report presented a basic income model for a fully funded 5-7-year demonstration program in PEI, which would considerably reduce poverty for Islanders while being more cost-effective than previously presented models. Championed by public servants, politicians, and advocates from PEI and across the country, this report was the outcome of more than 2 years of collaboration and will help guide crucial conversations on poverty reduction and income assistance in PEI and across the country. Unfortunately, on September 25th upon voting on second reading, Bill C-223, an Act to develop a national framework for livable basic income was defeated by a large majority. We will attend the symposium organized by the Women's Network , this June on Guaranteed Basic Income Benefit.

On October 28th, Michel Plamondon and Lise Morin attended the Canadian Pension Plan Investment public meeting at The Delta. The meeting provided an update on the Fund's performance (9.1 %), governance, an overview of the approach to investing and an open question period to share thoughts on the risk management approach, the sustainability of CPP and the ethics behind investment and operational costs.

The executives of RTAIPE were invited to attend the Provincial government public consultations to help inform us of the next five-year Senior Action Plan developed in partnership with the Pei Senior secretariat. It will replace the Promoting Wellness, Preserving health action plan. At the public meeting on October 30thth, a full room of vocal seniors shared issues including medical services, financial security, better access to government programs, affordable housing and transportation. The group expressed a desire to have a voice at the table and asked for less consultation, more action, follow up and accountability. The launch of the new Senior action plan will take place in Fall 2025

On November 7th Lise Morin attended The Symposium on Homelessness and Food insecurity on Canada's Food Island. Presenters addressed misconceptions about food insecurity based on research as a better understanding of these issues are necessary to inform efficient public policies.

On March 5th 2025, the Honourable Mark Holland, Canada's Minister of Health and the Honourable Mark McLane, Minister of Health and Wellness for Prince Edward Island (PEI) announced a \$40 million federal investment as part of two bilateral agreements to improve access to medications for Islanders.

Through the national pharmacare agreement, the Government of Canada will provide \$30 million over four years for universal coverage to a range of contraceptives and diabetes medications for PEI residents, at little to no direct cost to them. The funding from this agreement will also improve access to diabetes devices and supplies. The Pei residents can anticipate beginning to receive coverage for these products on May 1st 2025

In addition, the Government of Canada will provide over \$10 million to improve access to drugs for rare diseases, early diagnosis, and screening, to support the province in providing access under the National Strategy for Drugs for rare diseases.

Through this agreement, PEI will also work with Canada and other provinces and territories to develop and implement a plan for improved screening and diagnostics for rare diseases.

In April, we participated in pre-retirement seminars held for active teachers. There were 47 teachers registered for the Summerside meeting and 90 for the Charlottetown meeting. The RTA representatives presented the mission and benefits of joining the Association. We are also invited to attend the retirement reception in June for all new retirees. At this event, we will present a package to new retirees which includes a newsletter and registration form. This coming September we plan to have a booth at the province wide teachers' conference to increase our visibility and increase our membership. Members of the executive are currently working on a Facebook page and a revamped website.

We are fortunate to have Michel Plamondon as a voting member on the teachers and pension plan committee. Michel attends all our regular meetings and provides updates. In January 2025, Prince Edward Island retired teachers receive a 3.6% in their pensions to reflect the CPI. The eleventh consecutive year for a cumulative increase of 25%. As well Kimball Blanchard sits on the Health Insurance Committee and attends our regular meetings and AGM with updates.

We continue to award scholarships and bursaries to PEI students in the pursuit of a career in education and young leader awards to students graduating from high schools.

Our triannual Newsletter, available online and in paper copy keeps our membership up to date on changes, initiatives and the RTAs' active engagement.

The PEIRTA is pleased to work with ACER-CART around the issues of advocating for seniors with a focus on the federal dental plan, Pharmacare and the development of a Nation strategy for Aging in Place. We continue to participate in the zoom meetings and share with our membership. We look forward to meeting in person in Fredericton at the ECRTTO conference this coming June.

Submitted by Lise Morin
President PEIRTA