

# The Transmitter



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## The Money Shot!



*Photo: Courtesy Kathy Fitzpatrick, CBC PNA, Saskatoon, SK*

*A field of lavender and on the horizon the village of Aurel in Provence, France*

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## President's Report

*Jim MacVicar, CBC PNA Regional President, Devon, AB*

Hello everyone. I trust you have all made it through the winter and spring okay and are looking forward to nice summer weather.

Here is my report of the CBC Pensioners National Association (CBC PNA) Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories (ASN) Nomination Committee of Jim MacVicar (President) and Sylvia Kuziw (Past-President) We solicited nominations from the current ASN membership in good standing and received the following nominations:

President – Robert Forrow, Edmonton, AB

Vice-President – Lutz Walsh, Regina, SK

Treasurer – Cécile Magnan, Edmonton, AB

Secretary -Joanne Skidmore, Regina, SK

Entertainment Director for the Edmonton Capital Region – Royle Harris, Edmonton, AB

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We are pleased to announce these five members will form the Board of Directors of the CBC PNA ASN region by acclamation for a three-year term commencing September 12, 2018 (the date of the next Annual General Meeting).

You may have wondered what is so significant about the relationship between CBC and the members of the Pensioners National Association. The relationship is defined by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that sets out each party's role and responsibilities. It implicitly recognizes the PNA as the organized voice of CBC pensioners and the CBC's logical point of contact with that community. The PNA enjoys that recognition for as long as it maintains a membership comprising over fifty percent of all pensioners (including their surviving spouses). In return, the CBC agrees to deduct our members' association dues from their pension payments. This is a critical provision for the PNA because, as you can imagine, collecting individual dues from a membership as far-flung as ours would be a daunting and prohibitively expensive undertaking.

As well, under the MOU the CBC recognizes the CBC PNA as the vehicle for appointing pensioners' representatives to critical corporate committees – overseeing the investment of our pension funds by the Pension Board of Trustees, defending pensioners' interests on the Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits, assuring needed services to retirees by the Employee Assistance Plan and the administration of the Special Assistance Fund.

One of the PNA's most challenging tasks is to increase its membership. Each year some of our current members pass away. Each year the CBC encourages people to retire. We need to identify all of the recent retirees and those who are likely to retire (either by choice or through layoff). If you know of any of them who are not members, please let us know. We will encourage them to join the CBC PNA.

Your Executive needs your help to increase the membership. Please put your minds to work and identify ways to motivate and assist all of us to recruit as many retirees as possible. We need to work together to maintain a strong CBC PNA.

**Jim MacVicar**

*CBC Pensioners National Association (CBC PNA)*

*President of the ASN Region and Chair of the 2018 ASN Nomination Committee*

*Phone: 780-987-5933*

*Website: <http://www.cbcpensioners.ca/>*



**Surviving Spouses Pension Fairness Coalition**  
**Coalition équité des pensions aux conjoints survivants**

### **Private Member's Bill needs your help!**

As you are aware from our website, NDP MP Irene Mathysen (London-Fanshawe) introduced a Private Member's Bill (C-397) in February seeking change to the surviving spouse legislation. Since then both MP Mathysen and our Coalition have been taking action to garner support for it.

The Coalition has met with Conservative MP Dan Albas, a member of the important Standing Committee on Finance. We met for nearly two hours and provided MP Albas with material about the coalition's goals as well as an in-depth financial analysis showing the real cost of the legislative change.

Other Conservative MPs are now aware of the unfair legislation having been contacted by their constituents during our mail campaign.

MP Irene Mathysen has written to Scott Brison, President of the Treasury Board, reminding him that our country still has archaic and unfair legislation that denies pensions to surviving spouses. She also pointed out that the Liberals promised to take steps to undo the legislation but have done nothing

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## How can you help?

The Coalition believes that the Liberal government must be reminded that the issue matters to all Canadians. Therefore we fully endorse the NDP petition urging government to support MP Irene Mathysen's Private Member's Bill.

We hope you will help by collecting a few signatures. It does not matter what party your MP belongs to, and it doesn't matter if you are only able to collect a handful of names from around your neighbourhood. Every name helps.

Use the following url to access the NDP petition...

<http://www.pensionfairness-sspfc.ca/resources/Petition%20-%20E.pdf>

If you wish to learn more, or to read the letter Irene Mathysen sent to Scott Brison, please visit our website at:

<http://www.pensionfairness-sspfc.ca>

*Rick Inglis and Maurice Gill*

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## Le projet de loi du NPD a besoin de votre aide!

Comme vous avez pu l'apprendre par notre site internet, la députée néo-démocrate Irene Mathysen (London-Fanshawe) a déposé, en février dernier, un projet de loi d'initiative parlementaire (C-397) visant à changer les lois concernant les conjoints survivants. Et depuis, nous avons, la députée Mathysen et la Coalition, entrepris d'aller chercher des appuis à ce projet.

La Coalition a rencontré le député conservateur Dan Albas, un membre de l'important Comité permanent des finances. Nous avons eu une rencontre de près de deux heures et fourni au député Albas un dossier d'information sur les objectifs de la coalition ainsi qu'une analyse financière approfondie montrant le coût réel du changement des lois.

D'autres députés conservateurs sont maintenant au courant de l'injuste législation après avoir été contactés par leurs électeurs au cours de notre campagne de lettres.

La députée Mathysen a écrit à Scott Brison, Président du Conseil du Trésor, pour lui rappeler que notre pays a encore des lois archaïques et injustes qui privent d'une pension des conjoints survivants. Elle a aussi souligné que les libéraux ont promis d'entreprendre la correction de ces lois mais n'ont rien fait.

## Comment pouvez-vous aider?

Coalition croit qu'il faut rappeler au gouvernement libéral que cette question est importante pour tous les Canadiens. Nous endossons donc pleinement la pétition du NPD pressant le gouvernement d'appuyer le projet de loi de la députée Mathysen.

Nous espérons que vous apporterez votre aide en recueillant des signatures. Quel que soit le parti de votre député. C'est bien correct si vous pouvez obtenir seulement quelques signatures parmi vos connaissances, elles vont toutes contribuer à aider.

Utilisez le lien suivant pour accéder à la pétition du NPD...

<http://www.pensionfairness-sspfc.ca/resources/Petition%20-%20E.pdf>

Si vous voulez en savoir davantage ou pour lire la lettre de la députée Mathysen à Scott Brison, veuillez visiter notre site internet à <http://www.pensionfairness-sspfc.ca/accueil.php>

*Rick Inglis et Maurice Gill*

## Neil and Jeff's Olympic Adventure

*Neil Cochrane, CBC PNA, Regina, SK and Jeff Nenson, Retired CBC Technical Producer, Regina, SK*

Over the span of 30 years, we have had the privilege of working at several Olympic games, many of them together. From 1988 to 2018 the experiences have been very memorable. With Pyeongchang, the difference is that we were retired from CBC and working on contract. At these Olympics, there were many freelancers and CBC retirees who we knew from across Canada. It was these familiar colleagues that made the 2018 Olympic experience so great. Long days and hard work went hand in hand with great meals and beverages.

Our trip started with flights from Regina to Vancouver, then on to Seoul, South Korea. From the airport, it was either a 3 1/2 hour bus ride or a 2 1/2 hour train ride to the city of Gangneung followed by a short bus ride to our apartments at the Media Village. Being dropped on a side street in the dark after a 24-hour-plus trip made for a little confusion as to where to check in. The Media Village is an area of around twenty large apartment buildings divided by streets, pathways, parks and several service tents. After finding the check-in tent, we were given a key fob to our smart-wired apartment, and went looking for our building. Each apartment building was divided into two with one elevator servicing each half of the 20-story structure. Once we used our fob to enter the correct apartment building, the elevator was automatically called. Each elevator serviced two apartments. Each apartment had three bedrooms (a master with an ensuite, and two other bedrooms), a living area, kitchen and two balconies, one on each side of the building, allowing you to open windows to let the breeze flow through during the warmer months. The fob also let us into the apartment which was wired with a doorbell, cameras and master panels to control the lighting and the on-demand hot water that was used for the overall heating. Fortunately, there were information sheets in the room to help figure everything out.

Every morning breakfast was in a 500-seat restaurant located in the basement of one of the apartments. It was nicely decorated and it took a few days for us to realize that it was the parking garage for that apartment building. The food selection was vast with different foods from around the world. The pineapple was fantastic.

The Media Village and Athletes Village were close to one another. They were separated by a three-by-five block area that had some restaurants, stores and bars. If you did not get there early in the evening, these places would fill up quickly. By the way, if you ordered spicy food it would come with a plastic glove to use while eating. That may have been a signal you were overshooting your spice tolerance. The more modern downtown of Gangneung was a 20-minute walk away and had many more choices of places to eat, drink or shop.

The old market of Gangneung was a popular place to visit during the day as well. It covered about a four-block area with everything from dried fish to any grains, rice, spice or trinkets you may have wanted. In the basement, there was a massive fish market with many livewells to show off all types of fish.

On this trip we both worked at the curling venue in Gangneung Olympic Park, known as the Coastal Cluster. Our Cluster included three other venues - the Gangneung Oval for long track speed skating, the Hockey Centre, and the Ice Arena for figure skating. There was also a Souvenir Superstore, Hyundai and North Face pavilions, the Tokyo 2020 house, a Coke play area, eating areas for spectators and a party fun zone. Although we were in the same secure zone, it was a 10-minute walk to where all the other buildings were located.

If you watched the games, you likely saw the pictures from the sky camera in our area. One of the towers was in our OBS (Olympic Broadcasting Services) compound at the curling venue while the other tower was a kilometre away on the other side of the speed skating facilities. Often, on our breaks between games, people on the crew would venture out to do a little shopping. If you didn't get your Olympic shopping done in the first few days, it became impossible later on as the lines to the Souvenir Superstore were hours long.

The other displays showed off the up and coming 5G Network, new Samsung phones as well as some great virtual reality rides. We put on the glasses and sat in row seating where we were bumped and thrust around with what we saw and spun upside down as well. One of the cooler things to see that everyone liked was the robotic aquarium, as you can see in this video... <https://photos.app.goo.gl/S1SKKPqZE2i4iphBA>. If you had a longer break, you could grab buses to the beach to walk along the coast of the East Sea. Some people took a tour to the DMZ (Korean Demilitarized Zone) and explored a North Korean Submarine captured in 1998 and a South Korean battleship.

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This may sound like we had a great tour but as we all know, there were many 10 to 16-hour days spent working. The bus ride to the venue WAS AT 6:45 A.M. and the return time WAS AT 23:30. We were continuously scanned, x-rayed, verified, and our backpacks were searched everywhere. We must have radioactive blood by now. Speaking of that, we survived the very ominous threats that occur at all Olympics and various world events. As always, the people we met from the host country were fantastic and made our visit to their country a great experience. South Korea did a very good job of hosting the Olympics and it would be an enjoyable place for anyone looking for a vacation.



*Photo Collage: Courtesy Neil Cochrane, CBC PNA, Regina, SK*

## Triplets Visit New York City

### Des triplées en voyage à New York

Cécile Magnan, CBC PNA, Edmonton, AB



**Photo:** Courtesy Cécile Magnan, CBC PNA, Edmonton, AB

Nicole Amyotte, Cécile Magnan, Pauline Landry.  
(in front of one of the pools at Ground Zero, NYC / devant un des bassins à Ground Zero, New York)

Do you have a sibling who looks a bit like you? Well, I certainly do and in March this year two of my look-alike sisters and their husbands accompanied me and my husband on a trip to New York City. What a special time together! I was able to secure tickets for the night of the first anniversary of the musical *Come From Away*, created by Canadian award-winning writers Irene Sankoff and David Hein and playing at the Gerald Shoenfeld Theatre. We were drawn into the story of how citizens of Gander, Newfoundland welcomed 39 airplanes full of people from around the world and took care of them when they were stranded after USA airspace was shut down on September 11, 2001. Our attention was captured from the first note to the last; we got goose bumps, there were laugh-out-loud moments and it was very moving at times. This is definitely a must-see musical when it comes to a theatre near you!

My sisters and I continued on the 9/11 theme the next day. We visited Freedom Tower, built following the 9/11 destruction of the two World Trade Center towers. The new plaza is awe-inspiring, with its two deep pools dedicated to the people who lost their lives that horrible day. The adjoining museum holds such a collection of memorabilia that we could easily have spent a full day there. We saw emergency crew equipment and clothing, items that belonged to the people working in the towers, pieces of twisted elevator equipment, mangled iron beams and structural supports. Throughout the museum we heard the explosions, 911 calls, walkie-talkie conversations and other audio that transported us to another dimension. Each of us remembered the emotions we felt nearly 17 years ago.

And no, we're not really triplets, but we have many similarities and share a special closeness. How fortunate we were to be with each other as we revisited an event that changed our world.

Ressemblez-vous à vos sœurs ou frères? Moi oui, beaucoup, et ce printemps, deux de mes sœurs et leurs conjoints ont accompagné mon mari et moi en voyage à New York. Nous avons passé un moment très spécial ensemble à la soirée du premier anniversaire de *Come From Away*, la comédie musicale créée par Irene Sankoff et David Hein, écrivains canadiens renommés, et qui jouait au théâtre Gerald Shoenfeld. L'histoire de l'accueil des passagers de 39 avions en provenance de partout au monde par les citoyens de Gander, Terre-Neuve, et de comment ils se sont occupés d'eux après que l'espace aérien américain eut été fermé le 11 septembre 2001, nous a profondément touchés. Elle a capté notre attention dès la première note; certaines scènes nous ont donné la chair de poule, certaines nous ont fait éclater de rire et plusieurs étaient poignantes. Ne manquez pas cette comédie musicale lorsqu'elle sera à l'affiche près de chez vous!



**Photo:** Courtoisie Cécile Magnan, CBC PNA, Edmonton, AB  
Freedom Tower NYC : Freedom Tower, New York

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Le lendemain, mes sœurs et moi avons poursuivi le thème du 9/11 en visitant le *Freedom Tower*, bâti après la destruction des deux tours du *World Trade Center*. La nouvelle esplanade et ses deux bassins dédiés aux personnes qui sont mortes cette horrible journée sont impressionnants. Le musée attenant contient tellement d'articles commémoratifs et de souvenirs que nous aurions facilement pu y passer toute la journée. Nous avons vu de l'équipement et des vêtements des secouristes, des articles appartenant aux travailleurs des tours, des morceaux d'ascenseurs tordus et des poutres de fer et supports structurels endommagés. Tout au long de la visite, le son des explosions, des appels au 911, des conversations talkie-walkie et autres effets sonores nous ont fait revivre les mêmes émotions ressenties il y a près de 17 ans.

Et non, nous ne sommes pas vraiment des triplées, mais nous sommes très semblables et particulièrement proches. Nous nous sommes senties privilégiées d'être ensemble pour nous remémorer un événement qui a changé notre monde.

## Chapters Roundup

**Calgary:** The Southern Alberta Chapter held its Annual General Meeting on April 4 at the usual meeting spot, the Kerby Centre just off downtown Calgary. 19 people showed up which is about the usual number for our lunches. Eleanor Suddaby was confirmed as our Secretary Treasurer for another 3-year term. No one ran against her, due in large part to the excellent job she does in keeping our finances in order. Russ Down continues as Vice-President and Ken McCreath as President. Regional President Jim MacVicar bought lunch for everyone and once again urged folks to try to sign up new retirees for the PNA. Members were encouraged to contact Joanne McAdam, our Chapter's delegate to the national convention in Ottawa, about any complaints/problems they have. President Ken McCreath asked those attending how many are still dealing with Great-West Life for their supplemental health insurance. One-third of the 19 people were still with GWL, meaning two-thirds were not. Does that send a message? If it doesn't, it should. The next lunch meeting of the Southern Alberta Chapter will be on Wednesday, June 6 at the Kerby Centre. All PNA members are encouraged to attend. Be sure to tell Ken McCreath you'll attend the lunch – 403-949-2392 or [kenmcreath@rogers.com](mailto:kenmcreath@rogers.com)



*Photo: Courtesy Ken McCreath, CBC PNA, Bragg Creek, AB*

PNA members in Calgary meeting at the Kerby Centre on April 4, 2018 for the Annual General Meeting of the Southern Alberta Chapter

**Edmonton:** PNA members in and around Edmonton met at the University of Alberta Faculty Club on Friday, June 1 for the annual spring supper. Remember to mark your calendar for the second Tuesday of each month for the breakfast gathering. The breakfasts are held at Rosie's Restaurant, 99<sup>th</sup> Street and Argyll, starting at 8:30 a.m. The upcoming breakfasts will be on June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11 and October 9. For more information contact Jim MacVicar at 780-987-5933 or at [pna.absknt@gmail.com](mailto:pna.absknt@gmail.com)

**Regina:** In April, on Friday the 13th of all nights, the Regina members of the Saskatchewan Chapter of the PNA held its second bowling event at the Golden Mile Lanes. Fifteen members attended and we had a few prizes, a few liquid refreshments and many laughs. We presented \$25.00 grocery store gift certificates for the best total score (Lionel Bonneville), second-best score (Lutz Walsh) and the last but not least prize for the most honest player (lowest score Joanne Skidmore). We also had badge prizes for the best-dressed bowlers and those went to Aldo Columpsi for his colourful shirt and Ernie Steinhubl for his wonderful suspenders. Everybody had a great time and if members are willing to participate, we will do it again next year.

Another event was the CBC 20 Year Association and its annual Spring Fling on May 26. A big thank you goes to Regional President Jim MacVicar from Edmonton. He attended the event and gave a subsidy to PNA members for their meals. For more information on the Saskatchewan Chapter contact President Hartland Jessome at 306-520-2859 of [hartlandj@sasktel.net](mailto:hartlandj@sasktel.net)

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*Photo: Courtesy Hartland Jessome, CBC PNA, Regina, SK*

**Back row, left to right:**

Neil Cochrane, Brent MacPherson, Hartland Jessome, Marcel Bolen, Kathy Bolen, Lionel Bonneville, Lutz Walsh, Mireille Beaupré-Walsh, Ernie Steinhubl

**Front row, left to right:**

Lenora Sturge, Monique Nenson, Linda Gallant, Aldo Columpsi, Joanne Skidmore, Jeff Nenson

**Saskatoon:** Members of the CBC Pensioners National Association in Saskatoon celebrated St. Patrick's Day at Finn McCool's a day early! Then we had our annual lunch meeting with Regional President Jim MacVicar from Edmonton when he was in Saskatoon on May 24. Thanks, Jim, for the subsidy for our meals. Our next luncheon will be on Monday, December 3 at Milestones on 8th Street. Saskatoon Vice-President of the Saskatchewan Chapter Ellen Armstrong will remind everyone closer to the date.

Want to learn more about the Saskatoon group? Contact Ellen Armstrong at [cbcellen@hotmail.com](mailto:cbcellen@hotmail.com) or 306-880-4732.



*Photo: Courtesy Ellen Armstrong, CBC PNA, Saskatoon, SK*

From left to right: Gary Crippen, Kathy Fitzpatrick, Ellen Armstrong, Ron Gareau, Al Willems and Vi Atwell.

## In Memoriam: We Remember

This is the information we've received about CBC colleagues and PNA members who have died since the publication of the last newsletter.

**Graham Arlen** (December 25, 2017) CBC Montreal Cameraman and Assistant Producer

**Kathryn Atkinson** (May 4, 2018) CBC Montreal/Toronto TV Network Sports; started the Facebook page for CBC and Radio-Canada Employees Past and Present

**Frank Willem Bakker** (July 9, 2017) CBC Toronto Boom Operator/TV Master Control Technician

**Rene Beaulieu** (March 11, 2018) CBC Winnipeg

**George Belmarre** (March 30, 2018) CBC Ottawa Technician

**Arthur Black** (February 21, 2018) CBC Radio Thunder Bay/Toronto/Vancouver and host of the national program *Basic Black*

**Weldone Boone** (April 12, 2018) CBC Goose Bay/Charlottetown/La Ronge Broadcaster

**Art Bouchard** (March 6, 2018) CBC Toronto TV National News Assistant Director

**Marilyn Brabant** (March 8, 2018) CBC Montreal Press and Information Department

**Daphne Burke** (February 18, 2018) Widow of Stanley Burke, CBC TV journalist, foreign correspondence, anchor of *The National News*

**Nina Cote** (February 12, 2018) Wife of Marc Cote, first President of the Trent, ON Chapter of the CBC PNA

**Doug Crawford** (February 17, 2018) CBC Toronto Technical Instructor and Senior Maintenance Technician

**Neil Cuddihy** (February 28, 2018) Husband of Rachelle Paquin-Cuddihy who worked in Pension Administration, CBC Ottawa

**Clarence "Del" Delmage** (January 18, 2018) CBC TV National News Reporter and CBC Radio Station Manager (including Ottawa)

**Helen Fairley** (January 27, 2018) CBC Toronto Radio Host/Singer

**Eric Foss** (March 19, 2018) CBC Toronto TV Producer/Cameraman/Soundman

**Ralph Fraser** (February 24, 2018) CBC Toronto Radio and TV Musician

**John Fuller** (March 9, 2018) CBC Vancouver Film Editor

**Billey Heifetz** (February 7, 2018) CBC Casting Secretary

**Liz Hughes** (May 4, 2018) CBC Vancouver Television and Radio Producer/Executive Producer and Director of News Centres for CBC

**Cyril Hunt** (April 3, 2018) CBC Alberta Transmitter Technician

**Gordon Jackson** (March 25, 2018) CBC Toronto Radio Technician, Assistant Director of the Audio-Visual Department when it was formed at the University of Regina

**Marcel Leander Just** (January 24, 2018) CBC Winnipeg, TV Maintenance Technician

**Eric Koch** (April 28, 2018) CBC Toronto Radio and Television Producer/Area Head, Arts and Science, Toronto/CBC Montreal Regional Director

**Erik Kristensen** (January 15, 2018) CBC Toronto Film Lighting Director

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**Don Lawson** (April 2018) CBC Halifax/Charlottetown/Toronto working in TV and Radio

**Doreen Lockerbie** (January 2, 2018) CBC Toronto Contract Services

**Jim MacDonell** (February 27, 2018) CBC Ottawa ENG Editor

**Orin McIntosh** (April 11, 2018) CBC Saskatchewan Transmitter Technician

**Donald McStravick** (February 8, 2018) CBC Head Office, Ottawa, Finance

**Kit Melamed** (March 15, 2018) CBC Toronto Researcher/Producer *The Fifth Estate*

**Jim Parrott** (December 24, 2017) CBC St. John's, NL Technical Producer

**Ray Renning** (March 28, 2018) CBC Vancouver Senior Maintenance Technician

**David Shannon** (February 2, 2018) CBC Montreal/Toronto Journalist and Producer

**Nancy Louise Ure** (February 13, 2018) CBC Calgary *Prairie Showcase* Singer

**Peter Varcoe** (March 26, 2018) CBC Toronto Lighting Technician

**Dave Waters** (April 10, 2018) CBC Winnipeg Director/Producer of *Hymn Sing*

**Howard Wilkinson** (February 7, 2018) CBC Toronto Manager of Engineering Services

**Geralyn Wraith** (March 30, 2018) CBC Toronto Make-up Artist

## EAP to the Rescue!

The taxi turned into Joan's street. It was past midnight; way too late to take up the kind offers to be collected from the airport as she arrived back from a six-week holiday in Arizona.

"Heavens above! Flashing police lights in my street." As she got closer, she saw they were in front of her house: three police cars blocking the driveway.

"This is my house, officer, what's happening?"

"Your house, Ma'am? Well then, you must know what's going on!"

"I've been away for six weeks but my grandson has been looking after the house. I left everything in order."

"That may be Ma'am, however, your house has been used for drug dealing. Please get into the back of the police car."

Dear PNA member, what if you had come home to something like this? The fictitious retiree Joan had to deal with a grandson who'd been up to bad things. Now Joan feels guilty, did she enable him? Was she naïve letting a 20-year-old have the run of her house? She could do with some help—talk with an outside sympathetic ear and if possible get some advice. Then she remembers the EAP, and as a CBC retiree she is eligible to call on the **Employee Assistance Plan (EAP)** for help-

Joan calls the **EAP line** (1-866-838-2025), is asked her name and which service she used to work with. She explains the awful story. They soon arrange a time for a phone consultation with a psychologist who specializes in family matters. This person helps her sort out her feelings and also guides her to better understand what her grandson and his family are going through-

Any of us could suffer collateral damage from a family situation: a spouse hospitalized, a daughter's marriage falling apart, a son's financial woes: this can be very tough on us as loving observers. With professional advice we can be more effective in helping them and dealing with our emotions in a constructive way.

**When stress comes a-knockin' - call your EAP! 1-866-838-2025**

## Kathy, Cézanne and the Quest for the Perfect Scene

*Kathy Fitzpatrick, CBC PNA, Saskatoon, SK*



**Photo:** Courtesy Kathy Fitzpatrick, CBC PNA, Saskatoon  
*Kathy Fitzpatrick standing in a field of lavender and sunflowers, in Provence, France*

It was the trip I had hoped to take since university days, inspired by a photograph in my conversational French textbook: a lush farm field in rolling terrain, bordered by a quiet dirt road, familiar yet vaguely exotic. “I want to walk through a scene just like that,” I thought at the time. The ambition never left me, through three and a half decades of work, and diversion to other travel destinations.

And so it was that finally I headed to the southern French region of Provence, thinking it was the most likely place I would find my inspiring country lane. I made the small city of Aix-en-Provence my base. The house where the artist Paul Cézanne did much of his life’s work was an easy stroll across the highway from my hotel. Just outside the gated entrance my eyes turned to the unobstructed view of Mont Sainte-Victoire, the landmark that became Cezanne’s artistic obsession and eventual doom. Late in life, while still trying to attain his ideal rendering of the massive limestone peak, Cezanne was caught in a sudden storm. Found collapsed on the roadside, he fell ill and died.

Still in search of my own idyllic patch of France, I toured the surrounding countryside. I passed through broad fields of lavender, some juxtaposed with fields of sunflowers, the contrasting colours of purple and yellow painting a stunning tableau under the clear blue sky. Still, I had not quite found that perfect scene of my mind’s eye. The terrain was too wide and even, too busy with farm machinery and tourist traffic. “You must go to Sault,” one of my day-trip companions urged, promising unparalleled scenery – in the heart of lavender country.

On my final day in Provence, I made the solo trip in a rental car. The road was narrow and twisty, taking me on an ever-higher climb towards Mont Ventoux, the highest point in the region. Suddenly, I came across a breathtaking view. A narrow valley opened up far below the hillside road, a patchwork of purple and golden fields. Off to one side, the village of Sault clung to the slope. Below there began a walking and driving route called The Lavender Trail. But dark clouds loomed overhead and soon it began to rain, so I drove beyond Sault along another narrow hillside road.

Rounding a corner, I gasped. Before me opened up the most stunning view of all - a rise of rich purple lavender fell away, revealing another picturesque hillside village, Aurel, all sandy monochrome in the distance, and beyond that the scalloped edge of more hills, dark and hazy. I had just found the ultimate scene of my trip, my photographic “money shot”.

Soon the rain stopped. I backtracked to the start of The Lavender Trail’ and began my walk through this tranquil valley, finally satisfied that I found my longed-for destination.



*Photo: Courtesy Kathy Fitzpatrick, CBC PNA, Saskatoon, SK*

*In addition to fields of lavender, Provence is known for its vibrant printed fabrics, seen here in the daily open air market on the Cours Mirabeau, a street blocked off to traffic in the old city core of Aix-en-Provence.*

## Where in the world are YOU Going?

Share the stories and photos of your travels across Canada, North America and around the world with “The Transmitter”. Send us about 300 words and the original images from your phone or camera in the largest possible size (no compression).

You can reach Co-Editors Monique Nenson and Joanne Skidmore by email at [mnenson@gmail.com](mailto:mnenson@gmail.com) and [joanne.skidmore09@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.skidmore09@gmail.com).

## Your CBC PNA - AB, SK and NWT Executive

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