



The CBC Pensioners
National Association
Preserving our Future, Sharing our Past

Ontario Region

Livewire

Dec., 2021

The Pension Plan, The CBC and You

*Raj Narain
Dan Oldfield CCSB Rep.*

First and foremost, the Pension Plan is in good shape, in fact in such good shape, it could be in a surplus position at the end of this year. Great you say, I may be getting a payout. Not so fast.

In 2008, the CBC, the unions and the Pensioners' Assn. came to an agreement that if there was a pension surplus available for sharing, it will be shared between the CBC, its employees and its

retirees. The CBC will get 50% of the sharing surplus and the the employees and retirees will share the other 50%, based on a formula.

That deal called the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is now being seen differently by the CBC, the PNA and the unions and the issue went to mediation. The parties failed to reach an agreement and now mediation has been suspended.

The next step is arbitration, which begins in February.

In other words, that payout is a long way off, if it does happen.

For the Pensioners' Assn. to stand up for you against the CBC, it needs to be strong. It needs to show that it represents the majority of CBC retirees and this is where you can help.

Get involved with the Pensioners' Association. How you say?

Help your chapter organize events or run for office. It is not a tough job. It can be loads of fun. You can help recruit new retirees. We all know someone who hasn't join the Association. Urge them to join.

Remember, it's your money the Pensioners' Assn. is keeping an eye on.

2022 SHCP Rates

Under 65

Single \$129
Family \$272

65 plus

Single \$83
Family \$168

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President's Report

Gerry Head

Merry Christmas, Ontario.

For the Ontario Regional Board this has been a very busy year. We continue to meet bi-monthly via Zoom. We have several board members and some volunteers from our membership that are currently working on the plans of the National Board that originated at the May convention. You have been reading about the various committees and plans that were developed and are being put into operation.

We as members, can volunteer to do our part in recruiting new members. We all know a retiree who is not a member of the Pensioners National Association. Here is a simple suggestion – the best recruiting is done one-on-one. Plant the seed. The PNA is the only authorized voice that can talk to the CBC on their behalf and for their benefit.

The Ontario Region Board is open to suggestions and questions. Any issue that affects our membership is dealt with as quickly as possible.

We have made a couple of changes to our bylaws, received fantastic financial

reports and suggestions from our members. We did not have a quorum for our Annual General Meeting held in October but we did conduct our business as needed. Some items will have to be approved at next October's AGM.

This is my last year as President of the Ontario Region. An election will be held in early October of 2022. I encourage everyone of you to seriously consider getting involved.

The job is NOT onerous. You have great support from the people around you. There is no better satisfaction than knowing you have helped someone.

I spent 15 years as a volunteer for the Employees Assistance Program.



I met many of you either in Montreal, Ottawa or Toronto. One of my favourite meeting places was La Maison. I have many found memories of Montreal.

Recently I read an article re-printed from Professional Sound. It is titled "CBC/ Radio-Canada Moves into a New Era of Media". It is a fascinating article complete with pictures highlighting the new facilities. I encourage everyone to read it.

Finally, a big Thank You to the new Ontario rep. to the National Standing Committee - Rochelle Porter for Diversity & Inclusion.

Hopefully soon we will be able to meet in person again.

Merry Christmas. May this holiday season be the best ever for you and yours.

2022
Indexation
Rate is
2.41%

While we are in a vaccine frame of mind.

By Leone Earls

The Covid vaccine is all many of us can think about these days.

So many questions... Have you had your second dose? Do you know when you are getting your booster shot? Which one did you get? What kind of reactions did you have? And on and on!

So, while we are on the topic of vaccines, it seems an appropriate time to think about all the other shots middle-aged/seniors should consider.

Influenza – The yearly vaccine is recommended for all adults and, although it's not a 100% guarantee that you won't get the flu, it is likely the severity of the illness will be less if you get sick.

Pneumococcal (pneumonia) vaccine – People over 65 should receive one dose of Pneumococcal polysaccharide 23-valent. Once again, effectiveness of the shot can vary, but pneumonia is a serious illness.

From Canadian statistics, pneumonia is among the leading diagnoses for inpatient hospitalizations in Canada.



From 2018 to 2019, there were almost 67,000 inpatient hospitalizations.

Shingles (herpes zoster) vaccine - This is nasty and Canadian stats show that nearly 1 in 3 of us will develop shingles in our lifetime and the severity and incidence increases significantly after the age of 50. There is now a new vaccine called Shingrix which is much more effective than the earlier recommended one dose vaccine Zostavax II. Shingrix consists of two doses with the second to be administered between 2 and 6 months after the first.

Starting mid-October 2020, the Ontario Government began transitioning their publicly funded shingles immunization program from Zostavax II to Shingrix. Those who are between the ages of 65 and 70 are eligible as long as they have not already received the

free Zostavax II. If outside the eligibility criteria you must speak to your own primary health care provider and purchase the vaccine privately. Each dose of Shingrix costs \$150.00.

Looking at our own Supplementary Health Care Plan, the only clause I could see that might be related to covering injection costs says:

"Injectable drugs administered by a physician are covered to a maximum of \$15.00 towards the total cost of all drugs/injections provided on a single date of service at a clinic or doctor's office".

Tetanus, Diphtheria booster – As one of the websites I looked at re vaccines said, if when you step on a rusty nail while on vacation and you wonder if your shot is still current, it's probably worth checking with your doctor. A booster shot should be administered every 10 years; otherwise, your protection will fade.

The final caveat on all of the above is talk to your doctor on what shots you have had, what is safe for you, and what not.

Eye Exams resume for seniors and kids in Ontario

Optometrists withdrew eye services covered by Ontario, in Sept. due to a funding dispute.

That's all changed. Eye exams have now resumed since the Govt. and the Ontario Association of Optometrists agreed to enter formal negotiations in an effort to reach an agreement on funding fees.

Chapter Reports

Durham Trent

At our recent AGM, we elected a new Executive. Maureen Brosnahan takes over as Chapter President. Maureen has served as a volunteer Director for the past two years and is looking forward to helping the Chapter continue to grow. Barrie Burhoe, the former president of the Trent Chapter, was elected as Vice-President, Glenn Gray was re-elected as secretary, and Randy Blyth, a former Chapter V-P, was elected treasurer. Barbara Saxberg will initially continue as Past President to help with the transition. We thank Dan Oldfield for his work as treasurer. Barbara and Dan will be moving out of the Durham-Trent region in the new year. Directors Bette Laderoute-Sampson, Dan Karpenchuk, and Mac Skelton have agreed to continue.

Our AGM guest speaker, Dr. Brian Goldman, provided his usual knowledgeable perspective on the pandemic, COVID-19, and the importance of booster shots. Joe Solway ably hosted the conversation. And we had updates from Dan Oldfield, the CBC PNA's representative on the CCSB, on the next steps regarding the dispute with the CBC over the Memorandum of Agreement regarding pension surplus sharing. The pension plan is currently in a healthy surplus position although any surplus sharing will be dependent on a valuation at the end of this year and the resolution of the dispute. In the meantime, an attempt to mediate the dispute in November did not succeed and it now goes to arbitration in February. One other piece of news: although the CBC unilaterally dismantled the EAP Board, Dan confirmed that retirees will continue to have access to the new EAP.

In addition to the elections, the Chapter updated its bylaws to reflect the addition of the Trent members earlier this year, and approved the treasurer's report and financial statement for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The Chapter is in excellent shape financially and is looking forward to holding an in person gathering in the new year as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Durham-Trent Chapter wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Golden Horseshoe



The Golden Horseshoe Chapter of the CBC PNA held its Annual General Meeting on December 1st and like last year it was a virtual gathering over ZOOM because of the ongoing Pandemic.

In addition to the normal AGM business of receiving reports from the President and the Treasurer, we also floated the possibility of staging a safe in-person Spring event in May at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. It would feature a luncheon and possibly a guest speaker.

The key to doing that safely will be the venue – the Rock Garden a few kilometres away from RBG Centre where we held successful gatherings in 2018 and 2019. The Rock Garden is a spacious state-of-the-art structure with superb air-handling and direct access to the outdoors. It's also possible we could hold the gathering outdoors on the lawn in front of the building - under a canopy in case of rain. The Chapter Executive will meet at the end of January 2023 to decide on whether to proceed.

The star attraction of our AGM was the guest speaker, Dan Oldfield. He is the PNA representative on the CBC Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits. Dan brought us up to date on the current points of friction with the corporation - the operation of the Special Assistance Plan, changes to the EAP, the Corporation's position on sharing the Pension Fund surplus with pensioners/employees and the dispute over the future of the Memorandum of Agreement with the CBC. The last issue is heading to binding arbitration on Feb. 23-24. We'll have a lengthy excerpt from Dan's remarks in the next edition of the Golden Horseshoe Chapter UPDATE.

The Golden Horseshoe Chapter wishes everyone in the Ontario Region of the CBC PNA a merry and safe holiday season.

Southwestern Ontario

On a very positive note, we would like to extend all the best to the Members and Friends in the Ontario Region. Hopefully, you can take the opportunity to visit our Facebook site or have a look at our continuing stories of 'Here Is What I Have Been Up to' in our newsletters that are all posted on the National Website.

The stories are on what many of our Members have been doing during these trying times. The stories are so encouraging and fascinating that the feedback we have received from coast to coast is amazing.

On behalf of all from the SWO Chapter, wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Safe New Year!

Gino

Sandy

Jackie

Gerry

Manny



President

Vice President

Treasurer

Director

Director

Toronto

We are all looking forward to the time when it's safe to plan in-person events such as the Christmas party. With that in mind, one of the places we looked at was the Performing Arts Lodge in the St. Lawrence Market area.

The locations, one large meeting room and one

smaller bar/lounge, are accessible and would be modestly priced. It's our hope that we could start with a 'test meeting' of members who have expressed interest in PNA involvement in the spring of 2022.

The Toronto Directors would like to welcome Maureen Brosnahan, the

newly elected President of Durham/Trent Chapter, to the Board and to thank Barbara Saxberg for her outstanding service in that role.

And finally, Happy Holidays to those members who are celebrating! Best wishes for a safe and peaceful 2022!

RIP

ROMANOV, Moya – died on August 21, 2021. Moya worked in TV Sales and then moved to Radio Technical Scheduling where she worked from 1975 to 1988.

BRODIE, Norman (Norm) – died on September 21, 2021 at the age of 86. Norm worked as a Technical Producer for TV Sports.

BRAY, Richard (Rick) – died on October 3, 2021 at the age of 72. Early in his career as a journalist and freelance writer, Rick worked as a reporter and radio producer for "Sunday Morning".

HUGHES, Judith (actress Judith Sinclair) – died on October 5, 2021 at the age of 87. During her acting

career, Judith had parts in more than 600 CBC radio plays.

WEBB, Phyllis – died on November 11, 2021 at the age of 94. Between 1967 and 1969 Phyllis was the cofounder of "Ideas" and worked as its Executive Producer. She also did freelance work for the Corporation.

Your local Representatives

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SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND

The Special Assistance Fund (SAF) helps CBC retirees with health care expenses not covered by OHIP or the SHCP. It also offsets the cost of hearing aids and mobility devices.

For more information contact the CBC PNA Office

Email: info@cbcpensioners.ca

Phone: 1-877-361-9242

Pension Administration Centre

Have a question about your pension?
 Need to make changes to your pension payments?
 Need to sort out survivor benefits and estate settlements?

Get in touch

www.pensionadmin-cbc-src.ca

1-888-604-9258

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