

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

ALBERTA, SASKATCHEWAN & NORTHWEST TERRITORIES REGION

CBC PENSIONERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

I would like to thank all the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories members who have taken part in PNA virtual meetings during the many months of the COVID-19 epidemic. The Regional Executive meets regularly by Zoom and discusses pressing matters by email. We used to hold the annual general meeting of the ASN Region at the University Club at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and let's hope we will be able to meet in person next year. PNA member Jeff Collins of Calgary continues phoning members in the Southern Alberta Chapter on their birthdays. I continue phoning the members in Northern Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories. Due to the pandemic, I have not been able to visit any members in the region since the onset of COVID-19 a year-and-a-half ago.

Your Region has had a decrease in membership during this last year. Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories went from 282 members to 273 members as of August 2021. The members include 101 women and 172 men. The decrease in membership is due to members dying or moving to another region. Not enough new former CBC employees are joining to make up the difference.

This has been mentioned before but it needs repeating that the national directors and regional executives of your Pensioners National Association have had a demanding three years working on how to make the PNA indispensable to its members. The Board of Directors of the Pensioners National Association has commissioned a study to ask members about their concerns. The Board wants to reinvigorate the PNA and developed four planning committees out of the 2018 national convention. They reported to the 2021 national convention. The Diversity and Inclusion team is made up of seven people, including our Regional Vice-President Lutz Walsh of Regina, SK. The Communications team has six members. The Recruitment team has six members, and the Advocacy team has four members. It is gratifying and heartwarming that these coast-to-coast volunteers have taken much time and trouble to advance the interests of the PNA. The liaison between the teams and the PNA, the CBC and its unions is our former national PNA president Denis Collette.

There were four meetings of the national Board of Directors during the summer of 2021. Much of the discussion centered on the recommendations from the four teams. One decision was to hire a Communications Coordinator for six months on a trial basis. There will be a Communications Advisory Board set up from PNA members to assist that person. There is a call for one representative from each of our eight regions to form a standing committee on Diversity and Inclusion as well as members to form a standing committee on Recruitment. Also

at a national Board of Directors meeting, it was decided to amend the by-laws aligning the timely transition from French to English executives on the Board of Directors. We will amend the ASN regional by-laws at this 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Some members of the ASN Region expressed interest in representing the national PNA on the Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits (CCSB) and on the board of the Employees Assistance Plan (EAP). Congratulations to Susan Graham of Regina, SK who was chosen by the national Board of Directors to represent the PNA on the EAP board.

According to our by-laws a person in the PNA can hold the same position on the executive for only six consecutive years. Cécile Magnan of Edmonton, AB has been the ASN Treasurer for that length of time and will retire. Cécile has done a great job administering our finances. Richard Marcotte of Regina, SK was acclaimed as Treasurer in the regional elections in the spring. Joanne Skidmore of Regina, SK has been ASN Secretary for the last six years, and co-editor with Monique Nenson of Regina, SK of *The Transmitter*. Over the years, they maintained a high standard for the quarterly newsletter. Joanne is retiring this autumn at the end of her six-year commitment and Del Simon was elected by acclamation to replace Joanne as Secretary. No ASN member volunteered to become a co-editor of the newsletter so Monique Nenson will work with Vice-President Lutz Walsh and Secretary Del Simon to publish a scaled back version of the newsletter twice a year.

Thanks again to each member of the CBC Pensioners National Association in the ASN region for continuing your membership in the PNA. We need to attract more members to maintain our level of official relationship with CBC. Let's look forward to a time when we can meet in person again.

Bob Forrow

President, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories Region of the CBC PNA