



# BRANCH REPORT

## AB16 | Calgary & District

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**President:**

Roloin Vetsch

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Maggie Smith

**Secretary:**

Gabrielle Simpson

**Treasurer:**

Paula Fuerst

**Directors:**

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

**Past President:**

Pat Henderson

### President’s message

There’s something optimistic about a new year. We reflect on actions of the past year, make resolutions and plans, and look forward to opportunities.

Reflections: Our November in-person members’ event demonstrated the value of quarterly meetings. It was an opportunity to catch up with colleagues and friends, to recognize the achievements of public servants, and to have an open dialogue on current and upcoming issues facing members.

Plans: The branch board completed planning sessions in October, facilitated by staff at Alberta Community Development. Our operational plan for 2023 -2024 has now been updated.

Our upcoming Branch Annual Meeting is driving activities currently. The work of our Board Development Committee is ongoing, as we prepare to recruit new directors and volunteers. Several members of the current board will not be seeking re-election in April. Financial reporting is being reviewed, and branch bylaw amendments are being drafted.

Opportunities: The upcoming provincial election in Alberta gives us the chance to highlight issues important to our members. Our local advocacy team is identifying candidates, preparing correspondence covering key issues for our members, planning outreach to members via townhalls and social media, and recruiting volunteers to assist.

PARTNER BANNER



NAFR recently partnered with the Canadian Coalition Against Ageism. Our association is campaigning to increase awareness about ageism and eliminate it. Have a look at a [recent op-ed in the Ottawa Citizen](#), by our CEO Anthony Pizzino to learn more about NAFR's perspectives on age discrimination.

Dates have been set for the Prairies and NWT district meeting (early May 2023) and the Annual Members Meeting (late June 2023). These meetings are used to address local, regional, and national issues, share information, and plan and execute solutions. The events are training opportunities for board members, and there is the added benefit of networking with volunteers and national office staff.

Watch for communications regarding the upcoming changes to the Public Service Health Care Plan. Our branch's Health Benefits Officer, working with the National Office, will be available to answer members' questions and concerns.

We continue to explore opportunities to engage with other local groups, such as seniors' or veterans' associations, to expand services to our membership.

Your board members and volunteers are here to serve Calgary and District members. If you can get involved, either to serve on the board or to help with specific tasks or events, we would love to hear from you! Meanwhile, be well and I hope to see you at our April Branch Annual Meeting.



Sincerely,

**Roloin Vetsch**  
*Branch President*

## For Your Information:

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

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

## Kerby Centre NAFRAB16 Office

Thanks to the hard work of Paula Fuerst, our office space at the Kerby Centre has undergone a major renovation. No small feat at the best of times but even more challenging when dealing with restrictions and regulations related to a heritage building.

The NAFRAB16 office is now an open concept design. Carpets have been replaced, walls have been painted, internet service has been upgraded, and new chairs, tables, storage cabinets and counter space have been installed.

We plan to host an open house in the spring, and welcome volunteers to help us in the office. Just send us an email: [calgarybranch@federalretirees.ca](mailto:calgarybranch@federalretirees.ca). It will also be an opportunity to tour the Kerby Centre, as it is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

## Branch Highlights

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 was a very noteworthy date for our branch; our first in-person gathering in two years took place. It was a resounding success. Witnessing colleagues meeting for the first time in a long time certainly brought out the camaraderie we experienced on the job. The support and good wishes everyone expressed were a blessing. We encouraged registration through a third-party provider which was very successful as we attempted to make processes contactless and shorten lines. We certainly are looking forward for the next in person meeting.

The overall feedback regarding this event was quite positive.



We were very fortunate to have Roy Goodall, our national president, as our keynote speaker at our November 24<sup>th</sup> members meeting. Roy gave a detailed presentation on upcoming changes to our Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP). It was a hard-fought negotiation and having NAFR represented on the negotiation team, to ensure our interests were protected, was very well received by everyone in attendance.

Members taking in the keynote address



*Steve Harbicht, Rick Wright*



*Don Lotzer, Sophie DeSouza,  
Mary-Lynne Stepan*



*Sam Akinsanya*

**Presentation**

A Quilt of Valour™ is a hug from a grateful nation and a tribute to Canadian Armed Forces members, past and present.

Through the Quilts of Valour organization, our Branch was honoured to be able to recognize two Calgary Veterans and NAFR members as recipients Quilts of Valour.



*Dennis Brausen and his wife Laara*



*Chuck Johnston and his wife Joan*

## Advocacy

Your advocacy team has been busy gearing up for what promises to be a busy election cycle. May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 is provincial election day and we have a lot of work to do. To that end, we are in the process of contacting incumbent MLA's and their opposition candidates to put our issues out front: retirement income security, seniors' strategy, veterans' wellbeing, and pharma care.

If you can contribute to this effort, please contact the office. Having local constituents meet with MLAs to help raise awareness, is always a bonus. Check your inbox for more updates as we get closer to election day.

As part of our advocacy efforts, an outreach effort is being undertaken to meet and greet members in the "district". We want to raise publicity for our group, and our advocacy goals for Canadians, via regional newspapers, podcasts etc.

## Branch Annual Meeting – Save the Date

Date: April 21, 2023  
Time: 10:00AM – 2:00PM  
Location: Silver Springs Golf & Country Club  
1600 Varsity Estates Drive N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T3B 2W9

### Federal Retirees Members Information

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

Calgary & District: <https://federalretirees.ca/calgary>

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

For questions or inquiries, please phone 403-265-0773 or email [calgarybranch@federalretirees.ca](mailto:calgarybranch@federalretirees.ca)