

BRANCH REPORT

AB16 | Calgary & District

CONTACT US

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President:

Roloin Vetsch

Vice-President:

Maggie Smith

Secretary:

Gabrielle Simpson

Treasurer:

Paula Fuerst

Directors:

John Bakator
Ron Beirnes
Paul Dumouchel
Jennifer Johnson
Sally Manchurek
Bonnie Pratt
Anne Prusakowski
Bob Woods

Past President:

Pat Henderson

President's message

I'm excited to share some new beginnings for our branch and the possibilities that accompany them. At our April 2022 Annual General Meeting, all the positions on the Calgary and District Board were filled! Many of us returned to the board, but we also welcomed three new board members – John Bakator, Paul Dumouchel and Bob Woods.

The officers of the 2022/23 branch board are:

President: Roloin Vetsch

Vice-President: Maggie Smith

Secretary: Gabrielle Simpson

Treasurer: Paula Fuerst

Over the summer, we expect to finalize portfolios and responsibilities for each board member, and assignments will be posted on our branch website once decisions are made. Many branches across the country are struggling to fill board positions, and risk dissolution or possible amalgamation with other branches. It's gratifying to have local members continue to volunteer to serve, not only for board positions, but as general volunteers.

On the national front, I recently attended the 2022 Annual Members Meeting (AMM) in Gatineau, with two of our board members. This was the first in-person AMM since 2019 and I valued the networking opportunities. There were discussions about the mandates of branches, the future priorities of the Association, advocacy techniques and lessons learned from the pandemic.

PARTNER BANNER

The highlight of the meeting was when one of our own branch members, Roy Goodall, was elected as the National President for our Association. Further information about Roy is contained in the Fall Issue of SAGE but suffice it to say that we are remarkably proud and look forward to working with him in his new role. Congratulations Roy!

The AMM was also eventful as two of our board members were presented with COLLABORATION AWARDS, which are awarded to an Association volunteer who made a significant contribution to a partnership or collaborative activity requiring the cooperation of different Association entities and/or external stakeholders, resulting in benefits to members, one or more Branches or Districts, or the Association as a whole. Congratulations to Gerry Thompson, the 2020 recipient, and Maggie Smith, the 2022 recipient. Gerry's award details were featured in the Fall 2020 edition of SAGE. A full story about Maggie and other award winners is included in the Fall 2022 edition of SAGE magazine.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. In the fall, the board will review and update our branch operational plan. Your board of directors and our capable volunteers remain committed to serving you and advocating for the priorities of the Association. We will be assisted by Maria Fitzpatrick, who was appointed in June 2022 as the new Advocacy Program Officer for Alberta. Maria is a long-term member of the Southern Alberta Branch serving for the last number of years as the Branch Advocacy Officer. She is a former Alberta MLA and is strongly committed to working for the benefit of our members and others with similar interests.

We will resume quarterly branch meetings in September (via Zoom) and are planning for an in-person branch meeting in November 2022. Details of these events will be on our branch website and our Facebook page.

As always, please contact us with your questions/comments/suggestions. We look forward to seeing you soon.



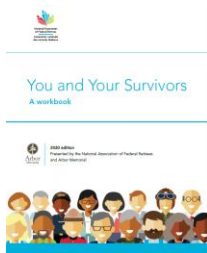
Sincerely,

Roloin Vetsch
Branch President

For Your Information:

2023 is National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR) 60th anniversary! Watch for information on the website as well as in Sage magazine.

2024 is Calgary & Districts' 60th anniversary! We will be providing information on celebration activities scheduled as the event gets closer and events are finalized.



The following article is taken from the You and Your Survivors booklet.

Steps to take when a pensioner passes away

When a federal pensioner passes away, there are a few things that really shouldn't be put off. Of course, this is a time when it can be difficult to remember what we ought to do. If you just take these steps, you'll avoid many of the most common crises and complications that survivors of federal pensioners experience.

This section is for those survivors of pensioners under:

- the *Public Service Superannuation Act (PSSA)*;
- the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (CFSA)*;
- the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act (RCMPSA)*; and
- the *Judges Act*.

Immediate steps that should be taken:

- The pension office must be notified immediately and the death certificate or the certificate issued by the funeral director showing the date of death must be submitted.
- If important personal documents (such as marriage certificates, birth certificates, etc.) were sent previously, the death certificate and confirmation of the home address is usually all that is required, unless there has been a change in marital status.
- Tell the pension office if you want to continue coverage under the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) and evaluate your level of coverage. You'll be required to fill out an application form because the premium is paid through a deduction from your pension payment. You have **60 days** following the death of the contributor to apply for coverage. Once the 60-day window has passed, there will be a three-month waiting period before you can be eligible for coverage.
- Tell the pension office if you want coverage under the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP). For coverage to begin on the effective date of their entitlement to a survivor allowance, survivors must enroll within **60 days** of that date. Otherwise, they may have to wait for up to two months for their coverage to begin.
- You must also advise the Canada Pension Plan or Quebec Pension Plan office of your spouse's death. You need to apply to receive survivor benefits and the death benefit. If you do not apply, you may lose benefits that you are entitled to receive.

Telephone numbers and addresses of these offices are available in the **Directory of contacts**, which can be found in the online edition.

The full booklet can be found at: <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/publications/you-and-your-survivors> or contact the branch for a paper copy.

ELDER ABUSE – its real - sadly.

Did you know:

- One in 5 Canadians believe they know of a senior possibly experiencing a form of abuse.
- Elder abuse may include physical, psychological, and financial abuse.
 - Often, more than one type of abuse occurs at the same time.
 - Financial abuse is the most reported type of elder abuse.
- Abuse often occurs because of the abuser's power and control over an older person.
 - Elder abuse may also result from addiction issues (drugs, alcohol, or gambling), mental health problems, a cycle of family violence or ageism.
- Shame or embarrassment may keep people from reporting they are being abused by someone they trust.
 - They may fear retaliation or punishment, or they may have concerns about having to move from their home or community.
 - They may feel a sense of family loyalty.
- Signs and symptoms that an older adult is being victimized or neglected may include:
 - fear, anxiety, depression, or passiveness in relation with a family member/friend/caregiver.
 - unexplained physical injuries.
 - dehydration, poor nutrition, or poor hygiene.
 - improper use of medication.
 - confusion about new legal documents, such as a new will or a new mortgage.
 - sudden drop in cash flow or financial holdings.

If you know someone, including yourself, that might be experiencing elder abuse, reach out to learn more about what can be done.

- To make a report on a suspected case of elder abuse call the police Non-Emergency Line at (403) 266-1234.
- Call the Kerby Centre's **Elder Abuse Resource Line at (403) 705-3250** for more information and resources available including Kerby's shelter space.

Federal Retirees Members Information

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

Calgary & District: <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/branches/alberta/calgary-district-branch>

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

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