



**The CBC Pensioners
National Association**

Preserving our Future, Sharing our Past

**L'Association nationale
des retraités de la SRC**

Assurer notre avenir, partager notre passé

Contact

Newsletter - December 2019



President's Report

PNA FALL BOARD MEETING

The PNA Board of directors met October 22nd and 23rd in Gatineau, Québec, days following the federal election and the choice of a new government which we hope will be supportive and attuned to the continued needs of the aging population.

Discussions during our two-day meeting were meaningful and lead to decisions that will help our organization achieve the goals set out in the strategic plan agreed to at the 2018 Convention.

Financial picture...

Our treasurer, Réjean Labrie, indicated a small surplus of \$3,000 for the current financial year, ending March 31st, 2020. Major budget expenditures are in the area of communications (printing and mailing of Contact & design costs of our new website) as well as the usual travel and meeting costs. Board members also approved next year's budget, a first since the approval of our amended by-laws transferring this responsibility to the Board.

It is important to note that approximately 38% of the Association's revenues which are mostly dues collected from members are returned to the eight Regions and seventeen Chapters to help fund their activities. Our investment portfolio totalling \$313,000 is money set aside to fund any legal fees, special projects and to cover the 3-year convention expenditures. For more information, we invite members to read the quarterly financial reports as well as the last year's financial audited statement ending March 31' 2019 posted on the PNA's website.

The Supplementary Health Care Plan...

A majority of plan subscribers have received the good news that their monthly premiums will be lower effective January 1st, 2020. A reduction in drug and paramedical services claims during the past 12 months generated surpluses in excess of the agreed upon 10% contingency reserve, therefore allowing for premium decreases for most participants. Plan changes introduced in 2018 were also a contributing factor in lowering costs.



2020 Cost of Living

Adjustment 1.93%

Last spring a total of 4,108 packages were mailed out to non-subscribers advising them of a plan re-opening. Great West Life received 262 applications and of that number a total of 190 new subscribers were added to the plan as of September 30th.

Memorandum of Agreement relating to surplus sharing...

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was reached in 2009 and requires the parties to review its terms every ten years beginning this year. The deal is composed of two parts. The first sets out the rules for pension surplus sharing and the second establishes a fund to provide a backstop against significant increases in employee health care benefits.

Representatives from the Pensioners National Association, CBC's unions and the Corporation have had several meetings to review the agreement that sets out terms for the sharing of future pension surpluses. Hopefully, the process will be completed before the end of the year.

Pension surplus sharing takes place once the assets of the plan exceed 105% of the going-concern funding ratio (currently at 154.1%) and 105% of the solvency funding ratio (currently at 101.8%). A surplus is paid out when the lowest of the two calculations equals more than 105% of liabilities. Any surplus exceeding 105% is divided equally between the sponsor, CBC and pensioners/contributors. While the performance of the plan has been good it is not expected to be in a surplus sharing position in the near future.

On an annual basis the pension plan undergoes an evaluation to ensure it can continue to meet its obligation to pensioners and survivors. There are roughly 10,000 pension recipients.

The plan currently has more than \$7.8 billion in assets and pays out more than \$300 million every year in pensions. The current liabilities of the plan are more than \$5 billion.

2020 Annual General Meeting

The PNA will be holding the 2020 AGM on Thursday, May 21st at the Cambridge Suites Hotel in Toronto. All members are invited to attend.

Denis Collette

Newly-elected President of the Newfoundland/Labrador Region



Larry O'Brien started his career at CBNT in St. John's NL in 1978. He occupied several technical positions in Newfoundland/Labrador for the first ten years of his career. In 1988 he was transferred to Corner Brook as the Radio/TV Technical Manager. Returning to St. John's in 1994, Larry held subsequent Technical Manager and TV and Radio Plant Manager positions.

Larry was transferred to Toronto twice (in between a three-year move back to St. John's). In Toronto he was the Senior Director, Media Operations and Technology for the English Radio network and retired from that position in 2012.

He presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Credit Union and is enjoying working in production with Rogers TV.

Larry and his wife Kim love spending time with their three grandsons – and have great fun taking them on a camping trip – just the boys and Grammy and Grampy.