

National Association of Federal Retirees

Quarterly Newsletter

Nanaimo & Area Branch federalretirees-nanaimo.ca
PO Box 485, Lantzville, BC V0R 2H0

August 2021
Tel: (250) 248-7171



November 28, 2019 Meeting at the Nanaimo Golf Club, 119 attendees.

Next Meeting - General Meeting. Hopefully this will be an in-person meeting.

Date/Time: Thursday, November 25, 2021

Doors open 10:00 AM, Meeting starts 1100 AM.

Location: TBA - In the October 2021 newsletter

Directions:

Business Meeting: 11:00-12:00

Presentation: 12:15 - 12:45 - TBA

Luncheon - Buffet

Note: Pre-meeting coffee not included. To defer the cost to the branch please donate a \$1.00 for your coffee.

In-House Draw - Tickets \$2 or 3 for \$5. All proceeds to charity. We are also collecting non-perishable food or cash for the local food banks.

Reservations/Cancellations:

Your local Federal Retirees volunteer will phone you to ask whether you plan to attend the lunch. **To cancel, please call Jim Gahr at 250-585-3125.** The last date for cancellation to avoid billing is **Sunday, November 21, 2021.** Name Tags will be available at the door for all members attending the March AGM and luncheon. Remember to leave them at the door when you leave after the meeting/luncheon. If your name tag from the last meeting had spelling errors, please contact Charles @ 758-2240 or scrivenercharles59@gmail.com.



EVENTS 2021

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	VENUE	Meal	Cost
Nov 25 2021	General Meeting	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

The Mega Recruitment Drive is coming soon

This year's contest will officially launch on Sept. 1, 2021, giving members the chance to win exciting prizes by virtually recruiting new members to the Association. We ask that our recruiters abide by the COVID-19 guidelines of their local health authorities. The 2021 grand prize is \$10,000 cash, courtesy of Johnson Insurance! Also pre-paid credit cards by Arbor Memorial. Preferred Partners Collette, who has donated a trip for two, and SimplyConnect, sponsor of the early-bird and the provider of two prize tablets, are back this year to support the drive as well. Visit federalretirees.ca/mrd for full details.

President's Report

When I am writing this, it is hard to believe that it is September in one week. Hope everyone has stayed safe this summer and enjoyed some of the relaxed restrictions we have experienced over the last couple of months.



Most of my summer has been spent visiting most of our Province and western Alberta in our motorhome (over 3080 miles) and driving the length of the Island. We did manage to avoid the fires but not the smoke. We do live in a beautiful part of the world. While passing through Red Deer, we visited Past President Ken Jones who is nicely ensconced in their new home in that city... but they do miss the Island.

It has been fairly quiet in Federal Retirees land this summer... participation in its Annual Meeting of Members via Zoom being the only noteworthy activity...for any keeners out there, the recordings of the meetings are available on line thru the National Federal Retiree's web site. Two more additional AMMs will be held in September also via Zoom which will allow more input from Branches. I will be "attending" these meetings on your behalf.

With the increase of COVID cases lately, your Executive will continue to meet via zoom and the General Meeting we usually have in September will not go ahead. We are hoping that we once again can gather at our Christmas meeting in November...so stay tuned and circle November 25th on your calendar.

With the Federal Election call for September 20th, activity will be wrapping up quickly for our Advocacy Committee promoting our Federal Retirees advocacy priorities to all candidates. Please see Marg's Advocacy report later in this newsletter. We are strictly a non-partisan organization and we will not tell you who to vote for but we

do encourage everyone to vote. So, make yourself knowledgeable of the issues and each party's stance and vote on September 20th.

So that is about it at the moment and as usual, if we can assist with anything, please do not hesitate to be in touch... and, of course, no report of mine would be complete without a plea for more Executive Members...we presently have 3 vacancies... please consider volunteering (please!).



Speed Limit

"One night a state cop saw a car going only 22 miles per hour. He pulled the car over. When he approached the driver's side, he noticed five old ladies were seated in the car and all them looked to be in shock. They were all very pale. The old lady driver greeted him, "Officer, Why did you pull me over? I was going the speed limit exactly. What is the issue?"

"Ma'am you weren't going over the speed limit, however driving under the limit is just as dangerous."

"But I was going 22 mph, the exact speed limit."

"No, ma'am, 22 is not the speed limit, it's the route number," he laughed.

Feeling embarrassed the older woman thanked him.

"Before I let you go, is everyone ok? The other ladies seem a bit unsettled."

"Oh, they'll be fine in a minute. We were just on route 119."

Advocacy

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER ELECTION!

We are off to the polls on Monday, September 20, 2021, to elect members of Parliament in the 44th Federal General Election. This will be our second ‘pandemic’ election in British Columbia, the most recent being the Provincial General Election in October 2020.

There are seven federal ridings on Vancouver Island and two of these – Courtenay-Alberni and Nanaimo-Ladysmith -- are within the boundaries of the Nanaimo & Area Branch.

The election priorities of Federal Retirees focus on retirement security, a national seniors’ strategy with a focus on principles and standards for long-term care, veteran’ well-being and pharmacare.

The Advocacy Team at NAFR’s National Office developed the following information and questions on Federal Retirees issues and priorities to assist you in interacting with candidates during the campaign. We hope you will voice your concerns to the candidates on the issues that will have a positive impact on you as a federal retiree and on the lives of all Canadian retirees.

IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL SENIORS STRATEGY, INCLUDING NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR LONG-TERM CARE

By 2030, adults aged 65 or older will number 9.5 million and make up 23 per cent of Canada’s population. Older adults represent the fastest-growing segment of the population, but gaps in Canada’s health care and social policies are putting barriers in the way of their independence and undermining their role in maintaining vibrant, healthy communities and economies.

A co-ordinated national seniors strategy, with dedicated funding and accountability goals, will meet the evolving needs of older Canadians. Federal Retirees has long called for a national seniors strategy focused on enhancing older Canadians’ quality of life through income security, access to

affordable and appropriate housing and transportation, age-friendly communities and quality health care, including improved long-term, home and community care.

Enforced principles and national standards for long-term care, developed in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments are crucial components of a national seniors strategy. Long-term care standards must specify conditions and criteria the provinces and territories must meet to receive federal health and social transfer payments, with repercussions for failing to meet the outlined conditions and criteria. This will ensure a standard level of quality care, the availability of equitable and consistent services across the country, and adequate levels of funding for these types of care. It will also ensure greater public accountability of government delivery of long-term and home care.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the unacceptable conditions in many long-term care homes across the country, an issue that experts and advocacy organizations — Federal Retirees included — have been raising for years. People with serious health conditions have been required to live in deplorable conditions for decades and governments at all levels have done little to address this. Home care can improve health outcomes and reduce costs, but continuously fails to be recognized and properly funded. Canada can no longer ignore the need for a new approach to older adult care.

Questions for candidates

- How will your party implement a national seniors strategy that addresses health-care infrastructure, caregiver support, home care, long-term care and age-friendly communities?
- How will your party ensure that quality, safe and adequately funded home, community and long-term care options are available to meet the needs of our aging population?
- What will your party do to establish

enforced national standards of care for long-term and home care, developed in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments?

- Do you support national standards and funding that is dependent on meeting those standards for long-term and home care? If yes, what are you/your government/your party doing to push for their implementation? If no, why not? What is your solution for the issues we know exist with long-term and home care?
- How will your party recognize and support unpaid caregivers who play a vital role in our health-care systems?
- How will your party support health care and personal support professionals to better meet the growing need for geriatric expertise in Canada

RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY

More than two million seniors qualify for the Guaranteed Income Supplement, meaning their annual income is less than \$19,000 a year. Pension plan coverage has declined, with only about 37.1 per cent — or 6.3 million Canadians — covered by a registered retirement plan in 2018. Defined benefit plan coverage has decreased significantly in the private sector, moving from 21.9 per cent in 1997 to 9.2 per cent in 2017. Household savings rates are the lowest they have been in modern memory, and household debt continues to soar. Canadians are increasingly relying on the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security to support their retirement.

Questions for candidates

- What is your party's retirement income security plan for seniors now and for future generations?
- How will you ensure employees and retirees with defined benefit pensions are protected if their employer goes bankrupt?
- How will your party support defined benefit pension plans?

- How will you ensure that pensions will not be adversely affected by future austerity measures?

ENABLE BETTER WELL-BEING FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Transition to civilian life can be especially challenging for those dealing with illness, injury or trauma. The move into the civilian medical system is often marked by difficulty finding family doctors, long waits and incomplete or missing medical records. These challenges can mean that ill or injured veterans are unable to access financial, health and other benefits and services from Veterans Affairs Canada.

As more women enter the military, they continue to suffer injuries and illnesses, and resultant medical releases, at higher-than-expected rates, making women a growing segment of Veterans Affairs Canada's clients.

Questions for candidates

- What is your party's plan to ensure that veterans and their loved ones receive the care, tools and support they need at every step of their journey in serving Canada?
- How will your party ensure ill and injured veterans and their caregivers can achieve financial, physical, emotional and social well-being?
- How will your party reach out to some of the most vulnerable veterans, such as those who have lost trust in government?
- How will your party ensure Canada addresses the unique needs of military women and female veterans, and that all veterans have a chance at equitable outcomes?
- The presence of many veterans groups speaks to longstanding difficulties that many veterans have faced in accessing support. How does your party plan to address this history to improve the future, and to help veterans move forward?

PRIORITIZE PHARMACARE

Canada is the only country in the world with a universal healthcare system that does not also provide universal prescription drug coverage. As a result, Canadians consistently pay among the highest prices for prescription drugs and 20 per cent of Canadians don't have adequate coverage to meet their needs.

All Canadians should have access to the medications they need, given the important role medication plays in preventing and treating illnesses. A universal public pharmacare program would help Canadians better manage their health, decrease medication costs and improve monitoring of the effectiveness and safety of medications. It would reduce the burden on other parts of the system at a time when it is overloaded, and save the system an estimated \$4 billion to \$11 billion annually.

Questions for candidates

- How will your party implement a universal, public, comprehensive, accessible and portable pharmacare program?
- What timeline does your party propose for the implementation of a universal, public pharmacare program?
- How will your party ensure that federal and provincial governments work together effectively to implement universal, public pharmacare?
- How will your party ensure a comprehensive, quality, evidence-based formulary, so that Canadians can access the medications they need to maintain and improve their health?

BRANCH ELECTION ACTIVITIES

Members of the Branch advocacy committee will be contacting candidates to make them aware of Federal Retirees and its priority issues.

FINDING MORE INFORMATION

To obtain more information on Federal Retirees priority issues visit the National Association of Federal Retirees website at <https://www.federalretirees.ca>

Financial Report August 21 2021 -

Penny Kanigan

21 August 2021

Treasurer's Report

It's been a very long hot summer but very quiet as far as finances go.

As of 21 August 2021 we have a current chequing balance of: \$17,638.93

Savings account : \$3,295.79

Our 2nd quarter Rebate from the National Office was deposited on the 16th of July and was for \$3,036.05.

Penny Kanigan



The old exorcist priest frowned at his apprentice. "Are you sure this is Holy Water?" he asked as they were packing for the exorcism.

"Oh yes, Father, I made it myself," the younger priest said.

"How did you make it holy?" the elderly priest asked, curious if his trainee had followed the proper procedure.

"Well, Father, I collected the water just as you instructed, said a prayer over it as you instructed, and finally, I boiled the hell out of it!"

Party Platforms for September Election. Go to website for more detail

Conservative Party - Erin O'Toole

<https://www.conservative.ca/plan>

Riding - Courtney-Alberni

Candidate - Mary Lee

email - votemarycpc@shaw.ca

Tel - 1-778-744-0727

- Secure Jobs by recovering the 1 million jobs lost during the pandemic within one year.
- Secure Accountability by enacting a new Anti-Corruption law to clean up the mess in Ottawa.
- Secure Mental Health through our Canada Mental Health Action Plan.
- Secure Our Economy by balancing the budget over the next decade.
- Secure Gig Workers

Riding - Nanaimo-Ladysmith

Candidate - Tamara Kronis

www.nanaimoladysmithconservatives.ca

Tel - 250-729-6133

<https://www.greenparty.ca/en>

Green Party - Annamie Paul

Riding - Courtney-Alberni

Candidate - Susanne Lawson

email - susanne.lawson@greenparty.ca

- Climate action: the time is now.
- Housing is a human right.
- End the humanitarian crisis.
- Save the last of Canada's old growth forests.

Riding - Nanaimo-Ladysmith

Candidate - Paul Manly

<https://www.paulmanly.ca>

Liberal Party - Justin Trudeau

<https://liberal.ca/our-plan>

Riding - Courtney-Alberni

Candidate - Susan Farlinger

Riding - Nanaimo-Ladysmith

Candidate - Michelle Corfield

<http://michellecorfield.liberal.ca>

- Deliver more support for seniors who need it most
- Asking Financial Institutions to Help Canada Build Back Better
- A Home For Everyone
- Making Sure Every Canadian Has Access to a Family Doctor or Primary Health Team
- 10 Days of Paid Sick Leave and Healthy Communities
- Deliver better care for seniors
- Fighting Wildfires and Adapting to a Changing Climate
- Supporting Canadian Businesses and Our Hardest Hit Sectors
- \$10 a Day Child Care.

NDP Party - Jagmeet Singh

<http://www.ndp.ca/commitments>

Riding - Courtney-Alberni

Candidate - Gord Johns

email - courtenay-alberni-ndp@shaw.ca

- Making life more affordable for everyday people.
- Building an economy that works better for more people.
- Protecting our air, land, and water, securing our future.
- Taking better care of each other.
- Reconciliation in action.

Riding - Nanaimo Ladysmith

Candidate - Lisa Marie Barron

email - lisa.marie.barron@ndp.ca



Membership Report - Vic Ashdown

As of August 23rd, 2021, the Nanaimo and Area Branch had 1719 members comprising 1119 retirees and 600 spouses. Of the 1119 retirees, there are 952 on DDS and 167 pay fees annually to National Office. Since the last Report (March 18th), the following changes have taken place:

New or Reinstated Members (20)

Max Bothwell & Anni Rauer-Bothwell
Vernon Brownsword
Dean & Claudia Bruyckere
Angela Carmichael
Brenda Drury
Stacy Fitzgerald
Julie Foster
Vanessa Holme
David Houghton
Roxane Lambert
Janet Lefebvre
Jeff Scott
Robert & Denise Siegl
Terrence & Krista Smith
Dana Wilson
Kate Wilson

Transferred In (13)

Joanne Barley & Frank McGachy
William & Joyce Dowsett
Jeanie Greer
L W & Nadyne Hindle
Colette Kalmbach
Alexandra McPherson
Robert Nelson
Stuart Niven
Pamela Waygood & Robert Jacques

Transferred Out (11)

David Clouston & Margaret Penning
Audrey Davis
Ingrid Herchak
Ken & Liliane Jones
Ronald Neeve
Holly Paterson & David Peterson
Louise & Michael Severn

Membership Cancellations (28)

Bill & Jane Andrews
Mary Black
Ed & Beatrice Casselton
Charlie & Yvonne Chartrand
Giovanni & Gwyneth De Francesco
Mary Gohn
Heather Harbo
Deirdre Hunter
E S & Marion Lindberg
Fletcher & Lisa Logan
Barbara Looper
Sean Lynch
Barbara & David Sherstone
Loretta Smith
James & Dianne Tucker
Gordon Watson
Nancy & Tim Wilson
Douglas & Jeanne Winters

In Memorium

Wally Banning, survived by wife Sue
George (Gus) Barrett, survived by wife Blanche
Margaret Baumann
Donald Conley
Dennis Crabtree, survived by wife Lydia
Robert Doak
Doug DuFeu, survived by wife Jo-Ann
Dunc Dunsmore, survived by wife Lute
Gordon Hartman, survived by wife Helen
John (Jack) Johnstone, survived by wife Diana

Robert Kirby
Faith Kyashko, survived by husband Peter
Rita Lawson-Maguire, survived by husband Pat Maguire
Alex McConnell, survived by wife Eileen
Ann Molloy
Marjorie (Midge) Rees
Alexander (Sandy) Smith
Barry Thomas, survived by wife Helen

**National Association of Federal Retirees
Nanaimo Executive, Directors & Volunteers 2019-2020**

Class	Position	Name	Phone	Email
Executive			Most 250	
Exe	President	Rick Roberts	248-7171	rick.roberts@shaw.ca
Exe	Vice - President			
Exe	Secretary	Sheila Wilson	591-2446	mesheshe@shaw.ca
Exe	Treasurer	Penny Kanigan	760-0929	pennykanigan@shaw.ca
Exe	Past President	Bob Willis	468-0260	bobwillisbc@shaw.ca
Directors				
Director	Membership / Database	Vic Ashdown	248-2027	ashdown@shaw.ca
Director	Health & Benefits	Andy Gilman	248-8595	andygilman48@shaw.ca
Director	Health & Benefits	Sharon Whalen	758-7012	nafrwhalen@gmail.com
Director	Advocacy	Marg Smith	586-8690	mrgtmsmth80@gmail.com
Director	Newsletter Editor / Web	Ian Williams	758-0954	ianv.will@gmail.com
Director	Awards/Historian	Charles Scrivener	758-2240	scrivenercharles59@gmail.com
Director	Registration	Jim Gahr	585-3125	heidleberghound@shaw.ca
Director	Program / Speakers	Fran Graham	760-4105	fran41@telus.net
Director	Telephone	Linda Wiltse	778-269-0895	lmwiltse2@gmail.com
Director	At- Large	Christine Walker	754-4031	walkershhomeemail@gmail.com
Coordinators				
Cards	Nanaimo	Cathey Hoogerbrug	751-8735	r-choog@shaw.ca
Cards	Parksville/Qualicum	Michelle Ashdown	248-2027	ashdown@shaw.ca
Cards	Port Alberni	Marian Pickton	723-1136	pfmcj@shaw.ca
Nominations	Committee Chair	Bob Willis	468-0260	bobwillisbc@shaw.ca
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Berna Dennison	758-7792	bernad@shaw.ca
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Linda Wiltse	778-269-0895	lmwiltse2@gmail.com
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Barb Williams	758-0954	williv@telus.net
Phone Captain	Nanaimo	Vacant		
Phone Captain	Parksville/Qualicum	Marjorie Rose	594-4002	
Phone Captain	Parksville/Qualicum	Michelle Ashdown	248-2027	ashdown@shaw.ca
Phone Captain	Parksville/Qualicum	Judy Southern	752-5586	njsouthern@shaw.ca
Phone Captain	Port Alberni	Wendy Stander	778- 421-4244	wendy.tony@shaw.ca
Hospital Visit	Parksville/Qualicum	Vacant		
Hospital Visit	Nanaimo	Sheila Wilson	591-2446	mesheshe@shaw.ca