

BRANCH REPORT

ON46 | Quintrent

CONTACT US

QUINTRENT BRANCH ON46

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MEMBERSHIP

The National Association of Federal Retirees, or commonly Federal Retirees, is the largest national advocacy organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian armed forces, royal Canadian mounted police (RCMP) and retired federally appointed judges, as well as their partners and survivors.

We believe every Canadian today and in the future, should benefit from better retirement income security and a strong, sustainable health care system.

With your support, we can make retirement better for all Canadians.

President's message

So how did 2020 treat you? Around the world it unleashed record fires, famines and storms to go with the pestilence that is COVID-19. I will not talk politics in this polite company. As winter descends will we get a grip, or will we have to decide once again if our toilet paper and flour supplies will last. Alas, the beach vacation down south that many of us enjoy may not happen soon.

This was the year of our discontent – the year everything changed. All the things we worried about in the past became background noise as we tried to figure out how to deal with a pandemic that at first was just a foreign problem, then a nuisance, and then a killer that took our most vulnerable. We have had to face the adjustment of distancing ourselves physically and the more difficult problem of isolating ourselves socially. See the note in this insert about voting by e-mail.

The government has been spending so much to keep the economy from disaster that we are now facing a long-term problem. This spending will have to be paid for somehow. There are only a few options, barring some miracle. Among them are inflating the currency to make it cheaper to pay the debt back, raising taxes to provide the cash to pay it back, and looking for “efficiencies” to save money.

The first two would have the effect of reducing all citizens’ income. This would, at least, share the pain. The third one could result in an attack on our pensions, by eliminating inflation indexation or by tying payments to some market index, which is what the defined contributions plan touted last year would do.

This is not an unlikely thing. There have already been commentaries by pundits and politicians on the easy ride that government employees have been getting, with no layoffs and fantastic benefits. That this does not apply to us retirees will matter little when the budget axe starts to chop. It will be essential for us to monitor the debate, and do our utmost to fend off any attacks. We have a strong position in defending our contract, but we must defend it either with moral arguments in the political realm or with legal arguments in court.

The good news is that our Association is doing just that and is superbly positioned to work on our behalf. Our large membership and strong influence with the government give us the voice that we need to have our contract honoured.

Not sure what to get for the federal retiree who has everything?



GIVE THE GIFT of membership!

federalretirees.ca/gift

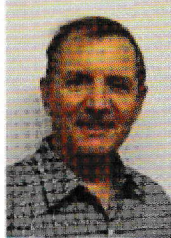


IN MEMORIAM 2020

It is with deep regret that we have learned of the passing of the following members. The heartfelt sympathy of the branch is extended to their families and friends.

- John Conrad
- William Bugg
- Raymond DiCrescenzo
- Ronald Bryson
- Lynda Atchison
- Eric Gebhardt
- Charles Lacoste
- Bill Malczewski
- Ray Mercier
- Betty MacDonald
- James Chabassol
- Jack Dingle
- William Danylchuk
- James Blaiklock
- Elsie Hogg
- Rita Shettell
- Donald A McDonald
- Robert MacKay
- Ron Denham
- Margaret Montrose
- Jack Girar
- Gene Hamelin

So, hang in there. We will sit on the beach again one day soon, and go on collecting our pensions. In the meantime, our membership keeps us strong, so if you know of any retirees who have not yet joined us, do a hard sell, and bring them on board. We will all benefit.



Sincerely,

Tom Kupecz
Branch President

Branch fall general meeting

The national board of directors (NBOD) of the National Association of Federal Retirees has cancelled all live gatherings of members in 2020 due to the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 virus and its threat to our health.

At present the only venue that may allow us to hold a meeting is our usual one, Branch 110, RCL Trenton. However, the circumstances under which we could have a meeting are restrictive only 50 members would be permitted entry, and distancing/cleaning/mask restrictions would apply. That would not permit a workable meeting, so we will not plan to meet this year.

In a NBOD web-meeting held on July 8, 2020, it was decided that in 2020 branches were not required to hold an annual general meeting;

- the mandate of any member of a branch's board of directors (BOD) that was scheduled to retire during 2020 is hereby extended until the next scheduled Annual General Meeting in 2021;

- The person appointed to review the branch's 2019 accounts is hereby determined to review the 2020 accounts. If that person is unable to review the branch's accounts in 2020, the branch board may seek the authority if the NBOD to appoint a replacement; and

- It was agreed by consensus to approve the following provisions so that they are now included in all branch bylaws and that the branch bylaws will now be read as though these are included. Doing so effectively allows branches to hold their meetings and board meetings electronically without having to amend their bylaws.



Save 25%
on your annual membership dues by switching to the DDS payment option!

For a limited time only, we are offering a one-time 25 per cent discount on annual membership dues for every member who switches to the Dues Deduction at Source (DDS) payment option.

Complete a DDS registration form and return it to the Association's national office to make the switch today. Visit federalretirees.ca/DDS for more information.



Quintrent Branch – Fall general meeting – Continues

- We will therefore shortly be sending email to all members with email accounts detailing the agenda items for our AGM and advising you of the financial items that must be approved by our members, and asking you to approve them via an e-mail response or your selected communication choice. As we normally only have 100-125 members attend meetings, this will allow greater participation by members.
- Your approvals will be necessary to allow our board of directors to effectively manage our business and satisfy the reporting requirements of the national board of directors and auditors.

How will branch operations move forward in the future.

We ask all our branch members to read the following information and instructions very carefully, as it will detail how we will be communicating and conducting branch business from now on.

To ensure that you our Branch members receive full and timely information and are asked to vote on branch business the following areas will need to be addressed:

- The branch bylaws will be amended to allow for the branch executive to conduct business, when necessary, electronically and by distancing means, communicating their actions and soliciting approval from members for their decisions in the form of a vote;
- Annual branch meetings, when necessary, will be conducted through distance communications, such as email, branch website, telephone and Canada Post. Live on-screen meetings will not be attempted at present due to the technical difficulties of very large meetings;

- Elections of executives, including nominations and vote casting, when necessary, will be addressed through electronic and distancing means;
- Financial and budgetary information, notice of motions, will be conducted in the same manner as listed above;
- Directors' Reports will be disseminated and disclosed through electronic means;

To ensure that all branch members have equal opportunity and for the executive to be totally transparent, multiple avenues of distant communications will be employed such as: email, branch webpage and for those without electronic means, telephone contacts, Canada Post mail and by annual Branch *Sage* reports.

To ensure that the branch reaches all members, we request that upon reading this report you contact us via email or your selected mode of communication to indicate that you understand the changes we need to make and that you want to participate in branch operations. Your response is required by no Later Than Jan. 15, 2021.

Annual branch meetings

Annual meetings will take the form of an annual branch report (ABR) covering executive nominations, financial and budgetary and directors' reports. The ABRs will be disseminated by distance communication methods according to individual member's communication preference as well as email, website, Canada Post and telephone.

In the annual report members will be asked to vote on various issues, such as bylaw amendments,

elections of officers, financial and budgetary decisions and approving director reports. The request for vote will follow the following procedures:

- Notice of motion will be given in the report, explaining in full the business to be voted on.
- Discussion deadline date will be given in the report by which time questions and objection will have to be received by branch. And a date will also be given by which time branch will respond.



Quintrent Branch needs volunteers for Reach 338 initiative – Volunteer!

The National Association of Federal Retirees is building a nationwide network of advocates to advance its mission — to significantly improve the quality and security of retirement for our members and all Canadians. We’re calling this network Reach 338 because our goal is to ensure that our advocacy work reaches all 338 federal ridings before the next election.

Annual branch meetings - Continues

- Vote closing deadline will also be given, in the same report, by which time members’ votes must be received by branch.

- Finally, disclosure of notice of motion results will be published in the branch website under “Branch Meeting Minutes”.

All member responses will be tabulated and a lack of response will be considered that member agrees and supports the motion.

we want you!



Come Volunteer

The National Association of Federal Retirees **Quintrent Branch**, has many opportunities for volunteers. As a volunteer, rewarding experience is waiting for you to support your fellow members from coast to coast and be a voice in your community. So come join with us and take your place in a gratifying leadership role



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES
TRENTON - QUINTRENT BRANCH
BRANCH EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| President | Tom Kupecz |
| Vice president | Hugh Mackay |
| Secretary | Nancy Everett |
| Treasurer | Alex Chambers |
| Deputy treasurer | Gary Rodrigue |
| Directors - Telephone committee | Denny Quirk |
| <i>Welfare</i> | Agnes Ward |
| <i>Senior’s issues</i> | Ian Inrig |
| <i>Social coordinator</i> | Gloria Johnson |
| <i>Public relations</i> | Attila Kostya |

CONTACT US

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VISIT US AT OUR BRANCH WEBSITE:

federalretirees.ca/quintrent



The Branch Executive extends to all of our members during these trying times the wish of safety, good health and perseverance at this Christmas Season

