

# BRANCH REPORT

## AB16 | Calgary & District

### CONTACT US

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#### President:

Roloin Vetsch

#### Vice-President:

Maggie Smith

#### Secretary:

Vacant

#### Treasurer:

Paula Fuerst

#### Directors:

John Bakator  
Ron Beirnes  
Bonnie Pratt  
Anne Prusakowski  
Gabrielle Simpson  
Bob Woods

#### Past President:

Pat Henderson

### President's message

I'm writing this on the first day of spring and many of the events and activities I'm highlighting will have happened by the time this edition of SAGE reaches you.

In my message in the spring 2023 edition, I mentioned upcoming opportunities. Your board has been busy with many activities and initiatives:

1. Our branch annual meeting was held on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Silver Springs Golf and Country Club. We said goodbye and extended thanks to two outgoing directors, Sally Manchurek and Jennifer Johnson. Sally, a long-time volunteer, has been on the board since 2012, serving as our volunteer coordinator. Jennifer has been the branch membership director since 2019. Gabrielle Simpson, another long-time volunteer who has been our branch secretary since 2012 is vacating that position but is remaining with the board as a director at large. Your branch board, including newly elected directors, will be introduced in the fall edition of SAGE. Details on Board roles and portfolios will also be available on our branch website by June. Minutes of the annual meeting will also be posted.
2. A Meet and Greet event with board members was held in Airdrie in mid-April. We recognize that many of our members reside outside of the Calgary metropolitan area, and we are hoping to host other events in outlying communities within our branch's catchment area.
3. In late April, our branch was an exhibitor at Seniors Expo 2023. Unison at Kerby Centre hosts this annual event to showcase products, services and information for older adults and families.

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4. The advocacy team, under the leadership of director Bonnie Pratt, has spent many hours doing research and contacting candidates for the Alberta provincial election in May 2023. Our branch partnered with Unison at Kerby Centre and the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) to organize a candidates' forum in mid-May. The event was moderated by our National President and Calgary branch member, Roy Goodall.
5. The Prairies and NWT district meeting was held in Winnipeg from May 2-4. At time of writing, the agenda has not been finalized. I'll report on the meeting in my fall report.
6. Our Board Development Committee, led by Gerry Thompson and Valerie Katarey, have worked with a local consulting firm to implement the first stages of our annual board development plan. Gerry is a friend of the board, and Valerie is an active volunteer, demonstrating that you don't have to be a board member to contribute to branch projects. Activities over the spring and summer include writing role descriptions, assisting with board nominations and elections, mapping out annual board processes, designing a knowledge transfer process, preparing and conducting a board orientation and preparing a board retreat.
7. Planning is underway for a local celebration of NAFR's 60 anniversary, tentatively in mid-June. Information will be sent to members directly, and details will also be posted on Facebook and website.

Recruitment and retention efforts are ongoing. We encourage current members to invite friends and colleagues to join our association. Our strength is in our numbers!

We always need volunteers, to sit on committees, work in the office, or assist with events. Simply drop us a line or contact one of the board members.

As a reminder, our board does not meet during July and August, but we will monitor our emails and voice messages.

Have a wonderful summer!



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.

## Calgary Veterans Services Society (CVSS)

The CVSS is opening a new veterans food bank in Edmonton mid-April 2023. Stay tuned for more information at: [theveteransfoodsbankofcalgary.ca](http://theveteransfoodsbankofcalgary.ca)

A veterans affordable housing project is underway in Red Deer, AB. One suite is already available for occupation and CVSS is actively looking for a veteran renter. More information to come.

The Hoggin Alberta Veterans Ranch 3D Archery Challenge will be held in Caroline, AB, July 21-23, 2023. Registration opens April 1, 2023, via email to: [hoggin3d@gmail.com](mailto:hoggin3d@gmail.com). This is a fun weekend event with proceeds supporting the services of the Hoggin Ranch.

## Advocacy

Your Advocacy team has been working hard to raise awareness of and share information on our Federal Retirees advocacy priorities.

In April we organized an informal coffee meeting with Airdrie and district members to engage members locally, share advocacy information and answer questions members may have had. We hope to do more of these local events soon.

The Advocacy team helped organize an Alberta provincial election candidates' forum at the Kerby Centre in mid-May. Attendees at this Town Hall session heard the position of candidates from various political parties on issues of interest to our NAFR members and seniors in general.

We have sent out several 'add your name' tools to our members. These tools provide a quick and easy way for our members to pledge their support to the Association's priorities and to stay in the loop on what's happening on key issues.

Of special importance is our letter to local MLAs to bring back an Alberta's seniors advocate: an independent position reporting to the Alberta legislature. We encourage all our members to send this letter to their local MLA.

- Click: <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/advocacy/advocacy-in-action/bring-back-albertas-independent-seniors-advocate>
- Enter your name, email address, street address and... voila! Your letter will be automatically distributed to the relevant politicians. You can even test it before you hit 'Send a message'.

Stay tuned as our Advocacy efforts continue to roll out.

Here's a sneak preview: we are looking to recruit and work with partners for a prospective town hall on Ageism, a complex and pervasive phenomenon often overlooked so that age related discrimination is tolerated society wide.



National Association of Federal Retirees is 60 years young this year and it's time to celebrate. Not just one day but all year long. We would love to hear from our members about their work experiences over the years, photos of events that took place at their workplaces or the associations/branches, anecdotes, even a list of the various departments' members worked for over the years (remember, the names have changed and the departments have morphed). We would love to post your stories/pictures on our website or Facebook to help all of us remember the fun and hard work.

Remember, 2024 is the 60th anniversary of the Calgary & District Branch and we will be celebrating that milestone too, so if you have ideas or submissions to help us all celebrate, let us know by emailing us at: [calgarybranch@federalretirees.ca](mailto:calgarybranch@federalretirees.ca)

## Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) Renewal

Members are reminded that the PSHCP changes take effect on July 1, 2023. Canada Life Assurance Company will take on administration of the plan on that date.

Our association's [national website](#) has information about the renewal process for the plan, and FAQ's about details such as plan benefits, coverage enhancements and drug coverage changes. The FAQ page also includes a link to the Government of Canada's update on changes to the PSHCP.

### 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)