



Photo by Mike Fitzsimmons

“I no longer feel like tilting at windmills.”

A frustrated Alain Pineau abruptly quits as president of the CBC PNA



**Spring Thing
June 1, 2023**



Lunch at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton Page 5

A comment on Pineau's resignation and the state of the PNA

By Talin Vartanian

Secretary, Ontario Region

It's both understandable and disconcerting that Alain Pineau's resignation as president sparked concerns, rumours, and speculation that the PNA is in trouble or in a state of internal turmoil. It's not.

Our Association is not about one person. It's run by a team

of hardworking, dedicated volunteers across the country, who continue to do good work to represent all our interests. There is no cause to be concerned.

Some background:

When Pineau resigned on February 9th, it was at a special meeting of the Board of Directors. A few days prior, the PNA executive informed

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Can a crook steal your house? Sue Heddle has tips for preventing a crime called title fraud. Page 7



Do you like maple syrup? Jay Mowat really likes *making* it. For him it's a labour of sweet love. Page 8

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all concerned, without explanation, that the meeting would be held in camera, and that only voting members of the Board would be permitted to attend.

Last October, the Board had agreed that whenever a meeting was to be held behind closed doors, it would require a motion to be passed by a majority of Board members. However, no such motion was made, despite several Board members reminding the Executive of the agreed-upon practice.

Two non-voting Board members—who have always been included in Board meetings, in camera or otherwise—were barred from attending. Dan Oldfield is our representative on the Consultative Committee for Staff Benefits (CCSB). He was the lead negotiator for the PNA and the unions when the Memorandum of Agreement on pension surplus sharing was originally negotiated, and was a key witness and advisor in the current arbitration. Marc-Philippe Laurin is the PNA's observer on the CCSB. In addition, the chairs of two standing committees—recruitment, and equity, diversity and inclusion—were excluded. So



Talin Vartanian

were two members who had asked to attend as observers (including yours truly). However, contrary to the only-voting-members dictum, both PNA staff members were present.

The executive did not provide Directors with an agenda, and the meeting opened abruptly. Pineau read a statement of resignation, and it was emailed almost simultaneously to all members. (This alone calls into the question the need for an in camera meeting.)

Repeatedly, the former president has asserted that no one should say or do anything to cast a bad light on the PNA, as it might cause potential retirees to question the wisdom of joining. This was Pineau's principal argument against permitting PNA members to

observe National Board meetings, even though the majority on the Board of Directors said they favoured an atmosphere of openness and transparency.

In his letter of resignation, Pineau wrote: "I would like to emphasize for the benefit of those who are ready to admit 'observers' regularly or permanently to the Board of Directors' meetings, that the elected Directors are the people who accept a fiduciary responsibility to act at all times in the best interest of the members. By definition, 'observers' have no such responsibility."

Yet, the former president did not act in the best interest of the Association himself, in writing his letter of resignation. He took credit for initiatives that he did not initially support, exposed rifts with individuals who disagreed with him, and elaborated on personal grievances. Pineau used his podium to cast aspersions on long-serving Board members who had challenged him in the past, including some who had been barred from attending the meeting.

The former president also complained that he had been "accused of micro-managing the PNA." This is true.

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Those who have challenged his leadership would tell you a different story: that they have been attempting to ensure proper process is followed, as per the PNA's bylaws and policies. They strived to allow room for debate when there were differences of opinion, and to keep the organization open and transparent.

Like any large group, our Association has its flaws, there are disagreements, and things don't always run as smoothly as they should. What matters

is that it's an extraordinary organization that stands up for the rights of pensioners, thanks to a small army of dedicated people who are not paid.

The PNA helps us all. We should support it. And we need to ensure the welcome mat is rolled out for all potential new members.

There were two other recent resignations of note. Nicola Sturgeon announced she was stepping down as First Minister of Scotland, saying she was exhausted, and had become

too divisive a figure to lead the government. A few weeks prior, Jacinda Ardern resigned as Prime Minister of New Zealand. Although she had endured a constant barrage of misogyny and personal attacks during her six years in office, she mentioned none of it. Instead, she said she "no longer had enough in the tank" to do the job.

Both women were class acts.

Pineau would have been wise, in the best interest of the PNA, to follow in their footsteps.

Donald Langis becomes interim president of the PNA

Francophone Vice-President Donald Langis will serve as Interim President of the PNA until the Annual General Meeting in 2024.

According to the PNA bylaws, his position as Francophone VP may be filled by a Francophone member of the Board or, if that is not possible, by a Francophone member of the Association.

Langis will remain Interim President until the next Triennial Convention in May 2024, at which time all members will be able to vote for a new PNA President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer. The bylaws require that only Anglophones can



run for the post of President in 2024. (The position swings back and forth between Canada's two official languages.)

Langis has been an active member of the PNA. Prior to

becoming VP in 2021, he was a member of the executive for the Maritimes Region before becoming President of the Moncton chapter in New Brunswick. In 2019 the PNA appointed him to be its rep on the Employee Assistance Program national committee.

Langis started at Radio-Canada Acadie in 1980 where he performed several jobs in News before being appointed news director in 1989. He retired from that role in 2005.

It's expected he will release his first President's message in the next issue of CONTACT which is scheduled for publication in April.

Will Pineau's resignation have any effect on the MOA arbitration? 4

By Dan Oldfield

CBC PNA Rep on the CCSB

Some members have asked whether the resignation of PNA President Alain Pineau will have any impact on the Memorandum of Agreement arbitration concerning the sharing of CBC pension surpluses.

The simple answer is it will have no effect.

Pineau has not been directly

involved in the arbitration process. As President of the PNA he was briefed regularly as to the status of arbitration but he was not involved directly in the process. He was neither a witness nor was he a participant in the hearings.

The PNA is in partnership with CBC's French and English unions and have been represented by a single legal counsel.

The PNA was represented at the hearings by me and Marc-Philippe Laurin, both representatives on the Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits.

All evidence has now been presented and what remains is final argument.

A final hearing date of April 12 has been established, after which a decision will be issued by the arbitrator, Justice Dennis O'Connor.

How will the CBC pension surplus be distributed?

By Dan Oldfield

We await the outcome of the arbitration that will determine whether CBC pensioners and employees will get a share of last year's declared pension plan surplus. In the meantime, some PNA members have been asking about the process of any surplus distribution.

The process for distributing eligible surplus monies is set out primarily in Section 5 of the Memorandum of Agreement.

The entire agreement can be viewed here: <https://www.cbcpensioners.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SURPLUS-SHARING-AGREEMENT-FINAL-MAY-2009.pdf>.

At the risk of oversimplifying things, under the terms of the

Agreement eligible members (pensioners, surviving spouses, deferred pensioners and employees) will get a share of the surplus based on a percentage of their contributions to the plan, plus interest.

For retirees, contribution levels plus interest are determined as of the date on which his/her pension commenced to be paid.

When there was a payout of surplus in 2000, the amount distributed was 17 percent of contributions. That was based on a total amount for distribution of \$134 million. The amount that would be paid this time around is yet to be determined.

Section 5 of the Agreement calls for a payment to be made

on or about October 1st in the year following a valuation of the plan in which an eligible surplus is declared. Obviously, with CBC challenging the validity of the MOA, we missed that date this past year.

The amount of surplus received by each eligible member of the plan will vary depending on the value of contributions made by that member while employed. Details will be communicated prior to any distribution. Surviving spouses are entitled to a share of surplus based on 60% of contributions made by the pensioner.

It should also be noted that prior to distribution any costs incurred (legal, administrative, communication, etc.) will be deducted before payment is issued.



9280 Airport Rd, Mount Hope, Hamilton, Ont. L0R 1W0

SPRING THING

Thursday, June 1, 2023

11 am - Doors open: coffee, tea, juices

12 noon - Welcome, buffet lunch and door prizes

1:15 pm - Brief presentation by a CWHM spokesperson, followed by a stroll through this unique museum

Tickets \$22 each

Tickets must be bought in advance by a CBC PNA member

Pick up your prepaid tickets when you arrive at Registration

Cut-off date: Thurs., May 18.

Easy pay - payghchapter@gmail.com

**Mail: Cindy Beatty, 2716 Birch Cres., Mississauga, ON. L5J 4H1
(Make cheques out to Golden Horseshoe Chapter CBC PNA)**

Regardless of your mode of payment please advise Cindy of the names of guests for name tags - cbeatty7887@rogers.com



Harvard Buffet Lunch

Salad

Garden salad

Sandwiches

Deli sandwiches and wraps including an assortment of grilled chicken, cold cuts, vegan/vegetarian

Sides

Cheese and cracker Platter

Vegetable and dip Platter

Dessert

Freshly carved fruit display

Decadent Sweets Platter

Beverages

Water, soft drinks, coffee and tea



Canso Flying Boat



Tiger Moth Trainer



Chipmunk Trainer



B-25 Mitchell Medium Bomber

Can a crook steal your house? 7

Sue Heddle has some tips for preventing title fraud

The instance of title fraud in Ontario, as well as across Canada, is on the rise. Here's what you need to know:

Title fraud happens when criminals steal a legal homeowner's identity to impersonate them for the purpose of illegally selling their property or to remortgage it and make off with the funds.

As impossible as this may sound, it is a growing reality in Canada. For example, if a homeowner leaves Canada for an extended period of time they could return to discover strangers have taken possession of their home due to a fraudster swooping in and illegally selling it to them.

How to protect yourself

Industry and government experts say there are some key ways homeowners and buyers can protect themselves against title fraud.

Fraudsters seek easy targets, such as high-value, mortgage-free homes. When crooks search real estate titles they tend to shy away from properties with a mortgage, a lien or some other kind of debt. Even having a line of credit on the



Is there life after CBC? Just ask Sue Heddle.

She transitioned from working as a production switcher and video editor at CBC to huge success selling real estate with Century 21 for the past 15 years. She served a term as Director on the Executive Board of the Golden Horseshoe Chapter. She has also regularly donated door prizes for our events. Now she has agreed to be our newsletter's Real Estate Contributor. To learn more about this story or if you have any other real estate questions feel free to call Sue at 416-906-7998 or email her at sue.heddle@century21.ca Her website is freehomestaging.ca

title may deter a fraudster, as they will not be able to see the amount outstanding, just that it looks like debt.

While the risk of title fraud increases when the title is unmortgaged, fraud happens most often when the property is vacant for some time, or has been rented out.

Rental properties are a favourite target as it shows that in most cases the owner is not physically present. This makes it easier for impersonators to gain entrance to the property, acting like appraisers or real estate agents. It is critical that landlords conduct background checks on tenants and build a solid relationship of trust so that renters feel more open to reporting potentially suspicious incidents.

Guard your identity

It's essential to prevent anyone from stealing your identity. Shred all personal and financial information before disposal, as fraudsters will and can dumpster dive to retrieve important information. Carry out routine credit checks. If your score is the same or rising, all good. If something

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changes, then request a free credit report from Equifax to find out why, and check for any fraudulent activity.

Make sure a real estate lawyer vets every property transaction, whether you are the buyer or seller, to ensure that all legal documents are verified for authenticity.

Consider title insurance

And finally, you should seriously consider buying title insurance. This insurance protects both homeowners and their lenders from financial loss if fraud artists target you and your home. As well, peace of mind suggests the cost for title insurance would be worthwhile.

Consult a real estate lawyer.

There are five title insurance companies operating in Canada right now: Stewart Title, First Canadian Title, Chicago Title, Travellers, and TitlePLUS. The only Canadian firm is TitlePLUS, operated by a subsidiary of the Law Society of Upper Canada. It currently quotes about \$1,400 for a \$1.5M home. And that's a one-time payment, by the way – no annual premiums.

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The Sugarmaker

Let's celebrate Jay Mowat, a maestro of maple syrup



Jay Mowat checks the flow of sap from the maple taps in trees around Erin, Ont.

When you think of maple syrup and the Golden Horseshoe Chapter whose name comes to mind?

Easy peasy! We're talking

about Jay Mowat, of course.

He is an active member of the Chapter and regularly donates jugs of his homemade syrup as door prizes at our spring and winter events.

Jay produces the syrup at Willow Creek, the 10-acre organic farm near Erin that has been home to him and his wife, Clare Booker, since the mid-1990s.

When he retired as an award-winning CBC journalist and Executive Producer in 2005, Jay was already busy re-inventing himself: beekeeper/honey producer, founder of the Everpure Biodiesel Co-op and founder of a community



Jay tends the fire under the evaporator where heat transforms sap into syrup.

radio station...just to name a few new pursuits.

He and Clare started a market garden.

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Catherine Pigott was pleased as punch when she won a jug of Willow Creek maple syrup at the Golden Horseshoe Chapter Holiday Luncheon in 2022. It was one of several donated by Jay.

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She opened a stall at the Milton Farmers' Market on Saturdays where she sold her weaving and wool as well as honey, heirloom tomatoes, hot peppers...and eventually, maple syrup.

When Jay decided to become a sugarmaker, he had very few sugar maple trees at Willow Creek, so he found landowners who did. He gives them half the syrup he makes from the sap collected. There are hundreds of taps. The tree owners collect the sap and bring it to Jay. He stays in the sugar shack tending the evaporator and making the syrup.

Jay says the season started very early this year and looks promising. He took his first pail off on Feb. 20. Last year the first pail was March 20!

Jay and Clare are community-minded. They give away a lot of their maple syrup, including as door prizes at Golden Horseshoe Chapter events.

One question often asked by members is whether they can buy Willow Creek maple syrup. The answer is yes. We've included Jay's contact information as well as a price list. You can get in touch with him and negotiate a sale and a means of delivery. One obvious way is to arrange to pick



Marie Andre Bowes was a happy winner of Jay's maple syrup in 2019.

up your order from Jay if he and Clare are going to at a Chapter event you'll be attending. They are regulars.



Maple Syrup

250 ml	\$8.00
375 ml	\$12.00
500 ml	\$15.00
1 Litre	\$25.00

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Have you changed your E-mail address recently or perhaps set up an E-mail account for the first time? If so, please let us know