

BRANCH REPORT

NL87 | Avalon-Burin Peninsula Branch

CONTACT US

PO Box 21124
RPO MacDonald Dr
St John's, NL
A1A 5B2

709-834-3648
wcombden70@gmail.com
federalretirees.ca/avalon

MEMBERSHIP

The National Association of Federal Retirees, or commonly **Federal Retirees**, is the largest 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.

From the President and Board of Directors

To: All members Avalon - Burin Peninsula Branch NL87

Greetings everyone and Happy New Year. As we move into 2021, after a very challenging 2020 due to COVID-19, we feel it is important to bring you up-to-date on recent developments and activities in our Branch and at the National level. These include changes in governance, meetings, advocacy, and budget.

GOVERNANCE

There have been a number of changes recently within our Board membership. Vice-President Michael Dawe has resigned from the Board for health reasons. Director Richard Sparkes has now assumed the position of Vice-President.

Bonnie Fox has been appointed to the position of Director. Trudy Power, Director RCMP has completed her two-year term on the Board and is being replaced by Leo O'Brien from the RCMP Veterans Association. Kay Sorensen, our Director of Wellness and Visitations has resigned from the Board after many years of service. Brian Briffett has been appointed to replace Kay. We now have a full Board with no vacancies.

We wish to thank Mike and Trudy for their participation and a special thank you to Kay who served on the Board for over 20 years.

The current Branch Board of Directors have agreed to continue in their present roles until such time as a virtual or in person Branch Annual Members Meeting (AMM) can be scheduled. I will continue in my role of Branch President until that time as well.



BOARD AND VOLUNTEER LISTINGS

Walt Combden	President 834-3648
Richard Sparkes	Vice President
Kathy Aylward	Treasurer
Elaine Hillier	Secretary
Kevin Stacey	Health Benefits Officer
Directors	
Joyce Owers	Telephone and CRM
John Baker	Burin Peninsula
Leo O'Brien	RCMP
Brian Briffett	Wellness and Visitation
Steve Boulos	Information Technology
John Powell	Canadian Forces
Bonnie Fox	Communications

MEETINGS

The National Board of Directors has cancelled all planned and scheduled in-person meetings at the National and Branch levels

We have been holding Branch Board meetings as scheduled via ZOOM technology since March of last year and will continue as scheduled into 2021. This has worked well for us and we have become more comfortable using this technology with continued experience. The Board will be looking into the possibility of using this or similar technology to hold a general members meeting before summer.

That being said, we are really missing our in-person meetings and the opportunity to talk to and interact with you, the members. We will be returning to our in-person meetings as soon as it is possible to do so safely within the health guidelines.

ADVOCACY

As you are aware we are now into a Provincial Election. The pandemic does not allow us to meet with Party leaders and candidates in person. However, we will be moving our issues forward on behalf of you, our members.

On February 3, our Atlantic Director, Leonard Leblanc, will be hosting a Webinar Townhall meeting with Party Leaders. Matters of interest and concern to our members and all seniors will be put forward at that time. At the National and Branch levels, our advocacy efforts have been strong over the past year despite the pandemic restrictions.

BUDGET

For the Fiscal Year 2020 ending in December, our Branch recorded an operating surplus due to decreased expenditures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have attached documents (see link in email) which will give you an overview of our Branch fiscal position for the year ending December 31, 2020. The Board has approved the transfer of \$7500.00 from our Branch Defense of Benefits fund to the National Defense of Benefits fund, along with an additional \$2500.00 Branch surplus funds for a total of \$10,000.00. Our Branch is in a very strong and stable financial position going into 2021.



In closing, the Board and I offer you and your families our best wishes for good health and well being in 2021. We will be in touch with you again in the near future.



Walter Combden
Branch President

