

April 2021



#### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone.



Well, spring is in the air and the birds are returning to their nests here in the Ottawa area. We are now entering into what is hopefully the final phase of the Covid 19 pandemic. The government has said that most of you should have had your first shots by June of this year and will be well on your way to the second shot by the end of the summer. It has been a long and drawn out time of uncertainty for all of us. **For those of you who are experiencing depression or bouts of anxiety please do not be afraid**

**to call our EAP offices at 1-866-838-2025.** They will be able to help you find solutions.

**This May, the National PNA is having its triennial convention and elections.** We will elect our Executive Committee and plan out our strategy for the next three and six years. There are a few positions that are up for election this year so, it will be interesting. At that time, 4 sub-committees that have been studying: Diversity, Recruitment, Communications and Advocacy will each present their findings to the convention and the National Executive and Board of directors who will incorporate these into the three and 6 year strategy plan.

**Our/your local Board of Directors is changing this fall.** I wish to thank our Vice-President **Suzanne Cunningham** for all the hard work she has done for us on the By-laws and on the surveys. We all wish Suzanne the best of luck. We will be looking to replace her as Vice President locally at our AGM this fall. We will be saying good-bye and Thank you to **Denise Genge** who for the past two and a half years has been running our Social Committee and planning our chat zoom meetings along with a myriad of other things. Denise has been a tremendous worker on your behalf and will be greatly missed.

Our long-time treasurer, **Ann Vachon**, has decided to step away from her position but wishes to stay on the Board of Directors as a Director at Large. Ann has been our treasurer for several years. Although she will not be doing our financial reports any more she will be around to help out where and when needed.

This will leave our Board of Directors at a dangerously low number. We have been operating for the past year and a half with only 8 members. Now we will be only 6. So, if you still look forward to 3 to 4 yearly luncheons, our annual Christmas luncheon, any more lunch and learns or any outings of any kind, **we need members to step forward and join the Board of Directors.**

**Stay Safe and Stay Healthy! We will meet again.**

**Kerry Adams**  
President

## Your Board needs you!



The Board is made up of four executive officer roles and eight directors at large for a total of twelve members. Today, the Board is down to eight members, including our four executives. It has operated at a reduced capacity for over a year. The dedication of the Board's current members allowed us to deliver a virtual members' meeting – Let's chat, a virtual AGM, undertake a membership survey, reformat our Communiqué, participate on a Team developing a work plan and strategy for consideration at the triennial national convention this spring, and secure two delegates and two alternate delegates to attend the virtual convention in May.

When looking forward, several members including myself, will be completing their terms with the Board this fall which will further reduce the Board's capacity. Our Treasurer will be retiring from the executive and will remain with the Board as a director at large. Also, typically our President's term would also be ending this fall.

That means that at least three executive positions – the Treasurer, the Vice-President and potentially the President's role, will be open for candidates.

The Board also needs to fill the remaining directors at large to continue to serve you, our members. We need a full capacity Board to deliver more the events you identified you wanted, such as lunch-and-learns on pension, benefits, wellness, and other topics; social events from pizza and beer to visiting a winery, delivering the Communiqué to keep you informed, and ensuring that our region continues to participate on national teams.

Over the last months, several Officers of the Board have reached out to members asking them to consider volunteering on the Board and becoming a member. We ask that if you have been contacted to serve, please reconsider. If you have volunteered to help out in the past, please consider going a step further and become a Board member.

We will be holding an "open virtual Board meeting" at the end of April. The Board will be available for a Q and A following the meeting – all topics accepted.

If you are considering becoming a member on the Board and have some questions, please do not hesitate to reach out – we would be happy to answer any questions.

Suzanne Cunningham



### **MYTHS AND FACTS #1:**

**The PNA is really only for certain types of previous employees of the CBC...right?**

*Wrong! Members of the PNA have one thing in common, we are pensioners! Our members come from all across the country and worked in Radio, TV, administration - all levels - different languages - the whole gamut! Everyone in the PNA is the same...we are all pensioners!*

## **PNA NEWS**

### **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.

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### **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 7th. It is hoped that a transfer of administrative duties will take place in time to deal with SAF requests at the June CCSB meeting.

#### **SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND**

The Special Assistance Fund (SAF) helps CBC retirees, their spouses and dependents with health care expenses not covered by OHIP 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](http://www.cbcpensioners.ca)**

### **The Health of our Pension Plan** by Alain Pineau

2020 will have been a difficult year for many reasons, including the stock market. And yet, despite a roller-coaster year, our Pension Plan finished the year with flying colours, its success owed in great part to the Liability Driven Investment policy adopted in 2009

After a 2019 yearend which saw its assets grow from 7 to 8 billion dollars, the Plan had lost all those gains by March 2020... only to recover them by July! The verified 2020 results were presented to the Board of Trustees at its March 29 meeting: at yearend, on December 31, the Plan had seen its best results in over 20 years! Despite the extreme volatility of markets, we ended the year with complete capitalisation under the two principles used to measure it, that of on-going operations and that of solvency.

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According to the first principle (under which the CBC continues to operate indefinitely), the Plan ended up with a surplus of \$ 3.3 billion, an annual increase of \$ 521 million. The funding ratio on an on-going basis was at 161.4 %, an increase of 8 % over the year.

Under the solvency principle (i.e. under the hypothesis that the CBC shuts down immediately), the Plan showed an increase of \$ 152 million, showing a surplus of \$ 381 million at the end of the year, with a funding ratio of 104.6 %.

The 2020 rate of return achieved was 11.49% while the annualized four-year return was 10.59%

Markets continue to show a lot of volatility, and according to some, cannot continue to go up like they have over the past several months, especially if the current health crisis goes on. It is therefore totally possible that the year-end results for 2021 will not be so stellar, but one thing is sure: you can be confident that your pension cheques will come in! All our thanks go to the Pension Plan staff working under difficult conditions because of Covid

### **The EAP is “yours to discover”**

Entering the *Employees Assistance Program's* website is comparable to Dorothy's experience in “The Wizard of Oz” when she leaves her drab black and white world to experience a colorful world of make-believe.

The only difference is that the *EAP's* website is the real thing where you will find a wide variety of subjects that deal with our questions and preoccupations. Wellness, mental health, and finances are just a few of the subjects that are covered. And then there's the section on the pandemic which warrants our attention especially at the present time and regardless of the fact that we may have had an earful of this subject.

The *EAP* program offers us two choices and is only a click away on the main page of our association's website. Click on *Programs* and scroll down to *EAP Resource Center*.


The first choice is requesting a private telephone conversation with a specialist. It's as simple as picking up the telephone and reaching the 'dispatcher' who will refer you to the proper specialist in the field of your choice. Your multiple consultations are free (believe it or not).


The second option is the website where you have access to a wealth of information either in the text format or a PowerPoint presentation. On this website the sky is the limit. You can consult at your leisure documents dealing with questions such as anxiety, fitness, stress, depression, bereavement, and sleep. You can also read the *EAP's* newsletter. All of these documents have been prepared by experts in their field.

As they say in Ontario, the world is “yours to discover”. Why not?

*Donald Langis, EPA representative*





**EAP - Employee Assistance Program**  
1-866-838-2025 

Problems? As a CBC pensioner, you are entitled to five hours of free professional counselling through the Employee Assistance Program.

**This service is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day.** It is simple, fast and effective.

Consultations are provided by a private, independent firm located off the premises of the CBC. Confidentiality is guaranteed. A simple telephone call puts you in touch with the person who can help you right away.



**LIVING IN COVID TIMES:** It's been a year and we're still in it...we're all trying to manage in one way or another. You asked for stories about other members. Here's another. **Glenn Dunn**, former television production editor took up photography when he retired, and since then...well just look!

### How I have been dealing with COVID19

It hasn't been easy for many of us during the last year of this pandemic, myself included. The hardest part for me is social



Keeping in touch with family, friends and ex colleagues helped me a lot.

Since my retirement in 2014, I have more time for my favorite hobby, photography. I love taking long walks in nature and taking pictures of wildlife, landscape and flora.

I've taking a liking to photographing birds. I like the challenges they give, finding them in the first place, identifying them and learning about their daily routines and of course getting a focused shot. In the evening I will process the photos I've taken that day and share them with family and friends on social media.

I try to get out 4 to 5 times a week , especially during the migration seasons, spring and fall. In the winter I look for owls and birds that stay for the winter.

It can be very rewarding getting a shot for the first time of a specific species of wildlife, cloud formations nature landscape etc. Also you get to meet great people during these outings, nature lovers, hikers and fellow photographers.



Mother nature is full of surprises, you never know what you'll find. Some days I don't take one picture, just enjoying my surroundings and smelling the roses.



This is how i'm dealing with this pandemic. Stay safe!

Glenn Dunn

### **CONTACT US:**

Would you like to comment on this or anything else in the **Communiqué**?

We welcome letters to the editor.

Perhaps you have a story to tell – something from your days at CBC or something interesting you're doing now? Maybe you know of a CBC retiree with a skill to share? Or a retiree we should profile...let us know ...[cbcpna.ott.nun@gmail.com](mailto:cbcpna.ott.nun@gmail.com)

## **REMEMBERED FRIENDS**

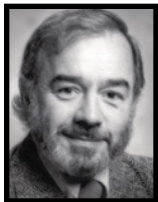


### **CAMPBELL, Ronald H.**

April 12, 1933-December 31, 2020...Peacefully in hospital, on December 31, 2020, Ronald H Campbell passed away at the age of 87. Predeceased in 2005 by his loving wife, Betty (nee Merkley). Supportive father to Brent (Mandy) and Tara (Graeme). Loving grandfather to Alyssa, Maya, Josiah and Liam. He will be dearly missed by his longtime companion, Vina Stanley. He was a long-term, dedicated employee to CBC Radio Canada. The family would like to thank all the staff of

Longfields Manor for all the years of caring support. They would also like to thank all the nursing staff on C4 at the Queensway Carleton for being so kind and caring in his final days. Due to the pandemic a funeral service will be held at a later date. The family would appreciate any donations to the Alzheimer's/ dementia charity of your choice.

**McCOOEYE, David John** Peacefully in hospital surrounded by his loving family, David passed on Friday, January 22, 2021 at the age of seventy-nine. After a long courageous battle with Cancer. David leaves behind his loving partner Carol, his step son Heath and his extended family. David will be remembered for his great love of music. He always had a story to tell or a joke to share with others. He loved his time spent at the lake or riding his motorcycle. David was a dedicated employee for CBC for 35 years, in various areas.

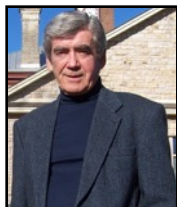


**MONETTE, Pierre**, former Program Director, CBOFT, died December 2, 2020, age 87. Born in Ville Saint-Laurent, Quebec, son of Dorilla Gohier and Gérard Monette. He leaves his children Valérie (Jean-François), Jean-François (Jonathan) and Nicolas (Noémie), his niece and nephews, grandchildren and many friends and relatives. He loved nature, travel, cooking, history, the arts and had a long and very successful career at Radio-Canada.



### **PELLETIER, Laurent technical producer CBOFT, Ottawa**

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Laurent Pelletier January 25, 2021, at the age of 77. He was married to Louise Houde and the son of the late Donat Pelletier and the late Aline Provencher. Besides his wife, he is survived by his three daughters: Anne-Marie (Jean-Marc), Elizabeth (Dominique) and Brigitte; his 7 grandchildren: Jean-François, Jean-Gabriel, Annabelle, Alexandre, Amélie, Olivier and Mélanie.



**WRIGHT, Norm**, long-time broadcaster and a co-founder of Lake 88 radio passed away in March, at age 82. A Perth native, Wright had an extensive career as a radio and television broadcast professional and educator. Norm, along with partner Brian Perkin, worked for two years to secure a radio licence for Perth and area, with final CRTC approval to operate a station at 88.1 approved 15 years ago this month. Norm teamed up with news announcers Michael O'Brien and then Ian Sutton to host Lake 88's morning show in the early days of the new station.

Norm's career began in 1957 when he was hired as a 17-year-old announcer at CFCO Radio in Chatham, Ontario. He went on to work at CFJR in Brockville, CKSF-Cornwall and as morning man at CFRA in Ottawa. In 1961 he moved to television at CKMI-TV in Quebec City, as a news anchor and host of the popular 'Teen Club' show – a precursor to 'American Bandstand'. In the early 70's he became owner and operator of the CFOM radio in Quebec City. Norm, along with his wife Claudette, moved to Otty Lake in 1974 after being invited to join the faculty of Algonquin College's Media Division in Ottawa, where he taught for 25 years as a Professor of Radio and Television Broadcasting. While there, Norm also worked for 14 years as a news anchor at CBOT-TV, Ottawa, until 1992. Because of the pandemic, a celebration of Norm's life will be held at a later date.





## **VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING ON ZOOM...JOIN US....**

Want to see what we do on the Regional PNA board? Join us for our next **meeting on Zoom, April 27th at 10:00....**watch your e-mail for information .Past virtual public meetings have included a Let's Chat back in December .... take a look!



## **BEWARE OF PHISHING SCAMS!**

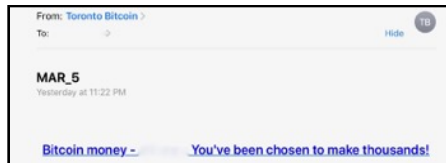
It's not enough that we are still in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, that we are also the targets of more and more scams, online, by mail, on the phone...the latest involves a scam in BC where scammers try to set up a home visit for a COVID vaccine and of course, ask for your credit card number! This is commonly called “**PHISHING**”.

Recent scams include local stores apparently offering a prize gift card, that you must claim, lottery wins from Amazon, Google, and Facebook, delivery services like DHL with a waybill number and a click confirmation where you agree to pay a “delivery” fee for something you haven't ordered.

Bitcoins are being offered by a variety of questionable sources.

There are problems with your PC when you have a MAC! Or a call to say there are problems with your internet connection! It never ends!

There's the “Ontario Efficiency Rebate Program” a very official sounding organization that will try to get private information about your home. There's the very official looking Amazon email telling you that for some reason your order can't be shipped unless you confirm your credit card information. I have even received false scam letters, emails and calls from companies I deal with. Netflix told me by email that I hadn't paid my bill and was trying to confirm my credit card information for months, but the return address was not on this continent!



### **Here are a few ways to check if it's real or a scam....**

First off, no bank, government or company would ever send you a letter or email or phone call asking you to give them your credit card number then and there.

Check the **spelling and grammar** of the letter or email....

one recent scam email from the Royal Bank had a major grammar mistake toward the end of the letter!

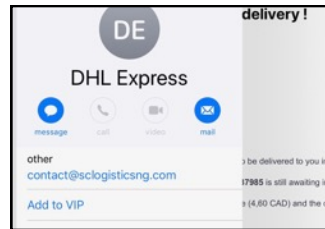
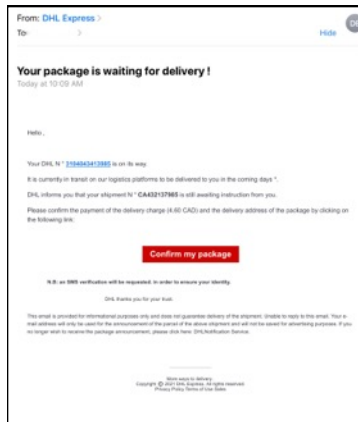
Although these accounts are using our logo, you will notice subtle differences in the spelling of Shepherd's. For example, ShepheArd's Fashions, ShepPherd's Fashions, and ShephArd's Fashions.

From: **Christmas Special \$90 Promo Reward** 🎄 >  
To:

**To recieve this special offer, simply complete our 30 seconds survey about your Tube experience.**

December 29, 2020 at 12:35 PM

**Check the return address** on any email you receive....if the sender's name isn't in it, delete it! Check out this email from DHL and then the return address

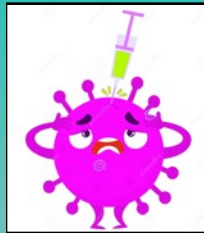


If the bank **robo-calls** you to tell you there's an issue with your credit card, hang up!

If someone on the phone asks if you can hear them, **DON'T** say "yes". The call is probably being recorded, and your "yes" can be used to force you into a financial commitment.

If it is a scam, forward your email to the phishing or fraud department of most companies; they are only too happy to be advised of this. (My Netflix and Royal Bank emails finally stopped coming)

And do check out [www.canada.ca/be-scam-smart](http://www.canada.ca/be-scam-smart) for lots of really great information about the oldest and the latest scams and what to do if you get caught! Above all, **don't click too fast and be careful!**



## Have you had your first shot yet?

Hello,

On March 25th I had my first shot of the Pfizer vaccine. Although I am only 66 yrs old I was prioritized as a healthcare worker. I have been hearing many people complaining and worrying about getting the vaccine shots for the covid-19 virus. Well, speaking from experience, there is no need to worry. Where I live, in Arnprior Ontario, we have the Drive Thru Vaccination Clinic. This works wonderfully. When I got my appointment date and time I also received a PDF consent form. I completed this and went to the drive thru location. From my arrival at 9:45 until my departure for home at 10:15 it was 30 minutes. My scheduled

time was 9:55 am and I received my shot at exactly 9:56 am. Now, when was the last time you went to an appointment of any kind and got in within one minute of the scheduled time? After receiving my shot, I went to the designated wait area and exactly 15 minutes later I was sent on my way. Through out my wait time I had "volunteer observers" come up to my car to check on me. There was also an area for people to go who had to wait 30 minutes (due to concerns). I can say that I have had no soreness, nausea, dizziness or headaches. From my perspective there is nothing to worry about. If you have the opportunity to get the vaccination, please do. To quote FDR "we have nothing to fear but fear itself".

Kerry Adams

### YOUR National Capital and Nunavut Chapter EXECUTIVE Officers:

- President –Kerry Adams
  - Vice-President – Suzanne Cunningham
  - Secretary –vacant
  - Treasurer –Ann Vachon
- Directors at Large:
- Denise Genge

•Marie Jutras  
•Yvonne Lavallée  
•Edith Cody-Rice  
Newsletter Editor – Ellen Chassé

[cbcpna.ott.nun@gmail.com](mailto:cbcpna.ott.nun@gmail.com)

*Know any ex-CBC'ers who aren't members of the PNA yet?  
Please send this newsletter on to them and their spouses and encourage them to join.*

