



**The CBC Pensioners
National Association**

Preserving our Future, Sharing our Past

**L'Association nationale
des retraités de la SRC**

Assurer notre avenir, partager notre passé

Contact

Newsletter

President's Message



Donald Langis

We have just edged into summer, but Justice Dennis R. O'Connor's ruling in our favour on the Memorandum of Agreement could very well be the highlight of the year. Recent correspondence from the CBC suggests it is prepared to work with the PNA and the Unions to implement the agreement.

This arbitration process demonstrated what we can do when we work together for the CBC Pensioners National Association. Dan Oldfield played an important role in this outcome, bringing the benefit of his experience and knowledge as lead negotiator for the original Memorandum of Agreement, to the arbitration process.

In the words of the members of the Board of Directors, this is further proof of the association's importance and we need to promote this win in our recruitment campaigns.

That being said, there are still several issues to be resolved, including the choice of a trustee for the *CBC Pension Board of Trustees* and access to the *Employee Assistance Program*.

I wish you all a sunny and relaxing summer.

New Advocacy Committee Will Work to Strengthen our Voice

by Barbara Saxberg, Ontario Vice-President and chair of the PNA Advocacy Committee



Barbara Saxberg

The CBC PNA is looking to broaden its scope after having done excellent work on internal matters, such as the sharing of the CBC pension surplus.

The National Board of Directors has established a committee to look at possibilities for forming alliances with other organizations with whom we have common cause. The committee is chaired by Ontario Vice-President Barbara Saxberg and includes NCR President Suzanne Cunningham, Newfoundland President Jon Soper, and Consultative Committee of Staff Benefits representative Marc-Philippe Laurin.

The purpose of the work is to strengthen our voice as an organization on matters such as pensions and benefits, access to quality health care, economic and food security, and ageism. The committee has already met to clarify its goals and scope and will be identifying potential allies and reaching out over the summer. It will also review past PNA advocacy efforts to see what work needs to be renewed and/or supported further, and it will examine current relevant legislation.

The committee will present a progress report at the October meeting of the Board of Directors.

How can we contribute?

If you are active in another organization that focuses on an issue or issues you believe are relevant to PNA retirees, please contact me at bsaxberg@outlook.com to talk about how we might work together.

Recipients of Life Membership Awards

At the recent Annual General Meeting in May, we presented Life Membership awards to three longtime collaborators. These awards recognize significant contributions and outstanding commitment to the CBC Pensioners National Association over the years.

Dianne St-Germain (National Coordinator)

In recognition of Dianne's contributions to the CBC Pensioners National Association since its inception in 2000 and in her role as National Coordinator, Dianne has been indispensable to the Association's continuance. She has provided resourceful, considerate and compassionate guidance to thousands of our members over the years. She has been the embodiment of the PNA's values and aspirations.



Dianne St-Germain / Donald Langis

You can read more about Dianne's contributions over the years in the [December 2018 issue of CONTACT](#) (page 10) available on the [PNA Web site](#).

Denis Collette (Treasurer, Manitoba Region, former Treasurer and President of the CBC PNA)



Donald Langis / Denis Collette

In recognition of his sustained commitment to the aims and objectives of the CBC Pensioners National Association at the national level as the EAP Representative, and of his significant contribution during his mandates as Treasurer and President.

Ernie Nairn (former President, Manitoba Region)

In recognition of his consistent dedication to the aims and objectives of the CBC Pensioners Association and of his significant contributions to the Association over many years.



Donald Langis / Ernie Nairn

Your pensions are safe!

During his presentation at the Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg, our Pension Fund President Duncan Burrill assured us about the security of our pension cheques. The long-term investment strategy continues to work to our advantage.

Despite the vagaries of the market, which have melted the pension plan's assets by close to \$1.5 billion, the pension plan ended 2022 fully funded. While higher interest rates have contributed to asset meltdown, they have increased the long-term outlook and further reduced the Plan's future obligations. In sum, assets have declined, but long-term obligations of the plan have declined even more, which explains the increase in the solvency funding ratio.

The CBC Pension Board of Trustees meets quarterly to discuss and make decisions regarding the Pension Fund. You can consult the [June 2023 Communiqué](#) on the [CBC Pension Plan website](#).

Duncan Burrill, Managing Director and CEO of the CBC Pension Plan, was recently named **Investment Officer of the Year**, as part of the Canadian Investment Review's Pension Leadership Awards. This testament to his leadership and skill should provide you with assurance that your pension is in good health, secure and in the extremely capable hands of someone who has been recognized for delivering impressive results.

PNA Member Spotlight: Joanne Skidmore, Alberta, Saskatchewan and NWT Region

by Rich Knowles, Communications Advisory Board member, Maritimes Region



Joanne Skidmore

In the mid-1970s, CBC made a bold move in Saskatchewan by looking to hire staff locally rather than sending employees from Toronto. They were also searching for women. Joanne heard about this through a friend who worked at CBC TV Saskatoon and decided to apply, even though she had no background in television nor journalism. With nothing to lose and everything to gain, she applied and suddenly had a new career.

Joanne explains, "I worked 11 years as a general and municipal reporter as well as lineup editor. One summer, I switched jobs with a radio reporter. I quickly learned how important sound is to radio news. With this fresh appreciation for the immediacy and intimacy of radio, I applied for the position of Senior Editor of Radio News in Regina and worked in that position for five years. That was followed by stints as an arts journalist and radio host, announcer and producer/director on various shows in Regina."

Joanne retired in the summer of 2009, after CBC announced an incentive program for some employees to take an early retirement. Joanne made a difficult and thoughtful decision. "If I left, the position of a younger colleague would be preserved, and I decided it was a good time to conclude my career and begin focusing on other interests."

She has fond memories: "In 1983, after receiving a Rotary Foundation Education Award, I took an educational leave of absence to follow political studies at the University of Sydney, Australia. In 1985, I reported for CBC TV and Radio from the United Nations Decade for Women Conference in Nairobi, Kenya."

In 2022 Joanne was honoured for her contributions to the literary arts in Saskatchewan and received the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal.

When asked if she has faced challenges or adjustments in retirement, Joanne responds, "I wisely resisted the temptation to send story suggestions to my former colleagues. I had to start choosing how to spend my time, because I have many interests and hobbies.

The first real gift of retirement was having the time, energy and means to spend at a least one week a month in Saskatoon with my mother, who lived there in a long-term care facility. It was wonderful to have that time with her and to manage the many issues that arise with long term care. After she died, and for the next few years, much of my time was invested in volunteering with the Saskatchewan Book Awards and subsequently Coteau Books, an established publishing company in Saskatchewan that no longer exists. Now, my daughter and son-in-law and their two young children keep my husband and me entertained and busy. Along with choral singing and vocal lessons, book club, walking with friends for exercise and companionship, and caring for our large house and yard, there is plenty to do!"

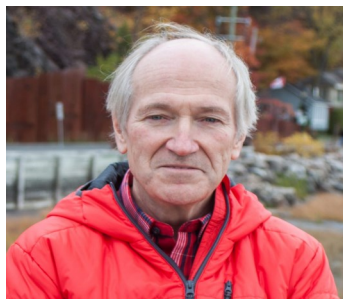
About her PNA involvement, Joanne explains, "I was Regional Secretary and editor of The Transmitter newsletter for six years. I still help out with the newsletter. My life is richer from being connected with former colleagues in a new way. Each of them has more going on in their life than what I knew about them as work colleagues. Being informed about the issues that affect retired people, in particular CBC retirees, helps me understand the challenges and struggles facing all of us as we age."

As a final note, Joanne adds "Joining the PNA is vitally important because the organization advocates on our behalf to protect our benefits and pensions, and works on issues that affect the lives of all retired CBC staff across the country. Thank you PNA!"

THE TECH COLUMN by Jean Allard

Stop using your Internet provider's e-mail address

(this article originally appeared in [Liaison, volume 35 no. 1](#) and is reprinted with the author's permission)



Jean Allard

Do you use a @bell.net or @shaw.ca e-mail address? Even if it's handy to use your Internet provider's e-mail, it may not be the best option.

Why?

1- By using your Internet service provider's (ISP) e-mail address, ***your hands are tied***. If you change ISP, say from Bell to Shaw, you will lose access to your @bell.net e-mail address and won't be able to access your e-mail messages, because these will continue to come to your Bell e-mail address. Bell *might* give you a few months' grace period, but because you have moved your business to a competitor, they will close your account and de-activate your e-mail address.

2- If you create accounts, for example with your hydro provider, using your ISP's e-mail address, and then you change ISP, you'll have to change the e-mail address you used to create the account with your hydro provider. Worse still, you will probably have trouble changing the account password.

Solution:

Use a free account at **Microsoft** - @hotmail.com, outlook.com - **Google** - @gmail.com - or **Yahoo**. But I can already hear you saying: all my friends know my @bell.net or @shaw.ca address! And now I'll have to check two mailboxes. Of course not!

Here's how:

1. Start by creating a free e-mail account with Microsoft, Google or Yahoo. If you already have one, now's the time to use it.

2. In your current e-mail account (@bell.net or other), configure the transfer of your messages to your new free account. This means that all messages arriving at your current address will be automatically transferred to your free e-mail account and you won't have to check two mailboxes.

Bell's transfer procedure is here:

[Setting up Bell email : Managing mail forwarding settings](#)

3. In your free e-mail account, set up an automatic signature such as:

*Thank you for using my new e-mail address:
surname.firstname@gmail.com*

Your correspondents will use your new e-mail address, and as the months go by, fewer e-mails will arrive at your ISP's address. The transition to your free address will be seamless.

4. You'll still have to change your e-mail address on all the services you're registered with (Facebook, bank, hydro, etc.). This transition will probably take a year.

Keep Yourself, your Family and your Money Safe from Scammers

Every single day, fraudsters are looking for new ways to make you a victim. Thousands of Canadians lose millions of dollars to fraud, ranging from identity theft to romance scams. The best way to avoid becoming a victim is to be informed and alert.

The Competition Bureau Canada has published its [Little Black Book of Scams 2nd edition](#) to help you protect yourself and learn what to do if you get scammed. You can read it online or download it (in multiple languages) from the Web page: <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/competition-bureau-canada/en/little-black-book-scams-2nd-edition>

To obtain a copy of this publication, or to receive it in an alternate format (Braille, large print, etc.) please contact the Competition Bureau's Information Centre at the numbers listed below:

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To the readers of the printed version of CONTACT

As you well know, the cost of living is constantly increasing. So is the cost of printing this newsletter. Since 2020, it has almost doubled.

You can do your part to reduce costs. If you have an email address, we invite you to switch to the electronic version of CONTACT. It is easy to download and print. All our newsletters are available on our website www.cbcpensioners.ca.

Simply notify us by email at info@cbcpensioners.ca.



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