



Contact NL Spring 2025

Farewell to winter?

While many of us hunkered down for the winter, our Western Newfoundland chapter kept up the positive spirit at a Winter Carnival breakfast in Corner Brook. The chapter is small, but as you can tell below, CBC retirees know how to enjoy a party at any time of the day.



Members also got together in Corner Brook and St. John's for our pre-Christmas luncheons. In St. John's, about 90 members and guests came out to the RCAFA Club, and most of us were stuffed by dessert time.

We will send details later, but we will be returning to the club for our annual BBQ on the evening of Monday, June 23.



Now to the more serious stuff

Change coming for our regional executive

During March, our election committee of Debbie Hussey and Jon Soper put out a call for nominations for the positions of vice-president and treasurer. When the deadline came, only Anne Budgell was nominated for a second term as treasurer. No one was nominated for vice-president.

But the story doesn't end there. Under our bylaws, if no nominations are submitted, the executive can seek volunteers to fill a vacancy. That appeal went out, and Chris O'Neill-Yates was quick to come forward. Thank you, Chris, and thank you Bob Sharpe for your two years as V.P. Chris will start her term as of the Annual General Meeting.

And Our 2025 [Annual General Meeting](#) isn't far away

We'll provide more details at the end of this newsletter, but mark Wednesday, April 30 in your calendar. We will be returning to the Paul Reynolds Centre in St. John's for our Annual General Meeting. It will start at 12:30 p.m. and will end by 2:30. And we will feed you. We'll also make the meeting available to members by phone. [Details here on Facebook](#).

Stay tuned for more on the 2025 pension surplus payouts.

This is a fluid situation, so do pay attention to updates on this year's payments from the 2023 pension surplus distribution and what's likely to be another from the end of 2024. The amount from 2023 is estimated to be roughly \$60 million, including interest.

Here's the national update from mid-March:

"CBC Pension Plan members have begun receiving a notice, either by email or regular mail, advising them they have 30 days from receipt to provide any comments on the surplus distribution to the regulator, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI).

No action is required on your part. This "second notice" advises plan members that CBC is seeking to release the funds from the plan to pay out the members' surplus share. It is a required part of the process established by OSFI and it gives all Plan members a chance to offer comments should they choose to do so.

It will then be up to OSFI to give approval for the distribution of funds.

Assuming the surplus payout is approved, and the funds are released, there is an additional 40-day hold before they can be distributed. We cannot predict when a payout will occur, but it is reasonable to assume it will not be until sometime in late spring or early summer.

Big local effort to turn out the surplus vote

There was a lot of confusion in late 2024 and early this year about what was going on with the voting by pensioners and deferred pensioners to

approve the surplus distribution. The mail-in ballots were delayed by the strike at Canada Post, so the deadline for mailing in consent forms was waived, but not all pensioners realized that.

And many pensioners who emailed in responses (and that was complicated enough) didn't receive confirmations that their votes had been received.

With all that confusion, the national office provided your provincial executive with the names of members whose ballots hadn't been received. The executive contacted almost all those members, and we succeeded in making sure ballots were sent in.

We know many of you made multiple attempts to send your ballots in, thanks for your patience. In the end, the effort across the county paid off, and pensioners approved the surplus distribution. Thank you for hanging in.

Advocacy in action

With the federal election underway, the PNA's National Advocacy Committee is sending members a series of discussion papers, one at a time, to provide you with carefully researched background on issues near and dear to our hearts. They include a summary of where each federal party stands on the issues, and questions you might want to ask candidates when the opportunity comes up.

The papers will come as follows:



1. Preserving CBC/Radio-Canada
2. Access to quality health care
3. Keeping the Canada Pension Plan whole
4. In defence of defined benefit pension plans
5. Making ends meet
6. The CBC, public broadcasting, and democracy

They'll also be posted on the [PNA website](#) and shared on social media.

Also watch for more local and CBC-specific content. Keeping the CBC alive is in all our interests and we'll do our best to keep you in touch with other campaigns aimed at doing just that.

Our advocacy continues in Newfoundland and Labrador

Our organization is an active member of the NL Pensioners Coalition, and part of that work includes meeting with provincial and federal politicians. In the past year, the coalition met with two MPs from this province who were at the time serving as the federal minister responsible for Seniors. Seamus O'Regan announced last summer that he was not running again, and he was replaced by St. John's East MP Joanne Thompson. The coalition met with her in January. Since then, a lot has changed on the federal scene, but the coalition is waiting for the next opportunity to influence how our governments treat seniors.



L - R: Mike Siscoe (CARP NL), Robert Howard (RNCVA), Joanne Morrissey (NAFR), Marilyn Best (NAFR), Albert Legge (NL 50+ Federation), Minister for Seniors - Joanne Thompson, Sharron Callahan (Coalition Chair / ED NLPSPA/CARP NL President), Joyce Reardon (NAPE Retirees), Jon Soper (CBC Pensioners), Sharon Penney (RTANL)

You can find out more about the coalition's work [here](#).

Scholarship call for your family members.

It is that time once again to solicit applications for the \$500.00 CBC Memorial Scholarship for 2024. The deadline for entry is May 31st.

Please encourage eligible students to apply.

You can find the scholarship package [here](#) or on our [Facebook page](#).

That's it for now from your PNA NL Executive

See contact information at the end of the AGM Notice below.



CBC National Pensioners Association
Newfoundland and Labrador Region

Notice of Annual General Meeting

WHEN: **Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

WHERE: **[Paul Reynolds Community Centre](#)
35 Carrick Dr., St. John's NL**

We will be holding a hybrid AGM, with members able to participate in person at the Paul Reynolds Centre (Gleneyre Room #2 on the second floor) or by conference call (details on connecting are below).

The agenda will include reports from executive members on our activities during the past year, a review of our 2024-25 finances, the outcome of our latest election call, and plans for the coming year. Plus, we will have prizes.

We will have a light lunch available beginning at **12 Noon**.

If you plan to attend in person, please let one of us know by April 23 so we can plan for lunch.

Your CBC NL Pensioners Association 2024-25 Executive.

President Jon Soper, 709-726-5811, jonsoper@nf.sympatico.ca

Vice-president Bob Sharpe, 709-682-4524, Sharpebob007@gmail.com

Treasurer Anne Budgell, budgellanne@gmail.com

Secretary Debbie Hussey, 709-685-1979, debbiehusseypna@gmail.com

Director at Large Rod Etheridge etheridgerod@gmail.com

To call in: **1-855-344-7722**, follow the prompts and enter Conference ID **8389465** followed by the **#** key on your phone.