

Volume 22 | Issue 1
May 2023

The Transmitter



Incomparable Beauty



Photo: courtesy of Monique Nenson, CBC PNA, Regina, SK

Monique Nenson and her husband, Jeff, travelled to Vancouver Island last fall where they were overwhelmed with the natural beauty of the forests on the west side of the island. See page 13.

President's Report / Rapport du président

*Bob Forrow, Edmonton, AB
CBC PNA Regional President / president regional, ANR SRC*

With the nicer weather it is enjoyable to venture out and relish nature.

As concerns about COVID-19 are slowly being alleviated, in March, I was able to resume our monthly breakfast meetings in person with Edmonton members at the IHOP Restaurant. It was lots of fun catching up on the news. We plan to continue the face-to-face meetings on the second Tuesday of every month. Our online Zoom Coffee Klatch for all members in the region will be held on the third Tuesday on the month unless I am not available due to other PNA duties as I am the Zoom host.

(Continued on next page / suite à la page suivante)

President's Report, 1-4

*Word from the Editor, 4
Mot de l'éditrice, 4*

The EV Revolution, 5

Street Photography, 5-6

Princely Coffee, 7

Garnet Anthony, 8-9

The Old Bat, 9-10

Saskatchewan Chapter, 10-11

Southern Alberta Chapter, 11-12

CBC Contribution Holiday, 12

*What Happened to EAP?, 13
Qu'est-il advenu du PAE?, 13*

A Big Move South, 14

In the Swing of Things, 15

Vancouver Island Beauty, 15-16

*PNA AGM Scheduled, 17
AGA de l'ANR prévue, 17*

In Memoriam, 17-19

For the first time in many years, the Pensioners National Association was able to visit some CBC locations to engage with staff who could eventually become members of the PNA. A few members from Calgary, Edmonton and Regina volunteered on March 8 at what was called PNA Day at the CBC. They were able to extol the value of becoming a member of the association, provided brochures, and gathered contact information from several employees who are close to retirement. A big shout out to Julia Sargeant (Edmonton), Neil Cochrane (Regina) and Ellen Armstrong and Libby Northrop (Calgary) for their volunteer efforts. Thanks also to the CBC for giving the PNA access to their locations.

Twelve new members have joined the PNA in the Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Northwest Territories (ABSKNT) region in the past year, bringing our membership to 287. There are 187 members in Alberta, 93 in Saskatchewan and 7 in the Northwest Territories.

As a follow up to our discussion at the AGM in September 2022, we have been successful in finding a new location for this year's meeting that has ample free parking and wheelchair access. But to accommodate the availability of that space, the Regional Executive had to change the date of the AGM to a week later. Please note on your calendars that the ABSKNT Regional AGM will be held on **Wednesday, September 20, 2023**, at the Royal Canadian Legion, Kingsway Branch in Edmonton. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM. I shall invite the PNA President, Donald Langis, to join us.

As of this writing, there is still no decision on the CBC pension fund surplus. All talks and presentations by the parties (CBC, its unions, the PNA and intervenors) have ended. Now it is up to the arbitrator, Justice Dennis O'Connor, to decide on a ruling. We hope the decision will be made within a few months. (There is an update by Dan Oldfield in this newsletter on the latest CBC action.)

On the volunteer front: the PNA relies on volunteers at all levels. For our region, we have volunteers who help organise and coordinate social events, keep in contact with members and look after some administrative tasks. If you would like to help at the regional level or at your local level, do please contact Bob Forrow or if you are part of a chapter, your local chapter executive.

Calgary held their AGM on Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023, at the Kerby Centre. In Regina, members of the PNA and the CBC 20 Year Association set Saturday, May 27th, for their Spring Fling at Nicky's Café. As your regional president, I intend to meet with the chapter members in Saskatoon close to the time of my meeting in Regina to keep travel costs low by combining the two trips.

My role as regional president ends in eighteen months. It is the same for the regional vice-president, Lutz Walsh of Regina. According to PNA by-laws, a person can only serve in one position for six years and then must step down. In February 2024, the regional executive will appoint a nominations committee to seek nominations from the membership for each of the executive positions.

If you are interested in a volunteer position or would like more information, please contact the regional secretary, Del Simon, at pna.absknt@gmail.com or President Bob Forrow at 780-437-5074 rsforrow@telus.net.

*Bob Forrow
President, CBC Pensioners National Association, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and NWT Region
Tel: 780-437-5074 or 780-983-2838*

(Continued on next page / suite à la page suivante)

C'est le printemps, mes amis!

Quelle joie de constater que les jours s'allongent. Que ce sera beau de s'aventurer dehors pour à nouveau jouir de la nature.

Puisque les préoccupations concernant la COVID-19 s'allègent, les membres du secteur d'Edmonton ont pu se voir en personne au début mars. Nous étions une douzaine au restaurant IHOP réunis pour une rencontre-café. Nous avons bien ri et en avons profité pour se rattraper dans nos nouvelles. Nous planifions continuer de se voir en personne le deuxième mardi de chaque mois. Les rencontres Zoom continueront de se tenir le troisième mardi du mois pour tous les membres de la région.

Pour la première fois depuis longtemps, l'Association nationale des retraités a fait des visites, le 8 mars, dans certains bureaux de Radio-Canada afin de parler aux employés qui pourraient éventuellement devenir membre. Quelques membres de Calgary, Edmonton et Regina ont répondu à l'appel pour la « journée de l'ANR » à Radio-Canada. Ils ont vanté l'importance de devenir membre de l'Association, ont distribué des brochures et ont recueilli de l'information personnelle de plusieurs employés près de la retraite dans le but de les recruter.

Chapeau à Julia Sargeant (Edmonton), Neil Cochrane (Regina) et Ellen Armstrong et Libby Northrop (Calgary) pour leur effort bénévole. Nous remercions aussi Radio-Canada de nous avoir donné accès aux divers endroits.

Notre région (Alberta, Saskatchewan et Territoires du Nord-Ouest) compte douze nouveaux membres cette année, portant notre membership à 287 : 187 membres en Alberta, 97 en Saskatchewan et 7 dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Comme suivi à la discussion lors de l'assemblée générale, nous avons trouvé un nouvel endroit où tenir nos réunions, avec de nombreuses places de stationnement gratuit et accès pour fauteuils roulants. Cependant, nous avons dû reporter la date de l'assemblée générale d'une semaine. L'assemblée générale de la région de l'Alberta, Saskatchewan et Territoires du Nord-Ouest aura donc lieu **le mercredi, 20 septembre 2023**, au Royal Canadian Legion, section Kingsway, à Edmonton. Au plaisir de vous y voir!

Les membres à Calgary ont tenu leur assemblée générale annuelle le mercredi 3 mai, 2023, au Kerby Centre. Les membres à Régina se rencontreront avec les membres du club des 20 ans le 27 mai au Nicky's Café pour le 'Spring Fling'. En tant que président régional, j'ai l'intention de rencontrer les membres à Saskatoon à une date proche de celle de ma réunion à Regina, afin de réduire les frais de déplacement en combinant les deux voyages.

Aucune décision n'a encore été prise concernant le partage des excédents du régime de retraite de Radio-Canada. Aux dernières nouvelles, toutes les rencontres entre les parties (la SRC, le syndicat, l'ANR et les intervenants) se termineront en avril 2023. Au terme des négociations, l'arbitre, Dennis O'Connor, prendra sa décision que nous devrions connaître dans quelques mois. (Il y a d'autres nouvelles à ce sujet dans ce bulletin)

Mon terme comme président régional se termine dans 18 mois, ainsi que celui du vice-président régional, Lutz Walsh de Regina. Selon nos règlements, une personne peut servir 6 ans dans une position, après quoi elle doit quitter ses fonctions.

(Continued on next page / suite à la page suivante)

Ces postes sont essentiels. Ils donnent une voix au Conseil d'administration national pour représenter notre région : la Saskatchewan, l'Alberta et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest dès l'automne 2024.

Toutes les régions dépendent des bénévoles pour organiser les activités, garder le contact avec les membres et certaines tâches administratives. Si, être bénévoles vous intéresse, ou pour plus d'information, communiquez avec Del Simon, secrétaire régionale, à l'adresse pna.absknt@gmail.com ou Bob Forrow, président, au rsforrow@telus.net.

Bob Forrow

*président L'Association nationale des retraités de la SRC, région Alberta, Saskatchewan et les Territoires du nord-ouest
Tél: 780-437-5074 ou 780-983-2838*

A Word from the Editor / Note de l'éditrice

Julia Sargeant, CBC PNA, Edmonton, AB

Hello, dear fellow CBC/Radio-Canada retirees. Here is our spring 2023 edition of *The Transmitter*; our PNA newsletter for Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories. We publish twice a year, which gives me enough time to forget how to sort out the files, texts, photos, and Dropbox. Luckily, I have Monique Nenson in Regina (mnenson@gmail.com) to collect it all together and format our newsletter. Thank you indeed, Monique.

It really does seem as though people are setting out in their post COVID-19 lives. We have a story from Jeff Gardiner who moved from Yellowknife to Lethbridge in the middle of all the COVID-19 restrictions. Kathy Fitzpatrick in Saskatoon has taken back her indoor tennis routine and, as you will see in our President Bob Forrow's report, in Edmonton we had our first in-person breakfast meeting in February.



*Julia Sargeant, Editor / éditrice
The Transmitter*

What adventures do you have planned for the spring and summer? Do have a rewarding time and share your news with *The Transmitter* (juliasargeant@shaw.ca).

Bonjour à mes collègues à la retraite de la SRC-CBC. Voici l'édition du printemps 2023 du *Transmitter*, bulletin de nouvelles de l'Alberta, Saskatchewan et Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Le *Transmitter* est publié deux fois par an, ce qui me donne assez de temps entre les deux éditions pour oublier comment naviguer dans Dropbox, les photos, les textes et les dossiers... Heureusement, Monique Nenson de Regina (mnenson@gmail.com) est là pour tout recueillir et formater notre bulletin. Grand merci, Monique!

Tout porte à croire que les gens reprennent leur vie après la COVID. Jeff Gardiner nous raconte son déménagement de Yellowknife à Lethbridge, effectué dans le beau milieu de la pandémie. Kathy Fitzpatrick, à Saskatoon, a repris sa routine de jouer au tennis en salle. Et comme vous allez le constater en lisant le rapport de Bob Forrow, notre président régional, le secteur d'Edmonton a tenu sa première rencontre-café en personne en février.

Quelles aventures avez-vous prévues pour le printemps et l'été ? Passez des moments gratifiants, soit dans votre communauté soit ailleurs et partagez vos nouvelles avec le *Transmitter* (juliasargeant@shaw.ca).

The EV Revolution

Sean Prpick, CBC PNA, Regina, SK



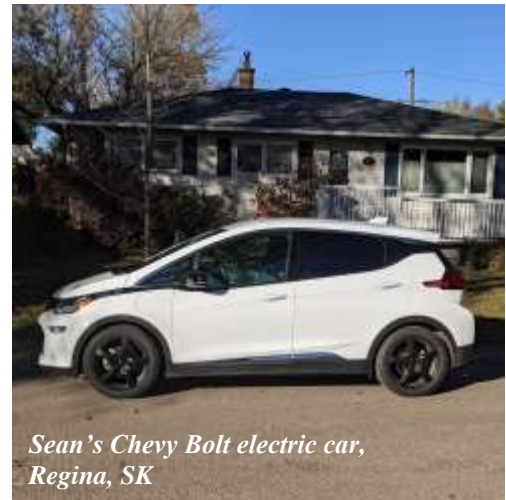
Sean Prpick

I've always been a bit of a gearhead, what with growing up on a Saskatchewan farm surrounded since babyhood by motor vehicles. So, it was no surprise that when I joined the CBC, every chance I got to do stories involving planes, trains, or automobiles, I took it.

Post-CBC, the automotive passion has continued. And when it comes to cars, if it's new and interesting and, above all, affordable, I'm all in. As I write this, in March of 2023, my spouse and I are two years into owning a 2020 Chevy Bolt, our first fully electric car. The Bolt was the cheapest electric car available in Canada when I bought it, and it remains so if you buy new one.

What do I like about my battery car? The list is long but includes the fact it's fast and powerful; maintenance is minimal (goodbye oil changes and brake jobs!) and battery charging costs are about a third of what I used to spend fuelling my old gas car.

I've had a fair bit to learn about electric driving since I got the Bolt and, admittedly, there are downsides. I had to spend a fair bit of money to install a Level-2 charger on the side of my house, and then I had to figure out how to make it work with my rather dated home electrical system. Long distance driving is also a pain in Saskatchewan because of our lack of fast electrical chargers across the province (although that's improving).



*Sean's Chevy Bolt electric car,
Regina, SK*

But do I regret getting an electric car? Not a bit. And I believe most Canadians in the market for a new vehicle will be buying electric within about a decade.

Meanwhile, I'll do my best not to feel smug on the coldest -40C January days here in Regina when I jump into my pre-warmed Bolt, switch on and drive away as I watch my neighbours struggle with their frozen stiff block heater cords and booster cables.

Street Photography

Dan Moynihan, CBC PNA Regina, SK

I'll admit it, street photography isn't everyone's cup of tea. For me, this type of documentary photography offers a personal and unique look at everyday street life whether it be at a holiday destination or in downtown Regina.

(Continued on next page / suite à la page suivante)

Street photography is not without its pitfalls. Shortly after I retired, I was approached by a City of Regina police officer asking why I was taking photographs at an open-air market on Regina's City Square (now called Pat Fiacco Plaza). Demanding to see my ID, the cop got angry when I refused. Working for 33 years as a CBC videographer taught me a lot about reasonable expectations of privacy and photography in public spaces. In a Saskatchewan random street check such as this, you are not required to submit your ID, nor do the police have the right to view or search your images without a search warrant. I knew my rights, and the cop eventually backed down. If the camera I was using sported a large CBC logo, this situation would likely never have happened.

I encourage everyone to step out of your comfort zone and try some street photography. Like me, you might get hooked.

Just keep one eye open for the police.

Here are some of my favorite photos.



Downtown Regina on market day. The cowboy hat looks out of character, and I am drawn to his dour, expressionless face. Where is he going? Where has he been?

I love street portraiture. In Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, I noticed these two waiters on the street trying to entice people to their restaurant. When I asked to take a photograph, one said "Yes" the other "No". We all had a good laugh when I showed them the image.



In Cienfuegos, Cuba, I spotted this boy sitting in a doorway just watching the tourists. I asked and received permission from the boy's mother to photograph him. Despite the language barrier, we agreed it was a nice photo of her curious (and suspicious) son.

A Prince or Coffee, Which Comes First?

Jeff Nenson, CBC PNA, Regina, SK

Photos:: Screenshots from the CBC broadcast

With the coronation of King Charles III, Jeff Nenson remembers some drama getting coverage of the, then, Prince's visit to Assiniboia.

On Thursday April 26th, 2001, we were covering one of the Royal visits to Saskatchewan. Prince Charles was touring the province and he was scheduled for a morning visit at the community centre in the town of Assiniboia, a two-hour drive southwest of Regina. CBC Saskatchewan was there to cover the meet-and-greet live from the community centre, followed by his speech and a plaque unveiling. We had set up the mobile the day before and our signal was being fed via microwave to the local SaskTel building. From there, it was transported to SaskTel Regina and into the CBC Regina broadcast center on fibre optic cable. We had set up the microwave link on the roof of the community centre and had tested the link to the CBC Broadcast Centre on the day of the event. Everything was working fine as we got closer to the arrival of Prince Charles.



Prince Charles greeting people, Assiniboia, SK

The show started live-to-air from Regina, with the hosts on the news set, about 20 minutes before the Prince Charles's arrival at the community Centre. At about the time CBC Regina went on air with the show, I received a call from the the production staff at the broadcast centre, saying that they had lost our video signal from the mobile truck in Assiniboia. I quickly phoned SaskTel and they told me that they had lost the signal. After a quick conversation with SaskTel, we determined that the problem was the transmitter on the roof of the community center.

So at about 10 to 15 minutes before Prince Charles's arrival, I grabbed a ladder, got onto the roof of the community center and ran across it. The issue of security was all that I could think about at the time because I knew what this must have looked like. I hoped there were no red laser tracers tracking me as I ran to the transmitter on the roof.

I located the microwave and found that there was no power to the transmitter. I ran down the ladder to where we had plugged the AC power into the wall and found that it had been unplugged. Someone from the community centre had rolled a cart to the back hallway and pulled our plug so that they could instead plug in a coffee pot. I quickly unplugged the coffee pot and plugged in the microwave. Regina was again receiving a signal! We didn't miss any of Prince Charles' arrival, nor the rest of his itinerary, but I did worry about what the security detail was thinking. As for the pot, it probably got plugged in elsewhere but maybe the prince had to settle for cold coffee.



Remembering Garnet Anthony

John O'Hanlon, CBC PNA, Edmonton, AB

John is a former CBC Edmonton television current affairs host.

By the time Garnet retired from the CBC in 1991, his shelf overflowed with awards, and another was named after him: The Garnet Anthony Award for Excellence in Journalism. While that tells you a lot about the quality of Garnet's journalism, it doesn't tell you the whole story about Garnet the journalist.



*Garnet Anthony,
Photo from the 1960's*

I first worked with Garnet on the Alberta-wide TV series, I hosted, *Hanlon at Large*. From the start, it was impossible not to notice his passion for his work and his formidable powers of persuasion. Physically, Garnet was always the biggest man in the room. This, together with his rich, powerful voice and the sheer intensity of his demeanor, ensured that he commanded the attention of everyone in the room. He was a *force*.

Many of Garnet's younger colleagues during his final years at CBC didn't know this man was one of the trailblazers of environmental journalism. His television documentaries about the natural world were among those that set the stage for the environmental reporting we know today. His passion for the land is best illustrated by his son, Scott. Over coffee, he told me that his dad had pitched some ideas for TV documentaries to local CBC bosses but had received a cool reception. Undeterred, Garnet flew "on his own dime" to CBC Toronto where he lobbied his story ideas to network producers. They liked what they heard and before long Garnet and his Edmonton crew were filming documentaries in Canada's North. There, he produced four full-length stories for the network program, *This Land*. In pictures and words, Garnet explained to viewers across Canada the plight of endangered muskox herds, as well as reporting on the clash between man and polar bear competing for the same habitat. That documentary caught the eye of editors at National Geographic magazine, and as Scott proudly says, they printed a still photo from the documentary.

After *This Land*, Garnet continued making high grade TV documentaries. Some appeared on the network series such as *Country Canada* and *Points West*. He also produced several for the program I hosted. But make no mistake. Though I hosted the documentaries, it was Garnet who called the shots, and deservedly so. With our crew, we travelled all over the province, reporting on issues such as the threat to Alberta's rapidly disappearing grasslands from overgrazing by cattle. In the field, Garnet displayed an uncanny knack for getting difficult things done. For instance, when he learned that an Indigenous medicine wheel was miles from any road, he talked a helicopter pilot into airlifting the crew to the site. The aerial and ground-level pictures of this carefully constructed circle of rocks and spokes were stunning.



Garnet Anthony (Left), co-host with Dennis Sherbanuk on a remote broadcast of Alberta's Radio Noon Show, along with Ethel Marilss, who was the consumer commentator.

(Continued on next page / suite à la page suivante)

Garnet's reporting also extended to areas outside the land. For instance, *On Hanlon at Large*, he produced a documentary on old-age homes, pinpointing deficiencies that still exist today. It's a pity he's not here to produce a follow-up report.

But whatever documentary Garnet completed, the time always came to face the challenging task of crafting the script—telling the story and making the words and the pictures work together. His son Scott tells me that his father would stay up to all hours in his in his basement workshop, feverishly writing and rewriting his script on yellow legal pads. Garnet's wife, Connie, would shush Scott and his sister Shauna. “*Whatever you do*”, she would say, “*don't make a sound; and don't bug your dad*”.

Garnet's work got him twice inducted into the Order of the Bighorn: an honour granted to those who “make outstanding contributions that conserve Alberta's fish and wildlife”. The first time he received it was an individual citizen, and the second was as a member of a task force, formed to save the bull trout fish from extinction. When he learned he was the award's only two-time recipient, Garnet's reaction was true to form. He told his son, Scott, he was “tickled pink”.

One last word: When anyone asked why Garnet felt such a deep compulsion to tell stories about the land, he simply replied, “I did it because it needed to be done”.

Garnet died on October 27, 2022. His legacy lives on.

The Old Bat

Len Whyte, CBC PNA Lethbridge, AB

Len was supervising technician at the Calgary transmitter. He now lives in Lethbridge and helps from time to time with some maintenance on the Lethbridge transmitter. Len is on the PNA national EDI (Equity/Diversity/Inclusion) committee, established to ensure that no one is excluded because of physical, ethnic, or other reasons.

While working in Calgary, an old friend, Ron, arrived from Whitehorse, Yukon, where he had been station manager. He was now involved with Human Resources and personally going through a rough time. I felt it would be a good thing to get him away from the big city, so I invited him to our cabin in BC, and he accepted.

The cabin is an all-log cabin that sits on a small alpine lake. It is off-grid, but I have installed solar and wind energy, so we have lights and running water in the summer. Heat is from wood stoves but only in the main cabin. My wife, Sandy, has named every building on site with original names. The outdoor bathroom, for example, is the “Queen Ann Room” and I have no idea why.

Ron was lodged in our “Honeymoon Suite” - no heat, hardwood floors and a fantastic view of the lake and mountains. Many warm blankets on the double bed made it very cozy at night, and there was adequate lighting for night reading and getting around.

The weekend was uneventful, and Ron said he would love to come again, so two weeks later, he arrived on Friday night, had supper, a few drinks, and was off to bed. Morning arrived and Ron came up from the Honeymoon Suite asking what was happening last night and making accusations of someone trying to get into bed with him. I was puzzled, but we had breakfast and went fishing. However, I kept thinking: “What was going on in the room where he was sleeping? Could it be that there was some wild animal around that he had heard?”

(Continued on next page / suite à la page suivante)



Len Whyte's BC cabin.

The two windows below the deck indicate the location of the "The Honeymoon Suite".

We had been visited by a bear a couple of years previously, but our dog would have barked or made some noise if that had been the case. That bear, at the time, was into a can of dog food. Bits went through the stairs and decking and into some old chimney pipes under the deck. He decided to get those last few morsels, so you can imagine the noise was like a scrap yard being cleared by a bulldozer.

Eventually, after an hour or so of using every available strategy, the bear was gone - hopefully never to return. Surely this was not a bear as we would have heard it, so who was trying to get into Ron's bedroom?

Saturday had no surprises, and we caught a few fish. We had a great supper, a few drinks and off to bed. I was still wondering who or what was trying to get into Ron's bedroom, surely not one of our neighbours, even though we were Albertans in BC and one of them had been accusing me (in a mocking manner) of taking over BC.

Morning arrived and up comes Ron from his night of no rest. He said something was coming through the wall into his bedroom. My wife and I had built this room under the deck of the cabin. It was 8ft by 18ft, 2x4 construction and sealed so that rodents could not get into the insulation. That ruled out rats or mice so what could it be? The cabin is all log so to make it look like logs, I placed tar paper on the outside, strapped it with one-inch boards, and covered it with slab lumber to give it that log appearance. From the lake, it looked like real log.

Ron was determined to find out what had caused him a sleepless night and so we went down to check if something was trying to get into the structure. I proceeded to pull off one of the slabs and we knew immediately what was trying to sleep with Ron. Hundreds of bats had taken up residence behind the slabs.

Ron is now deceased, but my wife and I have shared this story many times and, of course over time, it brings back memories of a lost friend... Ron may you rest in peace knowing you never slept with an old bat.

Saskatchewan Chapter

Neil Cochrane, President, CBC PNA, Regina, SK

As the local PNA we continue to pay for coffees at our get-togethers the first Wednesday of the month at Theo Bill's restaurant in Regina. These run September through May, and we take a break for the summer months.

(Continued on next page / suite à la page suivante)

I was at the CBC/Radio-Canada for PNA day in Regina and spent the morning walking through the plant casually visiting staff and informing folks about the PNA.

We have longed for the day that the CBC PNA Saskatchewan Chapter can join the CBC 20 Year Association in holding what used to be an annual event, the Spring Fling. Now we think the time is right to gather again after missing the last three years. All PNA members, members of the 20 Year Association, and other retirees and current long-time CBC staff are invited. Spring Fling will be held at Nicky's Cafe in Regina on Saturday, May 27, 2023. Join us for cocktails at 4:30 p.m. and a roast beef supper at 5:30 p.m. The Saskatchewan Chapter supports its members with a financial subsidy to help offset the cost of the supper.

Southern Alberta Chapter

Joanne McAdam, President, CBC PNA, Calgary, AB



With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, the Southern Alberta Chapter of the PNA was able to hold their first meeting on December 1, 2022, with a seasonal celebration luncheon. It was held at and catered by the Kerby Center in downtown Calgary with approximately 32 people, including members and some plus-ones attending. Catching up on news from each other's families, good food, and door prizes contributed to a great social gathering and meeting.

Our next meeting was held February 15th, 2023, at the same venue. Nomination procedures to fill the Chapter's Vice-President position were discussed. Nomination forms were distributed to be returned by the end of March. Only two nominations were received, and both were for the same individual. The new executive member will be announced at our annual general meeting to be held on May 3rd at the Kerby Center.

(Continued on next page / suite à la page suivante)



Jeff Collins continues to contact individual members with birthday greetings.

The executive contacts those unable to attend meetings and checks on their well-being.

Ellen Armstrong and Elizabeth Northrop attended the PNA Retiree Recruitment Day on March 8th held at the CBC Calgary building. They reported that they felt it was successful. They were able to speak to several employees nearing retirement and answered questions about the PNA and its benefits.

Elizabeth Northrop (left), and Ellen Armstrong at CBC Recruitment Day, Calgary, AB

CBC to Enjoy Another Contribution Holiday

Dan Oldfield, PNA Representative to the CCSB

CBC's Vice-President of People and Culture, Marco Dubé, has released a statement about the status of the CBC Pension Plan where he acknowledges the Corporation will be taking another pension contribution holiday this year.

While he paints the use of the expected windfall of \$53 million in glowing terms what he neglects to acknowledge is the CBC's determined efforts to deny pensioners and employees any benefits of the plan's significant surplus.

In 2009 CBC signed a deal with its pensioners and the Unions agreeing to provide them with a share of future surpluses equal to any amount received by the Corporation. This will be the second year the Corporation has enjoyed a contribution holiday which means the CBC will have benefitted from nearly \$100 million dollars from the plan.

The CBC has reneged on its commitment to its 10,000 retirees and its employees. Rather than share in the positive performance of the plan, it has instead spent hundreds of thousands of dollars fighting to deny them a benefit negotiated in good faith.

The CBC has always been able to do the right thing by its retirees and employees, but the current leadership has instead shown a callous disregard for the contributions made over the decades that have made CBC what it is.

The PNA has taken the fight to arbitration, and we are currently awaiting a decision. So even though CBC management refuses to do the right thing we are hopeful the decision by the Arbitrator will resolve the issue in our favour.

What Happened to the EAP? / Qu'est-il advenu du PAE?

For the past two months, the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) has been inaccessible to retirees. Our national office has received a number of complaints about this situation.

The CBC decided that it was time to find a new supplier: the EAP is now called the EFAP, the 'F' representing family members. The service is provided by Kii as part of CloudMD, which replaces the former supplier, Homewood.

Because of costs, however, senior management at CBC decided to drop retirees from the program. Apparently, their participation was negligible. This decision is difficult to understand, as there was no consultation with the Association or retirees who are affected. CBC/SRC combined have 7,600 employees and 10,000 retirees.

In mid-April, the spokesperson for the senior management team, Vice President of People and Culture, Marco Dubé, assured us that he would attempt to have a meeting to clarify this before taking a final decision. As we now know, the meeting did not take place. I have requested a meeting between Mr. Dubé and our executive to discuss this question, supported by data.

I am extremely frustrated over the complete absence of consultation by CBC at the senior management level. We will keep you informed of the outcome of our meeting request.

*Donald Langis, Interim President
CBC Pensioners National Association*

Le programme d'aide aux employés (PAE) est inaccessible aux retraités depuis les deux derniers mois. Plusieurs membres ont déjà communiqué avec notre bureau national pour nous en faire part.

La SRC a opté pour changer de fournisseur : le PAE est maintenant désigné comme le PAEF, 'F' signifiant toute la famille. Le service est fourni par Kii de CloudMD en remplacement de l'ancien fournisseur Homewood.

Toutefois, à cause des coûts, la haute direction de la SRC aurait choisi d'abandonner les retraités. D'après eux, ils représentaient une trop faible participation. Nous nous expliquons difficilement ce retrait, fait sans consultation avec l'association et tous les retraités, les premiers concernés. La CBC/SRC compte 7 600 employés et 10 000 retraités.

Le porte-parole de l'équipe de la haute direction, le vice-président Personnes et Culture, Marco Dubé, nous avait assuré à la mi-avril qu'il tenterait d'organiser une rencontre pour échanger davantage avant la prise d'une décision finale. Comme nous l'avons appris, elle n'a pas eu lieu. J'ai donc proposé une rencontre entre monsieur Dubé et notre exécutif pour reprendre cette question, chiffres à l'appui.

Je me permets de déplorer l'absence totale de consultation par la haute direction de CBC/SRC. Nous vous tiendrons informés du résultat de notre demande de réunion.

*Donald Langis, président intérimaire
L'Association nationale des retraités de la SRC*

Big Move South

Jeff Gardiner, CBC PNA, Lethbridge, AB



*U-Haul packed & ready to leave,
Yellowknife, NWT*

“We got to Claresholm and there was no snow and there were geese in the fields.”

That was on our way to Lethbridge.

That’s usually how I respond to why, after 50+ years in the NWT, we moved to Lethbridge. Before we made the big move, we checked out the area. We had enjoyed what this small city, Lethbridge, had to offer with its history, culture, theatre, sports, and concerts while staying at an airbnb on the west side before the pandemic hit.

We retreated to Yellowknife with a big bag of beans and rice because ... who knew?

After being back less than a month, I saw a real estate listing for a house in Lethbridge in a great location that had the same layout as our house in Yellowknife. We ended up buying it at the beginning of a global pandemic.

The travelling during the early days of the pandemic was stranger than any other travelling we had done. No public restrooms meant bathroom breaks by the side of the road for both of us. No restaurants meant takeout only for lunches and dinners. Nobody travelling meant empty hotels with bag breakfasts to go. Nobody flying meant eerie empty airports (but lots of room on the plane back to YK after driving down a U-Haul).



*One of the three U-Haul trips,
Vulcan, AB*



18,000 km back and forth, including THREE U-Haul loads! It took us 15 months to sell off and relocate our belongings from Yellowknife to Lethbridge.

*Nancy & Jeff Gardiner at their new house,
Lethbridge, AB*

Back into the Swing of Things

Kathy Fitzpatrick, CBC PNA, Saskatoon, SK



Kathy at the Lakewood Indoor Tennis Centre, Saskatoon, SK

Getting back into the swing of life, Kathy Fitzpatrick tells us:

In late January of 2023 I took the biggest step yet in ‘taking my life back from the pandemic’. I resumed playing indoor tennis, after a hiatus of almost three years. Pre-pandemic, I played two or three times a week, and I have quickly returned to that pace. Tennis is not only one of my main fitness activities. It’s also an important part of my social life. I get a lift seeing familiar faces again and meeting new players who have come on the scene.

The Beauty of Vancouver Island

Monique Nenson, CBC PNA, Regina, SK



Long Beach, Pacific Rim National Park, BC

(Continued on next page / suite à la page suivante)

This past fall, my husband and I travelled to Vancouver Island along with another couple. Our son works in Tofino, so we had been there several times before, but that part of the island was a discovery for our friends.

We've always enjoyed travelling to that area as it has so much natural beauty that it takes one's breath away. Of course, there are the miles and miles of sandy beaches and wild ocean waves. Just walking in the sand and along the surf calms the spirit and makes you feel that you are a part of a larger world. You also stop to marvel at the stamina and skill of the endless parade of surfers who paddle into waves that I could never imagine attempting myself.

Then, there are the forests... forests with trees that leave you with your mouth completely agape. The trees in these old growth forests are massive. There has been much logging in that part of island, but there are still areas that haven't been touched or which, thankfully, are protected, such as the forests in Pacific Rim National Park. There, the Rainforest Trail boardwalk guides you through a stand of giants that grows above a forest floor that is incredibly lush and full of life.



*Hot Springs Cove,
Vancouver Island, BC*

During this trip, we also visited an area

that was new to us. We booked a boat tour to Hot Springs Cove, located near Maquinna Marine Provincial Park. It's situated on First Nations territory and band members are very protective of the land in that area. And rightly so! It is one of the most beautiful forests that I have ever seen. The spikes of the sun's rays shone through the mists that swirled in and out among the giant trees along the newly constructed boardwalk, which had been built during the pandemic, giving a mystical feel to everything along the way. The distance to the hot springs is about 2 kilometres but it probably feels longer as you can't help but stop at every bend to marvel at what you see.

When you get to the hot springs, there are rustic change rooms and then it's a short walk over a rocky area to the hot spring which is found in a narrow cleft between the rocks. Luckily, tours aren't numerous. Otherwise, it would likely have been quite crowded in the water.

We totally enjoyed our visit, and we look forward to the next time we travel to the Tofino and Ucluelet area.



*Boardwalk trail to Hot Springs Cove,
Vancouver Island, BC*

*Boardwalk trail to Hot Springs Cove,
Vancouver Island, BC*

2023 PNA Regional AGM / AGA régional du ANR, 2023

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Royal Canadian Legion, Kingsway Branch 175 - 14339 50 St NW, Edmonton, AB,
(please note, the Kingsway branch has moved to this location off Manning Drive in NE Edmonton.)

Parking and wheelchair accessible

Coffee: 10:30 a.m. Lunch: 12:00 p.m. Meeting: 1:00 p.m.

Mercredi, le 20 septembre, 2023

La légion royale Canadienne, filiale Kingsway, 175 - 14339 50 St NW, Edmonton, AB
(N.B. : Ceci est le nouveau local de la filiale Kingsway dans le nord-est d'Edmonton.)

Stationnement et accès pour les chaises roulantes

Café : 10h30 Dîner : 12h00 Réunion : 13h00

In Memoriam: We Remember

Since the last newsletter in November of last year, we have received the following information about the deaths of former CBC colleagues and current PNA members.

Joan Anderson (November 9, 2022) CBC Vancouver Reporter, Host, Producer / Senior Producer
Toronto, Bureau Chief Washington DC, Director of Radio & Director of Programming

Philip Balsam (March 31, 2023) CBC Toronto Television Songwriter *Fraggle Rock*

Fausto Belluomini (April 19, 2023) CBC Toronto TV Sports Producer

Dave Bird (February 21, 2023) CBC Toronto/Winnipeg Radio Producer/Executive

Chris Brookes (April 10, 2023) CBC St. John's, Radio Documentary Producer with various programs including *Sunday Morning*, founder of the Mummies Troupe Theatre Company, founder of Battery Radio his own freelance production company that worked in many genres.

Len Carter (February 26, 2023) CBC Toronto Associate Director (Control Room Script Assistant and Studio Floor Director)

Pat Cosway (November 15, 2022) CBC TV Toronto

(Continued on next page / suite à la page suivante)

Robert “Bob” Crone (January 12, 2023) CBC Toronto Freelance Cameraman

Ken Druce (December 15, 2022) CBC Toronto Costume Designer

Vince Eagle (November 16, 2022) CBC Vancouver TV Executive Producer *Driver’s Seat* and Producer of CBC Radio’s *Double Exposure*

Mel Ebenstiner (January 19, 2023) CBC Vancouver Maintenance Technician

Norman Elwood (December 3, 2022) CBC Toronto Telecine Operator

Bruce Evans (April 7, 2023) CBC Toronto Radio Technician/Music Producer, CBC Calgary Music Producer

Nick Evdemon (October 30, 2022) CBC Toronto Cameraman, Director of Photography

Michael Finlay (January 31, 2023) CBC Toronto Radio Producer

Reverend Canon Brian Freeland, (December 8, 2022) CBC Toronto Network Television Director of Religious Programming

Dave Furman (November 27, 2022) CBC Regina Cameraman

Eileen Hainsworth (May 15, 2022) CBC Edmonton

Barbara (Kellas) Harrington (March 11, 2023) CBC Vancouver employee

Peter Herrndorf (February 18, 2023) CBC Vice-President English Services

Geoff Hussey (January 8, 2023) CBC Journalist, Television News Producer

Frank Joseph Jedlicsek (November 8, 2022) CBC Toronto Cameraman

Janice Johnston (January 19, 2023) CBC Edmonton Reporter, Journalist

Gordon Kent (November 13, 2022) CBC Toronto Sales Representative/Marketing Supervisor GM Account / Calgary and Edmonton Manager Television Sales

Peter Lee (January 16, 2023) CBC Toronto VTR Technician

Wilfred Lefebvre (January 19, 2023) Wilf worked at CBC along with his sons Robert, Bob, and Gerry.

(Continued on next page / suite à la page suivante)

George McAfee (November 26, 2022) CBC Toronto Television Unit Manager Arts and Science

Ethel Buske Montison (February 4, 2023) CBC Ottawa Commercial Co-ordinator French Services, Television Traffic

Hans-Peter Mueller (January 8, 2023) CBC Toronto Film Cameraman

Jim Nunn (February 19, 2023) CBC Halifax Television Journalist and Program Host

Gert Ouellette (March 2, 2023) CBC Ottawa TV News

Gordon Pinsent (February 25, 2003) Actor in several CBC TV productions

Marilyn Powell (February 13, 2023) CBC Toronto Radio Writer, Broadcaster, Producer

Guy Racine (April 23, 2023) CBC-Radio Canada Ottawa, Supervisor of Technical Operations

Joanne Ramsay (November 8, 2022) CBC Radio Calgary Writer-Broadcaster on *The Calgary Eyeopener*

Peter Reynolds (February 14, 2023) CBC Calgary ENG Editor

Rita Rive (née Rutherford) (November 3, 2022) CBC Vancouver Radio & Television Stenographer

George Robertson (January 1, 2023) CBC Vancouver/Ottawa/Toronto Writer, Radio/Television Producer and Executive Producer

Red Robinson (April 1, 2023) CBC Vancouver Television Host *Trivia Challenge Series*

Conrad Savard (November 9, 2022) CBC/Radio Canada Ottawa Technician

Bob Sharples (January 26, 2023) CBC Vancouver Radio and Television Announcer & Host

Janet Somerville (April 23, 2023) CBC Radio Producer for *Ideas*

Joseph Gordon (Joe) Spence (February 1, 2023) CBC Ottawa/Sudbury/Regina Radio and Television Reporter, Writer, Anchor, Producer

Ori Siegel (March 17, 2023) CBC Toronto Master Control Technician

Long Beach, Pacific Rim National Park British Columbia



Photo: Courtesy of Monique Nenson, CBC PNA, Regina, SK

Long Beach, in Pacific Rim National Park, is located near Tofino on Vancouver Island's west coast. It's an amazing place to visit, along with several other similar beaches found along that shoreline. There, you'll find long stretches of sand on which you can wander for hours. The shallow receding tide leaves a sheen on the beach, creating mirror-like reflections in the sunlight. The relentless waves of an ocean located next to a rainforest also create a never-ending mist that blankets the beach and, as the tide recedes, the ocean leaves behind that which has died, or which doesn't quite manage to get back into deeper waters in time.

CBC Pensioners Association Regional Executive 2021-2024

Bob Forrow – President (Edmonton, AB)	Lutz Walsh – Vice-President (Regina, SK)
Home: 780-437-5074	Home: 306-522-1834
Mobile: 780-983-2838	Mobile: 303-580-1834
Email: rsforrow@telus.net	Email: beaupre.walsh@sasktel.net

Richard Marcotte – Treasurer (Regina, SK)	Del Simon – Secretary (Calgary, AB)
Home: (306) 552-8124	Mobile: 403-264-2171
Email: rmarc@sasktel.net	Email: delsimon.cbc.pna@gmail.com