



The CBC Pensioners National Association

Manitoba Region

MARCH 2021 UPDATE

CBC Manitoba Pensioners Newsletter

Since the last Contact Newsletter was sent out from Ottawa in December 2020, the National PNA Executive and the Regional Presidents held a virtual meeting on Friday, March 5, 2021 to discuss the series of meetings and the 2021 National Triennial Convention that will take place this May.

The following three May meetings have been confirmed and will be held virtually.

- **Friday, May 14 at 11 a.m. (Eastern Time) - Board of Directors' meeting to approve the audited financial statements and review the SHCP annual report.**
- **Tuesday, May 18 at 10:55 a.m. (Eastern Time) - Convention Strategic Planning meetings as proposed in Dave Jeffrey's March 10th document. Participants: accredited delegates (including Board members), alternate delegates & observers**
- **Friday, May 21 at 1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) - Convention Meeting to elect National Officers. Participants: accredited delegates (including Board members), candidates & Chair of the Nominating Committee**

CBC PNA NEWS UPDATES

PENSION SURPLUS SHARING AGREEMENT UPDATE: A dispute with the CBC over the status of the Memorandum of Agreement regarding the sharing of any surplus in our pension plan is headed to arbitration. The parties are working on the appointment of an arbitrator acceptable to both sides.

The process of getting an arbitrator is taking considerably longer than anticipated but it is hoped that this issue will be resolved soon. In December of 2019, the CBC unilaterally declared the MOA was concluded and no longer in effect.

On a related matter, the CBC is refusing to provide an accounting of the funds held for the purpose of offsetting health care costs. While the use of the funds is not directly relevant for the PNA, it is another major element of the MOA. At last report there is around \$40-million held in trust.

CHANGES COMING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND, By Dan Oldfield, PNA Representative to the CCSB:

Last May, the CBC advised the Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits (the CCSB) that it would no longer handle the administration of the Special Assistance Fund. This unilateral decision has caused some havoc in ensuring that those seeking the assistance are actually getting it.

The difficulties became obvious around the time of the scheduled September CCSB meeting. People who had applied, and ultimately been deemed eligible for payment from the fund, did not receive their cheques until December.

The PNA was facing a similar scenario this month but forced an ad-hoc special sub-committee meeting. Thanks to the efforts of Dianne St. Germain and Suzie Bougie in the PNA National office, most of the requests submitted for approval were ratified at the March meeting of the CCSB. The PNA will be watching to ensure cheques are sent in a timely fashion.

The main reason for the delays is the CBC's decision to stop handling SAF claims. The CBC wanted to hand the entire process over to Canada Life where it would be treated more as an insurance fund. But that was never the intent when the fund was created.

The PNA has offered to take over the administration of the fund and in December, the CCSB instructed the CBC and PNA to begin discussions on how that would work. A meeting involving the PNA, CBC and a co-chair of the CCSB was held on March 1st and the PNA committed to providing a detailed proposal for the take-over of the administration. **A follow up meeting is scheduled for April 21st.** It is hoped that a transfer of administrative duties will take place in time to deal with SAF requests at the June CCSB meeting.

PNA CONVENTION UPDATE

The National Board of the PNA met on March 5, 2021 and has determined that the Triennial Convention will now be held virtually on May 18th, 2021. Each Region is entitled to a specific number of voting delegates, based on the Region's number of members. The Manitoba Region is entitled to one delegate along with the Regional President who also attends as a member of the PNA National Board.

The main order of business will be the work of the four Convention planning committees: Recruitment, Diversity & Inclusion, Advocacy, & Communications. These committees are putting the finishing touches on their presentations to build on the action plans developed at the 2018 Convention. Their work will pave the way forward for the PNA for the next three years.

This year is also an election year and the National election will take place at a separate meeting from the Convention. It will take place on May 21st, also virtually. Members selected as full delegates to the Convention will be eligible to vote. All four national positions are up for election.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

The Special Assistance Fund (SAF) helps CBC retirees, their spouses and dependents with health care expenses not covered by the Manitoba Health Care Provincial Plan or the SHCP. It also offsets the cost of hearing aids and mobility devices. There are some restrictions. Contact the CBC PNA staff in Ottawa for eligibility requirements and help in applying. More information and application forms are on the PNA website. www.cbcpensioners.ca

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Please share this newsletter with any CBC retirees or spouses who are not yet members. Encourage them to join the PNA.

PNA SPOUSAL MEMBERSHIP

Individuals who receive pension survivor benefits are eligible to become members of the PNA and access all PNA member benefits including the Special Assistance Fund, loyalty programs, discounts and social activities. They are also eligible to hold office in their region or chapter.

From the Treasurer

There isn't really anything to report as far as local finances go. The local accounts continue to be in excellent shape.

From the Secretary

Sad to report that since our last update of August 2020, the following colleagues have passed.

Philip Michael Geisel – Technician, (Sometime in July of 2020 - no obit found)

Ron Place – Audio Technician (August 21st, 2020)

Trevor Odgers – Lighting Technician, later went to Global (August 12, 2020)

Gordon Thompson – Sales Rep. (July 30th, 2020)

Jean Beaulieu – Technician, Cameraman, CBWFT (November 1st, 2020)

Roland Dufault - Technician, then Management, CBWFT (November 20, 2020)

Claude Bisson – Accounting. (Wpg. Free Press, November 14th, 2020)

Bill Morgan – Regional Director, Winnipeg (November 16th, 2020)

Helen Carpenter Place – Switchboard & Program Clearance (Sometimes in December 2020)

Mary Basha – (December 25, 2020)

Eileen Johnson – Secretary to Regional Director (December 23, 2020)

Frank Stroppa – Film Editor (Jan. 14, 2021 – Film Editor)

Frank Mikuska – Graphic Artist (Feb. 28, 2021)

Norm Kolisnyk – Technician (February 5th, 2021)

Eveline Badger - Radio, Office (March 18, 2021)

Other Colleagues

Robert Gibbons – TV Producer, Director, Toronto (January 3, 2021)

For Winnipeg, Produced “Queens’ Gala” & “Churchill, Polar Bears” segment for BBC “World Safari”.

New Members:

Michel Boucher - CBWFT

Lorna Cloutier -

Doug Kornek - Technical

Murray Unger - Shipping and Receiving

Berthe Rémillard (Surviving spouse of Yves Rémillard)

Jack B. Johnson (Eileen Johnson's surviving spouse)

On behalf of your Manitoba Region Executive, we hope that all of our members are doing well, despite the very restrictive health orders from the provincial government.

Please make sure that you register and get the Covid-19 vaccination as soon as your age group becomes eligible.

In the meantime, if there is any information or help that the Manitoba Executive can provide please don't hesitate to reach out to us at any time.

Stay well and stay in touch!!!!!!

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