

July 2021

Communiqué

National Capital Region & Nunavut
The CBC Pensioners' National Association



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hello everyone!

Welcome to **SUMMER**. With the lock down partially lifted, and with longer warmer days with sunny skies we can finally see brighter days ahead. It's good to get outside and see our loved ones, our friends and our neighbours. So get outside and bike, canoe, kayak, paddle boat, row boat, golf, play tennis or pickle ball, or any other activity you can think of. Just get out and enjoy the great weather.

This issue of our communicate is packed with lots of interesting articles that are sure to pique your interest. So, be sure to read it all.

We held our triennial convention over three days in May. We heard some great reports by the special committee's and their recommendations. More about the reports at a later date as the National Executive have not finished going over all of them. We also elected a new PNA Executive. A news letter was sent to all members with the results. We want to congratulate the new PNA's National Executive of:

Alain Pineau – President
Dave Jeffrey – VP Anglophone
Donald Langis – VP Francophone
Rejean Labrie – Treasurer

This opens up two positions on our PNA's Board of Directors. The PNA Rep on the EAP Board and the PNA Rep on the Pension Fund Board of Trustees. We will be reaching out to ALL our members to see if anyone is interested in running for these two positions. More on this at a later date.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy! We will meet again.

Kerry Adams
President



2021 PNA National Convention

Last month, the PNA held its triennial convention. The convention was held over two days. The first day, May 18th, was an all-day event dedicated to the presentations from teams that worked on four critical areas: Advocacy, Communications, Diversity and Recruitment. These teams have now been working together for seven months researching, debating, deliberating and formulating recommendations and options that will form the basis of PNA's three-year strategic plan 2021-2024.

During the opening day plenary session, each team delivered an overview of their work and recommendations, followed by a short (15 minutes) general Q and A. Later, delegates were invited to participate in one of two one-hour workshops where they could comment, input and critique each of the Teams' plans.

The Teams have taken the input from the delegates and have amended or included these in their final recommendations submitted to the National Board of Directors for consideration and approval. The Board meetings to review the Team's final recommendations and approve plans going forward for 2021-2024 were June 12, 19 and 26., this in order to give each team's recommendations full and due consideration. More on the PNA's three-year plan in our next edition of Communiqué!

The second day of the convention was May 21st. Delegates were introduced to the candidates running for the four Executive Roles within the Association and heard what each wanted to contribute to the Association over the next three years. Two members of our Executive Team are from our own Region! Congratulations to all!

Also, a huge thank you to our two delegates Marie Jutras and Edith Cody-Rice, and our two alternate delegates, Tim Cairns and Jack Gemmill. We appreciate your participation on behalf of our Region.

Suzanne Cunningham, VP National Capital and Nunavut Region






TWO OF OUR MEMBERS, MARIE JUTRAS AND TIM CAIRNS ATTENDED THEIR FIRST PNA CONVENTION AS DELEGATES ALBEIT VIRTUALLY. WE ASKED THEM TO TELL US ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE


I attended my first PNA convention as a delegate from Ottawa on May 18th. We discussed 4 important topics, diversity, recruitment, advocacy and communications. I was very impressed with the whole day and also with the dedication and commitment of the people on these committees. Hopefully, with the cooperation and input of all the retirees of the CBC, we will thrive and be able to enjoy the privilege of being retired. Put in a good word to your CBC friends who are not members of the PNA Ottawa/Nunavut region.

MARIE JUTRAS

I attended the May 18 virtual Convention of the CBC PNA as an alternate delegate for the National Capital and Nunavut Region. Four committees provided reports - in order, Diversity & Inclusion, Recruitment, Communications and Advocacy. Each committee detailed the issues and challenges, and their recommendations going forward. This was followed up by a brief discussion for each. After a break, each delegate attended 2 breakout sessions with the committees of their choice where delegates delved deeper into the issues and recommendations of each committee. I attended the Recruitment and Advocacy sessions. I came in with very little background on any of the topics, but came away with an appreciation for the thought and effort each and every committee put in, as well as at least an inkling on the challenges that face the PNA over the next 5 to 10 years.

TIM CAIRNS



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.

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



CBC PNA NEWS UPDATES

ARBITRATOR SELECTED FOR MOA DISPUTE

The CBC and the PNA along with the Canadian Media Guild and APS have agreed to the appointment of retired judge, Dennis O'Connor, as arbitrator in a dispute concerning the Memorandum of Agreement on Pension Surplus Sharing. The Parties will now begin the process of finding suitable dates to begin the hearing.

The dispute arose after the parties were unable to agree upon any changes to the agreement during meetings at the end of 2019. CBC has taken the position that the agreement has expired and that it is no longer in effect. The PNA and the Unions dispute that position, noting that the agreement has no expiry date and is only subject to a review every ten years. O'Connor, the former Associate Chief Justice of Ontario, has been involved in several high-profile cases, including the Walkerton Inquiry, the Maher Arar Inquiry, and the internal review of the use of force by Toronto Police Services. He was also made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

We will continue to keep you informed on any new developments.

RESOLVING SAF (Special Assistance Fund) ADMINISTRATION

By Dan Oldfield, CBC PNA CCSB Representative

PNA members who have applied for financial help from the **Special Assistance Fund (SAF)** have been noticing a significant delay in getting payment for approved claims.

The reason for the delays is that CBC unilaterally decided, after nearly 20 years, it would no longer provide administrative services.

We have been working to resolve this issue, even offering to have the PNA provide the administration services. After the CBC rejected that approach, the PNA and all the CBC Unions wrote to Marco Dubé, CBC's Vice President of People and Culture, expressing their concern and asking for his assistance in finding a solution.

In the letter to Dubé, we stressed that, "The actions and positions taken by CBC/Radio Canada are causing significant harm to those employees and retirees who need assistance from the SAF," and, "We deplore the lack of any meaningful consultation with CCSB members on other alternatives prior to the submission of the May 2020 proposal. Accordingly, we, the Unions and the PNA, are open to any meaningful discussions aimed at finding a viable alternative to the administration of SAF requests." Dubé's response, which seems to offer hope for a resolution: "As I see it, we do share common interests in this file and there seems to be a path forward in having Canada Life manage it with the CCSB overseeing it. At this point, it seems like we need to hammer out how operationally we will do this."

We look forward to meeting with CBC officials to find a quick resolution.

SPECIAL MEETING ON ZOOM WITH DAN OLDFIELD (CLICK ON THE BLUE LINKS)

Well the stage is finally confirmed for the Across Canada SAF Zoom meeting. This is an opportunity for our members to go one on one and receive a direct answer to many questions.

Our meeting is set for a 2 hour duration where Dan Oldfield will first give an informative explanation on how and why the SAF works, after which he will take questions.

Across Canada Special Assistance Fund (SAF) Zoom Meeting hosted by the Southwestern Ontario Chapter of the CBCPNA

Guest speaker Dan Oldfield (CBCPNA SAF - Representative)

Here is your opportunity to get a direct answer to your questions regarding the SAF

June 30, 2021 at 1:00PM Eastern Time

<https://zoom.us/j/95388216106?pwd=MXhuOG1TTDBVSHQyU1pNMzVxdWtDZz09>

Meeting ID: 953 8821 6106

Passcode: 034984

Note: If you intend on attending please send a quick confirmation email to Gino Piazza at: ginojohnpiazza@gmail.com

LIVING IN COVID TIMES: It's been WELL over 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. **Jeanne Choquette, former CBOFT producer has had an extremely productive year...**

The image of a retired person who has since become crazy busy definitely describes me since September of 2014. My "retirement" began with the organizing of the "CBC I care/Radio-Canada j'y tiens" concert at the NAC. Right after that, I became my mother's caregiver, which I really enjoyed. At the same time I was volunteering with Audition Québec an organisation devoted to the hard of hearing and the Mathieu-Froment-Savoie palliative care home, all the while having dinners with the "girls", travels, and camping holidays which have become my passion (I am living in my camper for 4 months this summer).



Those who know me know that I gradually became totally deaf throughout my career. I was very happy to receive two cochlear implants (which was the focus of a documentary by Julie Huard called L'Oreille de Jeanne or Jeanne's Ear). This marvel of modern science has allowed me to hear again. It's not perfect so I still have to rely on lip reading techniques to compensate.

During the COVID 19 pandemic, many people who are hard of hearing have had a great deal of difficulty reading lips. As president of Audition Québec, I'm

particularly proud of having participated in the development of a surgical mask with a window. There is still lots of work to do to make it better known and used, but I'm optimistic!



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

REMEMBERED FRIENDS



10 mai 2021

Ronald Lapointe former Floor Director/Production Assistant CBOT/CBOFT 1939-2021

The Lapointe family regrets to announce the death of Mr. Ronald Lapointe on May 10, 2021, at the age of 81. He is survived by his children: Claude, Sylvain and Natalie Lapointe (Eric), as well as by the mother of their children Mrs. Jeannine Clément Lapointe and his grandchildren Vickie and Elissa. He also leaves his brother André (Flora), as well as many relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Mrs. Maria Marchand and Mr. Lionel Lapointe, his brother Gilles and his sister Gisèle.



Canada Day Challenge: prizes, prizes, prizes!!!!!!!

Join us for our social committee's Canada Day Challenge....just click on the link and when you've finished, click on submit.... the association is giving away 10, twenty five dollar gift cards for the highest scores and 1 fifty dollar gift card for a participation draw!

<https://forms.gle/PkNBnN9iSoFdbYBG6>

You have until July 7th to submit your answers...

Good luck!

How big is our Region? Is it only Ottawa?

The National Capital and Nunavut region has a very large geography...the National Capital is defined from east/west/north of Gatineau, Ottawa (east, south to the Seaway and west to include the Ottawa Valley). It stretches to just west of Kingston and east to include Cornwall...lots of folk from lots of places! And, we are hoping to connect with more retirees in the coming months... If you know of any retirees, please tell them about the PNA. Nunavut members...please let other CBC retirees in your community about the PNA so we can connect with them as well.

*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.*

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

- **President** –Kerry Adams
- **Vice-President** – Suzanne Cunningham
- **Secretary** –Edith Cody-Rice
- **Treasurer** –Ann Vachon

Directors at Large:

- Denise Genge
- Marie Jutras
- Yvonne Lavallée

Newsletter Editor – Ellen Chassé
cbcpna.ott.nun@gmail.com

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

