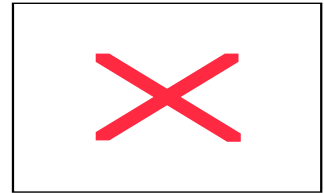


ACER - CART Report to the BCRTA Directors

December 9, 2009

(ACER-CART represents more than 168,00 retired educators)



**Norbert Boudreau is now ACER-CART's Executive Director.
He asks that all ACER-CART communication, including fees, should be sent to him:
93-21 Midland Crescent, Nepean, ON K2H 8P6**

1. **Associate Membership CTF:** The June AGM moved that ACER-CART apply to become an associate member of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF). A letter of application was written to CTF by the ACER-CART president. However, the motion was not allowed for discussion at CTF's July AGM; instead it was decided that CTF Associate Membership, its role and responsibilities, should be reviewed before such was granted to ACER-CART. In November, ACER-CART President Vaughn Wadelius was to discuss this issue with the Manitoba CTF Director in order to ascertain the common positive aspects of such collaboration. We have received no further information.
2. **Communication:** ACER-CART as a bilingual association is working to improve its communication in both official languages. Communications and documents are being referred for translation prior to sending them to francophone members.
3. **Progress on AGM motions:** Action was initiated on AGM motions that involved budget revision, investment of the Reserve Fund, the approved ACER-CART Bylaws and Articles, and the 2010 AGM presentation on how to lobby government.

ACER-CART sent letters to the Federal Minister of Finance and the Opposition critic lobbying for adequate financial support for Radio Canada and the CBC in all part of Canada.

ACER-CART is calling upon its member associations to contact and meet their members of parliament and their opposition critics with a view to providing them with the position of ACER-CART on the following motions passed at the June AGM:

- a. That ACER-CART lobby the federal government and opposition parties to establish a National Securities Regulator through legislation that enhances the rights of investors and seek support of other national seniors' organizations.
- b. That ACER-CART request a meeting with the Federal Minister responsible for health and the opposition critics to provide them with the position of ACER-CART as outlined in Policy re Health-Care in Canada (adopted at the 2002 AGM). Found in Appendix 1 of this report

And that Member Associations be requested to contact and meet their respective Ministers of Health and the opposition critics with a view to providing them with the position of ACER-CART.

- c. That ACER-CART continue to lobby the federal government to implement the recommendations of the November 2008 report of the Canadian Health Coalition regarding the establishment of a universal Pharmacare plan and formulary for Canadians.
- d. That ACER-CART lobby the federal government to phase in a national prescription drug strategy which would begin with coverage for key catastrophic drug costs.
- e. That ACER-CART lobby the federal government to eliminate the renewal of protection of drug patents.

4. These reports are available upon request:

- a. The Canadian National Seniors' Organization (CNSO), Oct 7th Teleconference. (ACER-CART is an affiliate as is the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens' Federation -- NPSCF) Vaughn Wadelius participated on behalf of ACER-CART.
 - b. The BCRTA September 09 AGM, presented by ACER-CART President Vaughn Wadelius
 - c. The October 09 NPSCF conference, written by ACER-CART Executive Director Norbert Boudreau
5. New ACER-CART pins are available for the cost of \$2. They are oval in shape, colourful, and feature the logo on page 1 of this report.
6. The AGM next June will feature a one-half day session on lobbying government.



ACER-CART Member Organizations

The June 09 ACER-CART presentation to BCRTA directors contained a rather thorough summary of the AGM reports of the 13 other ACER-CART members; and further information about these organizations can be found on their websites, accessible directly from our website.

Following is a list of interesting ideas/practices found in the publications of other CART members ~ hopefully not duplicating those mentioned in the June report.

Yukon Retired Teachers' Alumni (YRTA)

The newest ACER-CART member ~ no new communication since June's AGM. YRTA's membership is less than 1/3 that of the BCRTA's Langley Branch.

Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA)

Membership, please note: ARTA and most of the ARTA Branches provide a one -year free membership to newly retired teachers.

Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan (STS)

Membership: 8955. Group benefits subscribers: 4519 (STS has its own group benefits plan. Sask. Blue Cross administers it.)

The editor of their magazine, *Outreach*, asked for an article to be written to assist an STS member's spouse after the death of the retiree. It seems it would be a useful article.

Membership/website committees, please note: Their website has suggestions for branch activities, speakers, and contact information.

Delegates Day coordinator: Their May 2010 AGM speaker will be Catriona LeMay Doan. (I thought it would be their great Riders receiver, Vantuz.)

Retired Teachers of Manitoba (RTAM)

Membership: In addition to the RTAM, all retired women teachers are encouraged to join the Retired Women Teachers' Association, now in its 59th year. The association is dedicated to continuing social relationships, welfare of members, and activities.

Each year, individuals (last year, 3) of the RTAM are singled out for a Distinguished Service Award. Vaughn Wadelius was one of these. Members and/or chapters make nominations. Excerpts from their citations are published in *KIT: Keep in Touch*.

RTAM has an Okanagan chapter of 39 members.

Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO/ERO)

Communications: They publish a beautiful news magazine, though not quite as beautiful, as our *Postscript*. It's called *Renaissance*. They have just published their second themed issue, the last being "the Green Issue, which features ways members have adopted to help save the planet. (See "the Delights of Dandelions".)

But they also distribute a bi-month publication called *Liaison*. A summary of the happenings at the Provincial Executive meetings, it is put together by their communications officer who also edits *Renaissance* and oversees their website content.

Their *Website* has a Members-Only section, which they access with the last few digits of their membership number. On this site is information of interest to and available only for members. This information includes Tax Tips prepared by RTO/ERO's accountants with retired teachers in mind, highlights and reports from their semi-annual Senate meetings (RTO/ERO governing body), articles specifically for seniors on computer issues, a resource section of interest to District webmasters and newsletter editors, and over 45 Fact Sheets on topics of interest to retired teachers and seniors in general.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Ann Lauber, ACER-CART Rep