

BRANCH REPORT

AB16 | Calgary & District

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Roloïn Vetsch

Vice-President:

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 Beirnes
Anne Prusakowski

Past President:
Pat Henderson

President's message

Although this report is being written in late February, there is optimism that spring will soon be here and that 2022 will be a year where we can return to our pre-pandemic lives or embark on new activities.

There have been changes on your local board since the Winter 2021 branch report. Regretfully, Branch President Guy Lallier resigned from the board earlier this month due to health reasons. Guy has been a tireless volunteer with the Calgary and District Branch over many years, having served as Vice President, Treasurer, our IT guru and in many other roles. His absence leaves a big void in the organization.

As the current Branch Vice President, I've assumed many of the President's duties and am supported by my fellow Directors and Friends of the Board. The Branch President position will be filled by election at our branch's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April 2022.

We have continued with virtual meetings, both as a board and with our quarterly member meetings. The 2022 AGM, scheduled for April 22nd, will also be conducted via ZOOM. Watch for notices in your email or follow us on Facebook for details.

Some of our activities since our Winter 2021 report include:

1. Revision of our branch bylaws, which were last updated in 2015. The amended bylaws will be presented to members, for their approval, at the upcoming AGM.
2. Several board members, including the branch treasurer, have participated in financial training webinars offered by the association's national office.

PARTNER BANNER

3. A succession planning working group is actively reviewing gaps that will be created with board turnover. The group is discussing the design and implementation of a new board structure, and the related roles and responsibilities.
4. On the advocacy side, congratulatory letters were sent to all new and re-elected federal MPs in the Calgary district. We reminded MP's of NAFR's priorities and mentioned that we would seek meetings with them in 2022 to continue pressing for government awareness and action.

Looking forward, we encourage members to help the branch by volunteering with the Branch (no contribution is too small), joining us as a Friend of the Board, or putting your name forward for election to the Board. There is much work to do, and the success of our branch depends on your support.

I hope to see you virtually at the April 22, 2022 Branch AGM!



Sincerely,

Roloin Vetsch
Acting Branch President

Happy 90th Birthday to Ron Beirnes!!

On December 24, 2021, we took time to celebrate and recognize our one of our own - board member and Veterans Coordinator Ron Beirnes - on his 90th birthday. We presented Ron with a gift basket to help him, and his wife Joan, celebrate this milestone day.

Ron continues to work tirelessly for our Branch and local veterans. He and other volunteers regularly visit veterans at Colonel Belcher and other care homes in Calgary and surrounding district. In recognition of his contributions, we also presented Ron with a Branch Certificate of Appreciation.

December 24th was a very snowy day in Calgary, but it didn't deter Ron from heading out to shovel their neighbour's pathway.

Its hard to keep a good man down! And we don't even want to try. 😊



L to R: Maggie Smith, Ron & Joan Biernes with gift basket



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Friday, April 22, 2022

The Calgary & District Annual General Meeting will be held virtually, hopefully for the last time via Zoom.

The purpose of our AGM is to give members a report on Board activities and finances for the previous year, to allow time for members to ask questions, to elect members of the board, and address Branch issues/concerns such as the need for volunteers. This year our agenda will include by-law changes, code of conduct, financial reports and voting on our 2022-23 budget expenses.

Your Board of Directors and volunteers are here to promote and advocate on behalf of Federal Retirees (including veterans) and seniors at large, as well as the communities we live in.

We are a small group of volunteers that need input from the members/volunteers to identify where to focus our efforts. We would also like to hear from the membership if there is support for advocating for an Alberta Seniors Advocate, sponsoring key organizations that align with our goals (e.g., senior care and support programs in our district, veterans' programs), seeking local NAFR business partnerships?

Plan to attend and participate in your Branch AGM meeting.

Watch for notices in your email or follow us on Facebook or visit our website for future details.

Advocating Locally

Federal Retirees has a proud 56-year history of advocacy on behalf of our close to 170,000 members and all retirees; campaigns to protect our members' earned pensions and benefits, and to support policy that improves the lives of all Canadians in retirement.

National Office focuses on policy changes (retirement income security, national seniors' strategy, veteran well-being, and pharma care) and as a local Branch, we support these policy efforts (e.g., meetings with local Members of Parliament and politicians, letter writing campaigns). The Calgary & District Branch also looks for grass roots opportunities to support our national priorities.

Over the past year, we have reported on several **local** veterans and seniors' programs to raise awareness of the issues, promote support for causes, highlight needs and generally inform and engage our members. Your Branch also provided expertise and support to the Calgary Veterans Services Society this past year, for their successful VAC Veterans and Family Well-being Fund grant application.

Your Branch will continue to look for opportunities to support and sponsor locally those organizations, programs, and services that align with our national priorities and goals, but also with the needs of our local communities.

NOTICE: our contact email address is changing from nafrcalg@telus.net to calgarybranch@federalretirees.ca. For the next few months, we will monitor both accounts and encourage members to transition to our new email as soon as possible.

Auto Insurance is Shifting Gears

<https://amainsider.com/auto-insurance-is-shifting-gears/>

By AMA Staff

Auto insurance can be very challenging to navigate at the best of times, and now the route is being recalculated. The provincial government has updated Alberta's auto insurance legislation, especially around how claims will be handled. Get a clear view of the road ahead as Albertans gear up for changes that take effect in the New Year.

THE BIG CHANGE

If there's one big takeaway, it's this: if you're in a collision, your own insurance company will pay for covered damage to your vehicle, no matter who was at fault. This will reduce the back-and-forth between insurance companies to sort out who pays for repairs.

You might be wondering, "Does this mean my rates will increase even if it wasn't at fault?" Just like today, if you weren't at fault, you won't see an increase in your premium because of the collision.

NOW FOR THE NITTY-GRITTY

As of Jan. 1, 2022, the mandatory coverages you need to drive in Alberta will change. But don't worry, if you're already insured in this province, this will happen automatically. You'll see the details in your next renewal package.

Under the current system, you must have coverage to pay for damage you cause to another driver's vehicle, and to treat any injuries to others. In insurance terms, this is called Third Party Liability coverage.

Under the new system, there is a new mandatory coverage called DCPD (direct compensation for property damage). So, if a collision wasn't your fault, instead of having the repairs paid by the other driver's Third Party Liability coverage, the insured damage will be paid under your DCPD coverage.

It's important to remember that DCPD coverage is only for damage to your vehicle caused by another driver. If you're responsible for the collision, the damage will still be paid under your Collision coverage. While you aren't legally required to have Collision coverage, keep in mind that your vehicle's repair costs will come out of your pocket if you don't have it.

OTHER CHANGES TO KEEP IN MIND

As part of these legislative changes, there will be greater flexibility for insurance companies to expand the products they offer, including usage-based insurance. Some changes have already happened around enhanced medical and rehabilitation benefits following a collision, including increased limits and new approved treatments. The provincial government has also expanded the definition of minor injuries for pain and suffering claims. You can see all the changes at alberta.ca/automobile-insurance-reform.aspx.

Federal Retirees Members Information

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

Calgary & District Branch: [Calgary & District AB16](#)

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

For questions or inquiries, please phone 403-265-0773 or email calgarybranch@federalretirees.ca