

Fall 2022

National Capital Region & Nunavut **Communiqué** The CBC Pensioners' National Association



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Well here we are again at the end of a beautiful summer. I hope you have enjoyed these warm months and maybe got away after two and a half years of not travelling! We had a successful first in-person outing to talk about travel, as you can see from our pix, and had a great meal at Cobrie in the Carlingwood shopping centre. Our AGM is coming up at the end of October. You may have seen the National's newsletter recently and we've included excerpts from it in this newsletter. Also, take a look at Talin Vartanian's article on the surviving spouses pension issues. If you have any suggestions for our newsletter, contact us! And please ask your fellow retirees who have not joined the association to please consider it. We need the numbers to have any strength at all.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Hello all,

Wow! this summer has flown by it seems!



It was wonderful seeing people out and about, having guests come to visit, and doing a lot of activities that we have not done these last two summers of Covid.

Your Board has nonetheless been very hard at work throughout the summer.

First, we have worked with our friends from Quebec Region to bring **pre-retirement information sessions** to our Region. Many of you attended these sessions over the last couple of years via video conferencing and can attest how helpful they have been. We are fortunate to have Micheline Provost co-deliver with yours truly a bilingual session slated for **November 3rd**. The session will be a little different, we are holding it in person within the CBC building, and is intended to be a lunch time session. More details will be forthcoming in the next weeks. If you know CBC colleagues who are contemplating retirement, please tell them about the session. An internal notice will be issued at CBC as well on the IO system.

Second, arrangements have been made to have our **AGM this year in person**. We are returning to the RA Centre. Please mark your calendars for **Friday, October 28th**. As is our tradition, we will have registration (and some time for connecting with friends), followed by regional and Association business updates, and a luncheon.

You have also likely received communications during the course of the summer with updates on how the PNA Representatives have been meeting with CBC Executives and re-establishing our relationship with the Corporation. There are updates also on the work and hearings underway regarding the MOA and pension plan surplus. I recommend looking up the CBC Pension Board Website at: <https://cbc-radio-canada-pension.ca/>

There is always great information and quarterly updates regarding the plan posted for your review.

There has been work and discussion regarding post-retirement spouses as well. Our Editor Ellen has a summary in this Communiqué of an excellent report by Talin Vartanian of the Ontario Region and an update from our National Office on this matter.

After many years of serving our Regional Board on the Executive as your Treasurer, Ann Vachon has asked to step aside and remain as a Director-at-large. Lyne Marcil, who joined the Board this past year, has agreed to step in and complete Ann's term. Ann will be delivering her "last" financial report at our AGM in October. I want to formally thank Ann for all of her hard work and contribution to the PNA and our Region.

Finally, I have had the pleasure of reaching out to many of you directly over the last few months and will continue to do so in coming weeks. Thank you for letting us know that you are willing to help out when you can. The Board is still under-populated and several members are considering changes, and several members who intended to retire from the Board last year, are still serving due to the shortage of Board member volunteers. This is certainly the time to get involved and step-up to serve on the Regional Board or in another capacity, such as the Regional Representative on the National Standing Recruitment Committee. ***Our Region is holding its own with regards to new members, however your help in reaching out to previous friends and colleagues who may not be members is invaluable. The viability of our Association rests with each of us.***

I am always happy to hear from you, so if you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Look forward to seeing you all at the AGM next month! Stay safe,

Suzanne

PNA NEWS (re-printed from the PNA National Communiqué)

Special Assistance Fund (SAF): CBC has entrusted the administration of the Special Assistance Fund program to Canada Life (formerly Great-West). The lack of training of Canada Life staff is creating issues, both for retirees who want to submit a request and for the staff of our national office who can no longer help them as in the past because of the lack of information. Marco Dubé will follow up on this point.

Sharing the Pension Fund Surplus

CBC did not accept our proposal to proceed with the sharing of the 2021 surplus of the Pension Fund without prejudice to the position of the Corporation in the dispute between it, the PNA, and the Unions as to the validity of the 2009 agreement on such sharing. The CBC is taking refuge behind the fact that the case is currently in arbitration to justify refusing any suggestion from us.

We will therefore have to wait for the decision of Judge Dennis O'Connor. That decision could be a few months away though. We have decided to present one last witness on behalf of the PNA, who will talk about the process of reviewing the agreement. The arbitration sessions resume this week, on September 8, 9 and 19 and October 12.

We had hoped that this would bring the arbitration process to a conclusion, but a recent turn of events could prolong it: the Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada (STTRC), which did not sign the agreement in 2009 but now wants to be part of it, has decided belatedly to have its own legal representation in the case. This could delay the arbitration further. Stay tuned for more updates.

Meanwhile, it seems that the Pension Fund is headed for another surplus this year, which could mean another contribution holiday for the CBC. The Pension Plan Board of Trustees will examine the second 2022 quarterly report on September 14 and 15, prior to its being made public.

Surviving Spouses Benefits

The sponsor of the pension fund (in this case CBC) could add the benefit of a pension to the survivor of a relationship that began after the spouse retired. After discussions and being aware that the timing is not favourable to such a request, our Executive Committee has decided to await the decision of the arbitrator in the dispute between the PNA and the unions at CBC, before deciding whether or not we will approach the Corporation about adding this benefit.



Also: concerning the issue of surviving spouses benefits, the following is reproduced with permission from an article written by Talin Vartanian, a CBC Radio producer for 43 years. She worked on Morningside, As It Happens and The Sunday Edition. She was also the creator and executive producer of Canada Reads. She is currently a member of the PNA's Communications Advisory Board.

Why your spouse may not qualify to receive your CBC pension when you die...

The federal government and the Corporation are clinging to an antiquated, sexist law called "the gold digger's clause" even though the CBC could act on its own and drop the law for its pensioners.

Even though Dino Di Gregorio has been married for 16 years, his wife Manuela will be denied his CBC pension when he dies. That's because of several antiquated, sexist, and patently unfair federal laws. They affect thousands of Canadians: public servants; veterans; Mounties; people who work in federally regulated workplaces, such as airlines; and employees of Crown corporations, including the CBC. These contentious laws say that only the person to whom you were married at the time you retired qualifies as a beneficiary of your pension. When Dino Di Gregorio grabbed a golden parachute in 1997 and jumped ship from the CBC, he was at the top of his game as a video editor, and just 49 years old. He'd been at the Corporation for more than three decades, working on a wide variety of programs in sports, music, variety, drama, and children's television. He was also a widower. His wife Maria had died five years earlier, due to a botched operation. In 2006, DiGregorio re-married, and he expected his CBC pension would support his new wife Manuela, after he died. Years later, he learned through someone at the CBC Pensioners National Association (PNA) that it would not. "I think it's unfair," Di Gregorio says. "Being still young, I met someone else and got married. She has no entitlement to my pension, and I don't think it's right."

Rick Inglis of Kelowna, B.C., and Maurice Gill of Frelighsburg, P.Q., strongly agree. It's not personal for them, it's about the principle. They are PNA members and co-chairs of the Surviving Spouses Pension Fairness Coalition (SSPFC). It represents 22 organizations that are fighting for reform, including the Canadian Nurses Association, the Canadian Labour Congress and the Council of Canadians. They are also fighting for the rights of common law and same-sex couples. Inglis credits the late Ray Wainess, who served as president of PNA's B.C. Southern Interior Chapter, for spearheading the Association's campaign to fight this law. Wainess had heard about a tragic case: A CBC employee had retired early to care for his wife, who had terminal cancer. When she died, and the pensioner remarried three years later, his second wife did not qualify as a beneficiary of his pension, even though they had been married for about thirty years. The history of this injustice dates to the late 1800s, when young women in the U.S. married veterans of the Civil War in what were called "deathbed marriages," allowing them to collect their husbands' pensions long after they died, sometimes for decades. There was a similar trend in Britain when soldiers returned home from the Second Boer War. Both the U.S. and the U.K. passed laws to close the loophole. Canada, with soldiers fighting alongside the Brits in the Boer War, followed suit with what's been dubbed "the gold-digger's clause" in the Militia Pension Act of 1901. It denied benefits to widows who were deemed to be "unworthy." A woman would not qualify for her husband's pension if there was an age gap of 20 years or more, or if she married him after he was 60 years old. In later years, some governments recognized the law was patronizing and sexist as it presumed ill intentions on the part of all women, and women were almost exclusively affected. Both the American and British governments eliminated these restrictions, but instead of abolishing them, Canada expanded them to cover far more people. Inglis says Prime Minister Mulroney saw the "gold-digger's clause" as a way to cut costs, and he entrenched it in six different pieces of legislation that also governed the RCMP, public servants, judges, politicians, and other employees under federal jurisdiction, including at the CBC.

Inglis stresses that this is not only about second marriages. The inherent injustice of this pension limitation can adversely affect a pensioner who is married for the first time.

The government professes to care about poverty among the elderly. The reality is that 80 per cent of Canadian seniors who live in poverty are single, and 75 per cent of them are women.

Gill tells the story of one woman who acted independently, when she learned about the unfairness of the "gold-digger's clause." "The pensioner's spouse left him after his retirement, and he got another spouse. Then he became invalid, so for five years the new spouse was caring for this pensioner. The two spouses knew each other. After the death of the pensioner, the ex-wife was receiving a pension, and she decided to give a share to the other spouse, who had no pension. I was amazed to hear this," says Gill. "That gesture is magnificent, and it's a very good demonstration of the unfairness of the legislation."



Tuesday June 7, the PNA held an in-person Lunch and Learn at Cobrie International Restaurant in the Carlingwood Shopping Centre. 40 people attended a presentation by Merit Travel to talk about travel possibilities in the coming year!. They answered lots of questions including travel in COVID times and what travellers need to know. The Merit consultants covered a variety of travel options including:

- River Cruises
- Ocean Cruises
- Luxury Travel
- Group Travel & Guided Tours
- Bucket List Trips
- Adventure Travel
- Single Travellers
- Long Stay Vacations
- Hotels
- Flights
- Car Rentals
- Package Vacations

Merit Travel Ottawa Consultants can be reached at 613.724.6206 Ottawa@MeritTravel.com





OUR NEXT EVENT.....

**The CBC Pensioners National Capital and
Nunavut Region
2022 Annual General Meeting**

will be held on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28th, 2022

at the RA Centre, Courtside Room, 2451 Riverside Drive.

Please Check-in between 9:30-9:55 AM <--> Meeting starts at 10:00 AM

**Our Guest Speakers are Duncan Burrill, Managing Director/CEO, who will update us on the CBC
Pension Plan**

**and Marc-Philippe Laurin, PNA Representative, who will update us on the ongoing work at the
National level.**

****Our AGM is open to both PNA members and non-members.****

Please reach out to your friends who are CBC pensioners
that may not be members and let them know about this important event!

Remember that partners of pensioners are also welcome.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING THE MEETING

Be sure to advise us in advance of any food allergies or special diets.

There will be door prizes!

Please register your attendance **before October 18th**.

Send an email to cbcpna.ott.nun@gmail.com

or leave a telephone message with Ann Vachon at 613-820-6500.



Our series on “Life After the CBC” is about people who have found lots to do since retirement, much of which has helped them through the past two years. This time, meet Lyne Marcil. Lyne was one of the first female technicians in Ottawa and was a tv video editor when she retired a few years ago.



Hi, my name is Lyne Marcil and I worked 35 years as a television technician at Radio-Canada in Ottawa. Since I retired, actually 9 years ago, I must admit that I haven't seen the time pass. I had no plans at the time and no idea what I should do but I did have a puppy. Walking the dog in my neighbourhood allowed me to meet lots of interesting people. I started to walk my friends' dogs and felt completely safe in their presence. Then, I decided to turn that into a job which I love. Walking in the woods has done me so much good. Most of my clients have since become friends as well. All this helped me get through the lockdowns much more easily...dogs provide unconditional love for



life! More recently, a Gatineau municipal councillor asked me to join a committee to establish a new dog park. So I became involved with that and the park finally opened in July.



I also helped out a group of knitters from the Neuro-trauma association of the Outaouais. Together, we knitted a 24-foot long scarf to place on the Jos Montferrand statue on Montcalm Street in the Hull sector. I also worked on a book about Patrick Vallée a sculptor who specializes in creating works representing the subjects of Quebec legends. I like to keep busy so I took some sewing classes, cooking classes and a few months ago, piano lessons. Oh and I still repair computers! When Ellen asked me if I would consider joining the board of the Regional Pensioners' Association, I hesitated at first but I believe that the association is important for us retired people and I want to contribute. Furthermore some of my friends are there too, so it's a win-win!

CONTACT US:

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

We welcome letters to the editor. and content ideas.

Perhaps you have a story to tell – something from your days at CBC , some photos 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



BERTSCHI, Lorraine age 95. CBC Ottawa receptionist on the 7th floor of the Chateau Laurier

Suddenly on Sunday, June 12, 2022, Lorraine Bertschi (nee Slocum) in her 95th year. Loving mother to David and Suzanne (Grant Koehler). Dear Gramma of Jason (Jasmine nee, Sarazin), Matthew, Jennifer (Thomas Leary), Christopher, Bryn, Devon, Eve and Wyatt and, great-gramma to Beckett, Adrian and Cooper. Dear sister of Frances Hersey. She will be greatly missed.



DANAGHER, Walter Noel (Dan) November 22, 1928 - June 4, 2022

Retired Senior Director, Corporate and Resource Planning Division, CBC Head Office, Ottawa. Dan was a kind and generous man who lived a long and full life, raised a family, travelled the world, and had many friends. He spoke fondly of Ireland, the country of his birth. Dan reflected often on his career at the CBC that took him and his family from Ottawa to Vancouver (where he obtained his MBA from Simon Fraser University) and back to Ottawa. Arriving in Canada in 1953, he settled in Montreal where he met Helene Theriault, his first love and future wife. Married in 1956, the two raised their five children to be strong, independent, and free-thinking. Dan lived to the very end on his terms: in his

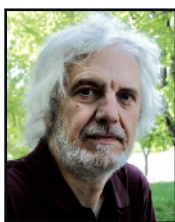
own home, regularly driving his car, conversing daily with friends and family, passionately following the news and sports, and taking care of his affairs. He died peacefully in his sleep after a day of doing what he enjoyed and being loved by friends and family. Predeceased by Helene, his daughter Mary and his brother Jack. Survived by his brothers Vincent and Daniel and sister Pauline. He loved his children Laura (Charles), Dan (Daryl), Michael (Stephanie), and Liam (Pamela) and his grandchildren (Kennedy, Jude, Giuseppe, Mairead, Maeve, Sinead, Aidan, and Rennie) and always boasted of them.



EVANS, Janet (Wright) producer CBOT

on July 28, 2022, at the age of 84 in Perth, Ontario. Janet will be forever loved by her husband of fifty-four years Paul Wright; her children Cressida (Matthew), Morgan (Jennifer), Allison (Bill) and grandchildren Aaron, Grace, Laura and William. Cherished sister to Carey (Colleen) in Australia and adored auntie to Sue, Karen and Sarah, their families and her cousins in Wales. Born in 1939, Janet attended the famed Central School of Speech and Drama in Albert Hall, London, studying stage management. She soon made the move to film and television working for Granada in Manchester and the BBC in Glasgow. In 1966, Janet emigrated to Canada, settling in Ottawa where she met famed filmmaker Budge Crawley and joined Crawley Films as a producer. In 1967, she joined the CBC where she enjoyed a more than 30-year career from on-screen host, award-

winning producer and director of shows such as Scene from Here, Country Report, Switchback, Rockburn & Company, and as Senior Producer of Newsday. In 1968, she met a quirky jazz-loving English drummer named Paul and was swept away despite (or perhaps because of!) the fact he always had a portable record player and bag of vinyl by his side. Almost immediately they were inseparable. Her passion was sharing stories of the amazingly talented people in the arts and theatre community throughout the Ottawa Valley. Janet will be forever remembered for being self-effacing, wickedly funny, smart and creative. Her heart was in the garden at home in Westboro or walking the beaches of Kennebunkport, Maine, where she and her family made lifelong friendships and memories. Her last four years were spent in long-term care, in the loving and trusted care of her husband and the team at Lanark Lodge, in Perth.



MONTY, Paul... On January 28, 2022, despite Paul's determination to fight to the end, cancer got the better of his fighting spirit. He leaves in mourning the woman of his life, his "blonde steady" Claire Legault and their children of whom he was very proud: Joëlle, Myriam (Ghislain De Beck), Pierre-Hugues, his grandsons Antoine and Laurent, as well as his sister Teresa (Terry) (Tony Vizvary).

Paul was born in Saint-Lambert, where, very early on, he developed his passion for broadcasting to the point of making his career at the CRTC and then at the Société Radio-Canada—CBC. After settling in Aylmer, which he considered his second adoptive community for 30 years, Paul was actively involved in municipal politics and educational, cultural, and community organizations. It must also be mentioned the determination and precision he brought to his project of researching, archiving, and promoting the work of his grandfather, painter and decorator of religious art, Louis-Eustache Monty. During his many travels, he had the chance to fuel his interests in architecture, history, culture, music and captured many memories through his photography. Paul was a discreet man with an enigmatic sense of humour that made its mark on friends and family.



NASSAU, Wilhelm Eduard ...Passed away peacefully at home in his 100th year on February 6th, 2022 surrounded by his wife, Hermine of 55 years and family.

Willi was born in Vienna where he received his early education. He then studied Fine Arts and Graphic Technology and worked in Photography, Film and Television. In 1959, Willi came to Canada. He worked for CBC and CTV in Ottawa before Willi arrived in Kitchener-Waterloo. He was the founder of the audio-visual department at WLU, then Waterloo Lutheran University, where he also taught photography and film related courses. After his retirement in 1988, Willi volunteered for over 20 years at The

Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery. As a result of various projects with museums, WLU awarded Willi the distinction of Dr. honoris causa in 1991.

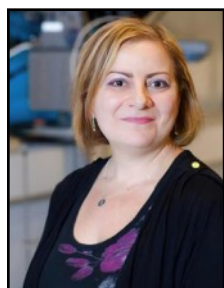


NEEDHAM, Edgar CBO/CBOT Ottawa

Edgar Howard Needham, born in Boston, Massachusetts on May 22, 1932, enjoyed his last lobster dinner with his family on his 90th birthday. Son of the late Edgar Howard Needham Sr. and Cecilia Boardman of Boston, Massachusetts, he died in Ottawa, Ontario, at the Montfort Hospital, on May 31, 2022, after a short illness.

Edgar began his career as a broadcast radio professional across New England and the American mid-West. He spent a challenging time as a war correspondent for the ABC Network in Vietnam. After immigrating to Canada in the 70s, he worked at various radio and television stations in Ottawa and Toronto and was rewarded with The ACTRA Best

Talk Show 'Nellie' 3 years in a row. He leaves his devoted wife Louise (Lapointe), his beloved stepdaughter Danièle (Robert McBride), many step-nieces and nephews, a niece Tracey and nephew Robert Walsh in Boston Massachusetts and several cousins throughout the USA.



PAGLIARELLO, Jackie (Gioconda) September 3, 1963 June 8, 2022...producer CBOT. It is with great sadness that the family announces Jackie's passing. Jackie is survived by her father, Giuseppe Pagliarello, and by her sisters, Maria Pagliarello (Sean McGrath) and Rosa Pagliarello (Joe Aragona).

Jackie had a phenomenal career at CBC for 35 years. She began her career in 1987 as an associate director for English regional news. She then went on to work extensively as a director, notably for CBC Ottawa's NewsDay and NewsDay Final. Jackie was also regularly involved with broadcasts of Hockey Night in Canada and was part of the Ottawa team that was responsible for establishing the very first Ottawa-based CBC Newsworld bureau. Jackie spoke four languages: English, French, Italian and Spanish. She loved to travel and was part of the CBC team that

broadcast the 2006 Olympic Games from Turin, Italy. She was blessed with lifelong colleagues at CBC, who are too numerous to thank individually.

Jackie will be dearly missed. Her infectious laugh, sense of humour, and ability to engage in conversation with everyone about everything wherever she went was a bright spot in many a day.



WATSON, Patrick. The celebrated Canadian broadcaster and past CBC chair has died at the age of 92. (Fred Phipps/CBC Still Photo Collection)

Through work as a producer, author, television host and more, Watson helped shape the face of Canadian journalism — while never shying away from controversy or difficult decisions. Born in Toronto in 1929, Watson began his career playing Jake in CBC Radio's daily children's series *The Kootenay Kid* in 1943 — a job for which he started out making \$1 an episode. He began to pursue a career in academics, but in 1955 abandoned a PhD in linguistics from the University of Michigan to work at the CBC. Soon after, he was hosting *The Four Corners* travel series in 1957, then proceeded to work both in front of and behind the camera for a number of other shows, including *The Watson Report*, *Witness to*

Yesterday, Venture, and *The Struggle for Democracy*. "*This Hour Has Seven Days*", used a mix of documentary material, satire and original music by Canadian actor and singer Dinah Christie to review news of the week — and often pillory influential figures. It ran for two years and released 50 episodes before being cancelled in 1966 due to its provocative nature, after which Watson spent a number of years as an independent producer and journalist. "I was looked upon as a troublemaker," Watson said in a 1981 interview with *Maclean's* magazine of leaving CBC after *This Hour's* end. "Partly, it was a self-chosen exile from the CBC, but it was also true they wouldn't hire me. I was broke after having done some spectacular TV." Still, younger Canadians may have known him better as the principal writer behind the original *Heritage Minutes*, a one-minute series that aimed to make Canadian history more accessible. Watson said that project, which itself has achieved legendary status in Canadian culture, was created to "persuade Canadians that they have an interesting past."

Watson did return to CBC, and became chair from 1989, during which he presided over the broadcaster's controversial restructuring of the 1990's. In that time, 1,100 employees were fired and several stations closed in the face of a massive budget deficit. He resigned as chair in 1994, though went on to release more work — such as hosting *The Canadians: Biographies of a Nation* (a biographical series by History Television) and, later, a three-volume print edition of that show. Watson was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1981, and later promoted to Companion in 2001 for promoting "excellence in Canadian television and radio." He was also a longtime disability advocate after his leg was amputated below the knee in 1960, and served as honorary chair of the Canadian Amputee Sports Association and chairman emeritus of the Canadian Abilities Foundation. He later became an accomplished pilot, wind-surfer, water-skiier, scuba diver and magician; he had a lifelong love for the craft, and was one of three founding members of *Magicana*, a Canadian not-for-profit organization dedicated to the study of magic as a performing art. He also published multiple novels, non-fiction books, and a stage play — 1983's *The Book of Job*, a one-man play which he starred in. As an actor, he appeared in the TV movies *The Terry Fox Story* (1983) and *Countdown to Looking Glass* (1984); the films *Bethune* (1977) and *The Fourth Angel* (2001) and the series *Slings and Arrows* (2003). He published an autobiography, *This Hour Has Seven Decades*, in 2004.



WILSON, Robert (Bob) passed away suddenly at home at the age of 86. Supervising technician NPB/CBC Ottawa, who spent much of his retired life dedicated to the Knights of Columbus and their charitable work. In his younger years, "Bobby" enjoyed his time creating fond memories in Alcove, QC. Predeceased by his loving wife Laura Grace Wilson (nee Bowes). Lovingly remembered by his daughter Laurie Ann, his son Scott (Martha Sanchez), daughter Cheryl (Robert McCleary).



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**

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- **Secretary** –vacant
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- Lyne Marcil
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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 the PNA and serve on committees. We hope you will join us.

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

