

BRANCH REPORT

AB16 | Calgary & District

CONTACT US

Room 302
Kerby Centre
1133, 7th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 1B2
403-265-0773

nafrcalg@telus.net
www.nafrcgy.ca

President:
Guy Lallier

Vice-President:
Roloin Vetsch

Treasurer:
Bonnie Pratt

Membership:
Jennifer Johnson

Secretary:
Gabrielle Simpson

Volunteer Coordinator:
Sally Manchurek

Health Benefits Officer:
Paula Fuerst

Directors:
Gerry Thompson
Heather Thompson
Maggie Smith
Ron Beimes
Anne Prusakowski

Past President:
Pat Henderson

President's message

Greetings. I hope everyone had a relaxing summer and fall and is energetic about new events coming up this winter.

It's that time of year when we start preparing for the end of year festivities. At least we hope we can do that this year. Despite the vaccinations, lockdowns, and the evidence that those that are vaccinated will not develop severe symptoms, it is still something that we want to avoid as we don't know the long-term effects of COVID-19.

Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher said, "the only constant in life is change", and we will be facing a lot of change in the future.

This year your board met monthly with Zoom meetings, held our first virtual AGM, and voted on revising our branch's reserves and budget. Our team worked on our strategic operating plan, met with MP's and MLA's to discuss our organization's priorities and going forward, we continue to plan for further operational changes.

Between a new (old) government, a society dealing with COVID-19 presently and in the future, a lot will be changing. As a branch we will be reviewing the way we've managed without a physical office because we were locked out and we will need to find a new venue to hold our quarterly branch meetings and lunches or develop alternative ways to meet and socialize.

PARTNER BANNER

We've managed well so far and as the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche famously said, "what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger". With change I hope we can become a better and more vigorous branch, better able to support and meet the needs of the organization and our members in a rapidly changing world. Stay tuned!



Sincerely,

Guy Lallier
Branch President

NAFRAB16 continues to support our veterans

COVID-19 has affected everyone including veterans. Post-COVID-19 support will be crucial as Albertans deal with the social and economic impacts of the pandemic. Additionally, non-profit organizations often feel the impact of a slow economy first.

There are many ways NAFR16 members can help: by volunteering your knowledge and expertise, as well as donating food and monies to support veterans-in-need. There are two veterans' food banks in the Calgary area that could use your support:

The Veterans Food Bank of Calgary - Veterans Food Bank of Calgary (theveteransfoodbankofcalgary.ca)

Charity - Veterans Association Food Bank (veteransassociationfoodbank.ca)

These organizations provide food support and so much more for our veterans-in-need. If you know a veteran that needs assistance, please share this information with them.

NAFRAB16 office

The Board is currently undertaking a review of the need for maintaining a bricks-and-mortar office at the Kerby Centre in Calgary. Over the past few years, the number of in-person visits to the office have dwindled substantially. Those that do visit the office, often do so as a courtesy, as they are at the Kerby Centre or in the area for another purpose. Though volunteers appreciate these visits, we question whether there is a need to maintain this physical space. The question became abundantly clear during COVID-19 when the office couldn't be opened. We are currently reviewing the implications and costs of both maintaining a physical office and creating a virtual office. Members views and inputs are welcome on this subject.

Notice For Your Information

Calgary & District Branch has received a further 50 copies of the 'You and Your Survivors Workbook' in English and 50 copies of the Workbook in French. Members may request a copy of the Workbook by emailing our office nafrcalg@telus.net. Please include your complete address for a copy to be sent to you.

NAFRAB16 Facebook

Our Facebook page has been in place now for over a year. We hope all our followers are enjoying the page. For those members that don't have a Facebook account you can still view our Page: type - facebook nafryyc - in your browser.

Our Facebook focus is to share relevant information with our members. In addition to events and activities happening locally and nationally, we have posted small biographies of NAFRAB16 members. We plan to continue highlighting our members.

If you, or someone you know, would be willing to be highlighted, please email us at nafrcalg@telus.net or send us a Facebook message (NAFRYYC).

Communications

Development of our communications and marketing plan continues. We were very fortunate to have a communications professional volunteer time initially towards this initiative; it was a huge boost to our efforts.

We have a small team working on this effort and as they say, many hands make light work. If you, or someone you know, would like to assist your Board in further developing and implementation of this plan, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Advocacy Update

Our Advocacy Team Bonnie Pratt, Gabrielle Simpson, Heather Thompson and Paula Fuerst were busy this summer scheduling meetings with Calgary and District Members of Parliament (via Zoom) prior to the election to discuss NAFR's priorities. It was a busy time and the meetings were successful.

Your Contact Information – Is it up to date?

During this exceptional time in our lives, keeping informed on issues that affect us is extremely important. For instance:

- How is travel/medical coverage affected because of COVID-19?
- What will the impact be, if any, on pensions because of COVID-19?
- Where are we with a national senior's strategy and national Pharmacare?
- How is the National Association of Federal Retirees and its Branches advocating on your behalf?

Now, more than ever, it is important that we all keep informed on those issues that affect not only Federal Retirees, but seniors in Canada. By updating your information, your Branch and National Office can continue to connect with you through mail-outs, emails, websites, and Facebook.

If you have ***moved, or changed either your home address, telephone number or your e-mail address recently***, please let us know by contacting service@federalretirees.ca or call the National Office membership team at 1-855-304-4700, ext. 300 to update your information.

Federal Retirees Members Information

Please check out our National Association of Federal Retirees websites:

National : <https://www.federalretirees.ca/>

Calgary & District Branch: <http://nafrcgyc.ca/>

Facebook - [National Association of Federal Retirees - Calgary YYC](#)

For questions or inquiries, please phone 403-265-0773 or email nafrcalg@telus.net.