



CBC National Pensioners Association, Newfoundland and Labrador Region, Fall 2022 Newsletter

The pandemic has presented challenges, but your CBC Pensioners Association in Newfoundland and Labrador has tried to remain active despite the restrictions.

At the end of August, the Executive planned yet another “Pop up Picnic.” One of our members, Doreen Coady, once again invited us to her beautiful garden in the east end of St. John’s. Twenty-six members attended on short notice and the weather behaved beautifully. Lots of food and prizes! Special thanks to Gordon and Telsie Pick for sharing their garden vegetables with other members.



CBC pensioners seeking shade at our August 31 pop-up picnic in Doreen Coady's garden.

Not just a place to golf and curl

More than 50 people attended our July luncheon at the Bally Haly Country Club in St. John's. Individuals paid \$10 toward the cost, and in keeping with past practice the regional association subsidized the balance. We had great feedback from members on the food and venue, so we plan to continue using Bally Haly.

Christmas preparations

Following our summer event, the next luncheon has been booked at Bally Haly for Tuesday, Dec. 6. We will offer two choices for the meal and the cost will be subsidized, as we normally do. It is a little early for all the details, but the executive will be in contact with you by phone and email as we get closer to our Christmas event.

Birthday greetings

One way we connect with our members is to call on their birthdays. Many of us received greetings from John Walsh over the years, but this year he decided it was time to hang up the phone. We thank him for all the time and effort he put in as a volunteer. Diane O'Mara is picking up the calls this fall. As well, executive members Kevin Hanlon and Judy Squires have been delivering our birthday greetings for the past few months. Thanks, Kev and Judy.

Scholarship winner

If you missed it in June, Katie Dicks is this year's recipient of the \$500 CBC Memorial Scholarship. Katie is a Commerce (Co-op) student at Memorial University and is the grand-daughter of Velma and Gerry Davis. Congratulations to Katie!

Recruiting new members

As a region, 65 per cent of CBC pensioners in Newfoundland and Labrador have joined our association, but we always are looking for more members.

The national board of directors voted this month to create a new category of non-voting member for people who eventually will draw a CBC pension. It's meant to invite them to be active in our organization.

Our own Debbie Hussey is co-chair of the national recruitment committee.

The stronger we make our association, the better we can represent pensioners' interests in dealing with the CBC. That includes fighting for a share of a surplus in the pension plan and extending survivor benefits to spouses who married CBC pensioners after retirement.

If you know any CBC pensioner who has yet to sign up, let us know so we can contact them

NL Association elections in 2023

Next May will mark the end of their terms for Vice-president Judy Squires and Treasurer Ruth Lawlor. We'll go through a formal call for nominations later, but now could be the time to start thinking about taking on a more active role in CBC NL Pensioners Association. The terms for President Jon Soper, Secretary Debbie Hussey and member at large Kevin Hanlon will continue for another year.

Pensioners Coalition activities

Your association through regional president Jon Soper is part of the provincial Coalition of Seniors, Retirees and Pensioners. This year, it met with federal and provincial politicians, including the relatively new Health Minister, Tom Osbourne. That September meeting touched on many concerns, including access to primary health care, support for seniors to age at home, universal pharmacare and the government's Health Accord.

The coalition also met with the new Seniors Advocate, Susan Walsh, during August. The priorities she identified in her early days on the job included housing needs, the rising cost of living, and healthcare issues.

Special Assistance Fund

The latest edition of our national newsletter, Contact, contains information on a variety of activities that affect all members. It includes an update on applying to the Special Assistance Fund for extraordinary health expenses. The CBC has transferred the administration of the fund to Canada Life, creating problems for applicants. We urge people to consult with the national office at info@cbcpensioners.ca or 1-877-361-9242 before applying.

Sign those CBC forms

In October, some of you received pink-coloured letters and forms from the CBC Pension Board of Trustees asking you to verify your address and any required information about power of attorney. The forms are legitimate and should be filled out. They're part of a continuing audit that the board performs each year to ensure payments are made correctly.

Don't forget about the province's furnace oil rebates

Members who rely on oil to heat their homes may be eligible for assistance from the provincial government. It offers a rebate of up to \$500 for eligible households. For more information, check out the government's website at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/fin/home-heating-supplement-program/>

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