



Communiqué

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MAY 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT

This was my first National Board of Directors meeting as Interim President. We had two busy but fruitful meetings in as many days. The board meeting was followed by the Annual General Meeting (AGM), to which PNA members were invited. The AGM included a presentation by the Managing Director and Pension Fund CEO, Duncan Burrill. We also presented Lifetime Membership certificates to three long-time collaborators. We will report on these topics in the next issue of CONTACT.

It was an opportunity to meet in person, to discuss during meetings and after hours, to discover the city of Winnipeg and its inhabitants.

I am happy to say we made good progress on several fronts. We have formed several committees to examine issues we are facing as an organization. By tackling them proactively, I hope we will find the best solutions for our members. You can read more about these below.

Donald Langis, Interim President
CBC Pensioners National Association

MOA ARBITRATION UPDATE

Hearings before Arbitrator Dennis O'Connor wrapped up on April 12. The key issues for him to decide are:

1. Is the MOA negotiated in 2009 still in force?
2. Is the CBC still bound to provide reports on the status of the Supplementary Healthcare Fund?
3. Is the Syndicat des travailleuses et travailleurs de Radio-Canada (STTRC, formerly SCRC) now included under the terms of the agreement?

We can expect a decision within the next couple of months. The one that is of most interest to retirees concerns the provisions for sharing pension surpluses. Under the MOA, retirees and employees are entitled to a share of any pension surplus equal to that taken by the CBC. This provision comes into effect when the surplus exceeds 105% of the plan's liabilities. In the past two years (2022-2023), that condition has been met and CBC has taken contribution holidays totalling nearly \$100 million for that period. Should Justice O'Connor decide in our favour, our share would be equal to that.

Once made, the decision is binding, although there is one opportunity to appeal through the courts. While we are confident that we will win, CBC may decide to appeal the decision and further delay the payout of the pension surplus.

ADVOCACY

A new external advocacy committee, chaired by Barbara Saxberg (Ontario Region), will develop a strategy to identify and work with allies to help us better advocate for our members. There are many issues relevant to seniors in Canada. The PNA can potentially play a role on the national stage as a credible voice, particularly if we develop relationships with other groups with whom we have common cause. We believe this will assist us in being more relevant and attractive to our members, and in raising our credibility with the CBC.

REVIEW OF PNA STRUCTURE

Demographic distribution of members has changed since the PNA was created. A new committee headed by John Mang (B.C. and Yukon region), will review the overall structure of the PNA to determine if the current arrangement serves the best interests of the membership and presents the most effective representation of our members.

ZERO-BASE BUDGET

A committee formed of Donald Langis, Rejean Labrie, John Mang, Gail Carducci and Dianne St-Germain presented recommendations to present a balanced budget that reflects spending priorities, including Recruitment, SCEDI and Communications. The proposed measures include reducing the number of in-person meetings and examining the idea of a virtual national office. The board agreed with the recommendation to hold a virtual fall meeting. Dave Jeffrey will join the committee, which will continue to analyze options.

UNIVERSAL VOTING SYSTEM

In preparation for the 2024 Triennial convention elections, we reviewed options for a national election system that will allow all members to vote. We have chosen the Simply Voting platform, which is confidential, secure, easy-to-use, and cost effective. It will send out an e-mail to each pensioner with a unique ID and password or link to the voting website. It also has options for members without an e-mail address. The Elections Committee will be formed at the October board meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RECRUITMENT

The focus continues to be on supporting pre-retirement sessions for all future retirees in every CBC location. Quebec has been extremely active, hosting pre-retirement sessions each month. They enjoy enviable cooperation from SRC and plan to begin presentations to anglophones in Quebec this fall. These highly successful sessions could be adapted to use with English employees across Canada, however we do not currently enjoy the same level of cooperation from CBC.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Standing Committee remains focused on acquiring a federal grant for organizations serving older Canadians. The grant would help fund distribution of the EDI Guide as well as a storytelling series that will provide PNA members with valuable insight into the experiences of diverse aging populations.

The committee also recommend that the National Board consider ways to address and correct the under-representation of women in the PNA's leadership positions.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Coordinator, Catherine Schellenberg, summarized the processes put into place for production and approvals of communiques and the national newsletter. Catherine has taken over production of CONTACT with the help of Suzie Bougie. Use of targeted (by language) mailing lists for members who require mail copies will incur cost savings.

Interim Communications Advisory Board (CAB) chairman John Mang presented a proposal for revising the group's responsibilities and recruiting new members. This group will be instrumental in working with the Communications Coordinator to produce an editorial policy for PNA publications.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Regional reports focused on a few themes: new executive members, a need for more volunteers, a focus on recruitment and a return to in-person events.