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CBC PNA • L'ANR de R-C



The Vote That Will Shape Our Nation

By Barbara Saxberg, Ontario Region President & Chair, National Advocacy Committee

It's been a wild few months in politics, both at home and abroad. The threats to our sovereignty from south of the border have been shocking. And who would have thought that what appeared, not long ago, to be a lock on government for the Conservatives has turned in favour of the Liberals? Pundits are calling this an unprecedented reversal in Canadian politics, but the campaign isn't over. Ultimately, what happens on April 28th is what matters.

What does the election mean for us as retirees? Over the past few weeks, the PNA's National Advocacy Committee has shared six backgrounders on issues of prime importance to pensioners. We've generated talking points for conversations with others, and suggested questions to help you get clarification on where candidates really stand.

Your feedback has been encouraging. With so much "noise" out there, you've told us it's been helpful to have such intelligent and well-researched material. (Let's face it, PNA members are some of the best writers and researchers around!)

It's worth noting that the Advocacy Committee made a conscious decision not to advocate for any one party, but rather to write explainers about each issue and outline where the parties stand. It's been a challenging exercise, as political leaders sometimes have changed long-held positions during the election campaign. We've done our best to keep our material as up to date as possible.

Across the country, many of our members have actively supported the PNA's "Make Your Voice Heard" campaign: writing to their candidates; setting up local events; producing video testimonials; and asking tough questions to hold candidates accountable for their words and actions.

Election Day is almost upon us and, as we all know, anything can change. Keep asking questions. Keep using the materials we've shared. Keep standing up for what matters.

And the most important thing we can do? Vote. All the work means nothing if we don't exercise our rights at the ballot box. Make your voice heard. And help shape our future.

All the discussion papers as well as other resources can be found at : cbcpensioners.ca/campaigns

ALMOST THERE: Pension Surplus Update

By Dan Oldfield
PNA President



The payout of the 2023 pension plan surplus has moved one step closer to final approval.

The 30-day period established by the federal pension plan regulator (OSFI) and set out in the Second Notice that was sent to all contributors for comment has been completed. We are now awaiting OSFI's approval to proceed with the payout.

It is still hoped that payments can be made sometime around the middle of June. However, the timing is directly linked to the date OSFI gives its approval and we do not know exactly when that will happen.

In total, about \$60-million will be shared among roughly 20,000 plan contributors. Consistent with the method used last year, payments will be calculated as a percentage of your lifetime plan contributions.

You should also expect to receive the notice regarding the 2024 surplus later this summer.

No action will be required unless you wish to comment. That's because OSFI agreed that retired members will have been deemed to have given their approval for a five-year period.

We will keep you informed as the process moves forward.

Turn to Page 6 to discover how the Surplus is making a difference in the lives of PNA members across the country!

Log In - Speak Up! Be Part of the National AGM



Join Us for the CBC Pensioners National Association virtual AGM!

Mark your calendars! The CBC Pensioners National Association is hosting its virtual Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 15, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time—and you're invited!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and engaged with the latest updates on your pension and the association's work on your behalf. We're pleased to welcome Duncan Burrill, Managing Director and CEO of the CBC Pension Plan, who will provide key insights into the fund's management and outlook. You'll also receive a report on the national board's activities over the past year.

Don't miss this chance to connect with fellow members and have your voice heard.

Register today by writing to info@cbcpensioners.ca and be part of the conversation!

One Year In: Embracing the Challenge

President's Message
by Dan Oldfield

There's an old saying: "May you live in interesting times." I won't get into the debate of the origin but whoever first said it may have foreseen the world as it is today.

While the madness south of the border rages on, Canadians are on the eve of choosing our next Parliament. One that will be confronted with a different world than existed less than 6 months ago. A significant issue to be decided is the future of the CBC, our national broadcaster and sponsor of our pension plan. Also, the place where the majority of us spent most of our working lives.

I've had the great opportunity to speak to many of you since I was elected the PNA's National President almost a year ago. I share your concerns about the future and about the impact that actions taken by thoughtless people are having on our lives and on the future of our kids and grandchildren. But I am confident we will persevere.

It's been both a challenging and rewarding year for the PNA. A national mail strike and other technical glitches hampered our ability to get the votes necessary to assure payment of our share of the 2023 pension surplus, but persistence paid off and we got there.



That success is being rewarded by an assurance the 2024 surplus share will also get distributed and that we won't have to go through the angst of yet another vote for another 5 years. By this fall, nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in surplus monies will have been distributed to all pension contributors.

While work on making sure the surpluses get distributed is ongoing, other important work is being done. The National Board agreed on a new three-year strategy it believes will make the PNA more accountable, relevant and accessible. We revitalized four national committees focusing on growing and engaging our membership, improving our communications, being more active and visible on critical issues that effect our members, and embracing the fundamental principles of equity, diversity and inclusion.

These committees are populated with energetic, intelligent and caring members. You'll can read more about the work of these committees elsewhere in this newsletter.

And now for the unapologetic plug. The PNA is formally recognized as the representative body for all CBC retirees. Out of more than 10-thousand CBC retirees, only about 6,000 are members.

While we have a few dedicated part-time staff, the majority of the work we do is performed by volunteers. It's important work. The PNA faces a grim reality that every year we lose about 200 of our colleagues. It's why we place an emphasis on engagement and recruitment. There is plenty of room for retirees to get involved. And if you know of anyone who could be a member and hasn't joined, give them a nudge.

Dues are minimal and the benefit is great.

I wish you all the best for the future. If you have questions or comments please reach out.

We can be contacted at info@pensioners.ca

Dan Oldfield

We're refreshing our website! A new look and smoother experience are on the way—stay tuned for the launch!



Help Us Improve How We Connect with our Members!

Help us improve how we communicate with you by taking our short Member Tone and Voice Survey.

Tell us how you prefer to receive updates, what topics matter most, and what tone feels right.

Your feedback will help shape future newsletters, emails, and more—ensuring they reflect your needs.

Access the survey now and help us strengthen how we connect with you!

bit.ly/4jvWwkY

Your Surplus Stories and Their Impact

From home improvements to helping family, members have used the pension surplus in meaningful ways. Here's how the PNA has made a difference—one story at a time..

For my part, this surplus will be added to my savings to ensure financial security for the future. I retired before COVID and before the years of inflation that followed. Now, there is talk of an economically difficult period in the very short term, with a possible recession in Canada caused by the new tariffs imposed by Donald Trump.

A portion of my pension surplus will allow me to increase my annual donations to organizations that support those less fortunate among us. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who professionally advocate for the interests of the members of the CBC Pensioners National Association.



Marie-Claude Langlois, Montreal

In this time of rising prices and unpredictable inflation rates, particularly with the threat of a tariff war with the United States, the pension surplus money gives me a financial cushion in meeting my monthly expenses. The increasing cost of food, vehicles and gas, utilities, home insurance and property tax has outstripped the increases in pension income.



Beyond that, the extra money helps with the upkeep of my home. This year I used part of the funds to replace my very old stove and fridge, along with my soon-to-be obsolete laptop computer. I will continue to use my pension surplus money for home maintenance, as I have a list of jobs to undertake.

Finally, the money helps me maintain a modest but comfortable standard of living without having to run through my savings too quickly. Bravo to all who fought for us!

Katherine Fitzpatrick, Saskatoon

I will never forget the day in mid-June 2024. I arrived home to Hants Harbour, Newfoundland after spending the winter with my new grandson.

My neighbour who takes care of my home when I'm away...was waiting for me. 'Janice, you have a problem, a BIG problem.' I thought, oh no.

Your house is leaning. It won't survive another winter storm. The house supports are rotten.' I just looked at him. What on earth was I going to do. Pensioners lead careful lives. Then a month later came word from the PNA we've won, pensioners will receive their share of the surplus.



My cheque arrived July 30, 2024. A carpenter and his team started mid- August rebuilding my house supports. By mid- September I'm assured my home is safe. THANK YOU PNA for your hard work and your hard-won fight.

Janice Stein, Hants Harbour



My dear partner passed away in 2007 and I have been alone since then. I still live in a rental apartment and the gradual rise in the cost of living has eaten away at my savings.

The surplus sharing has helped me to continue taking care of and feeding myself for which I am truly thankful.

Gerald Hudson, Qualicum Beach

Share Your Surplus Story – We Want to Hear from You!

Write to us at info@cbcpensioners.ca

Need Help Covering Some Health Expenses?

The Special Assistance Fund (SAF) May Help

Did you know there's a fund to help with some medical expenses not covered by your group health plan?

The Special Assistance Fund (SAF) supports CBC employees, retirees, and eligible family with costs for essential medical devices/services—like hearing aids or mobility aids.

Overseen by the Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits (CCSB), applications must meet fund and the Canada Revenue Agency criteria. The claims are processed through Canada Life.

You don't need to be in the CBC PNA Supplementary Health Care Plan to apply. Leave that section blank if it doesn't apply.

Submit your application early—CCSB meets in March, June, Sept & Dec, and Canada Life needs 4 to 5 weeks to process.

Access the forms on the PNA website:

<https://bit.ly/4jnZicu>

Membership Matters: For You, For All



Gail Carducci
Vice President (Anglophone)
Chair of the Standing Committee on Membership.

Why Membership Growth Matters

Expanding our membership is one of the most important things we can do to protect our pensions and benefits.

A larger and more engaged membership means a stronger voice when advocating on behalf of all retirees. The Standing Committee is committed to monitoring enrolment and ensuring that valuable information and strategies are shared across regions and chapters to support these efforts.

Progress and Opportunities

As of December 31, 2024, our membership stood at 5,855 members out of 10,311 pensioners—a participation rate of 56.8%, up from 52.9% in 2023. This is a significant step in the right direction, but more than 4,000 pensioners remain outside the Association.

Each of us has the opportunity to reach out to these potential members and encourage them to join.

In the coming weeks, you'll receive a communication with practical ideas to help guide conversations with former colleagues who are now retired, as well as current employees nearing retirement. This information will also be available on our website as a resource for all members—so stay tuned!

Enhancing Outreach

Another key initiative is the revision of the PNA's membership brochure, which will be sent to all new retirees. The brochure is often the first point of contact we have with new pensioners, and it must clearly convey the importance of joining the Association.

"Growing our membership is a collective effort"

The Membership Committee is working with the Communications Officer to ensure it makes a strong and lasting impression. Looking ahead, we are also developing pre-retirement seminars that will be integrated into CBC's virtual sessions for employees.

This initiative is inspired by the successful model in the Quebec Region and will help ensure that future retirees are well-informed about the benefits of PNA membership before they transition out of the workforce.

Every Member Makes a Difference

Growing our membership is a collective effort, and every conversation you have with a potential new member matters.

Let's continue to build a stronger PNA together—one that protects and advocates for all of us, now and in the future.

Accessibility. Inclusion. Action.



Ron Charles
Chair of the Standing Committee on
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The EDI Committee has hired a freelance researcher/writer to develop a new accessibility and inclusion guide for events, meetings, and communications. Funded by the PNA Board last October, the guide is expected to be ready by fall, if not sooner.

We're also working on a series of storytelling videos featuring testimonials from seniors of diverse backgrounds. We want these videos to be used by regions and chapters to spark discussions at events about EDI.

Our committee meets monthly, with a short summer break. We'd love for you to join us. Updates to come!

Life In Motion

What Our Members Are Up To

Hitting All The Right Notes: John Mang's Second Act

After leaving CBC, John dove headfirst into a passion that has always been a part of him: music. He has the great pleasure of performing with a variety of bands, each bringing a unique flavour to his musical journey.

"One of my favourites is 'Time Well Wasted,' a 12-piece, horn-driven funk, soul, rock, rhythm & blues band from the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island," says John.

For John, playing with TWW perfectly encapsulates the joy and fun of live music. John also performs with 'Stealing Dan,' paying homage to the legendary Steely Dan.



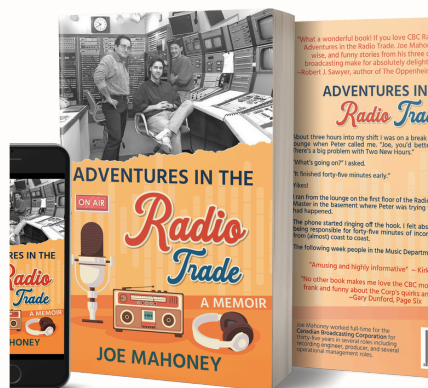
"If you're a fan of their music, you know how intricate and sophisticated their sound can be. Bringing those tunes to life has been an exhilarating adventure."

When not performing, John is busy working with various Vancouver Island organizations, producing local community events, festivals, and fundraisers. He takes pride in giving back to the community and creating memorable experiences for everyone involved.

"So, here's to music, community, and the joy of living!"

Joe Mahoney: From CBC to the Written Word

Joe Mahoney has channeled his passion for storytelling into various creative endeavors. His first novel, *A Time and a Place*, was published in 2017 by Five Rivers Press. In 2023, he released his memoir, *Adventures in the Radio Trade* (Donovan Street Press), offering a warm, witty look behind the scenes at CBC Radio, filled with reflections from his career and memorable encounters with Canadian icons like Margaret Atwood, Joni Mitchell, and Peter Gzowski.



"The CBC initially agreed to publish the book but changed their minds and asked me to wait until I retired. I published it the day after I retired which I thought was dramatic timing," says Joe.

Beyond writing, Joe co-hosts the podcast *Re-Creative* with author Mark A. Rayner. This podcast delves into sources of inspiration and creativity, featuring conversations with various artists about the works that have influenced them. Additionally, Joe maintains a newsletter titled *Assorted Nonsense*, where he shares musings on life, creativity, and more. An advocate for the literary community, Joe is a member of SF Canada, the Science Fiction Writers of America, and the Writers' Union of Canada.

Find Joe's work at : www.joemahoney.ca



Joe recording at Margaret Atwood's house (with her assistant Sarah Cooper and fellow Canadian writer and playwright Victor-Lévy Beaulieu)

A Voice That Still Resonates - Jasmine's story

Since retiring from a distinguished 26-year career at Radio-Canada, Jasmine Lalonde has continued to share her passion and talent in new ways. She now teaches microphone technique in the Public Relations program at La Cité.



"It's truly rewarding to share my experience with young people. If I can help them achieve their dreams and see their eyes light up, I feel fulfilled," says Jasmine.

She also runs her own professional home studio, lending her voice to radio and TV ads, corporate videos, e-learning content, audiobooks, and more. Jasmine is the French voice for Rogers wireless subscribers in Canada. Beyond her voice work, she has collaborated on international TV productions making her someone that continues to inspire through her work and creativity.

Find Jasmine's work at : www.jasminelalonde.com

Letters to the Editor – Your Voice Matters!

Have something to say? We'd love to hear from you! Whether it's a response to an article, a personal story, or thoughts on issues that matter to our community, share your perspective with us. Selected letters may be featured in a future edition of our newsletter.

Reach us at : info@cbcpensioners.ca



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