

BRANCH REPORT

NL87 | Avalon-Burin Peninsula Branch



National Association of Federal Retirees | Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

CONTACT US

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

709-745-4517

richard.sparkes@nf.sympatico.ca
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.

President's Update

Christmas Greetings to All:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend to members and their families, best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and all the best for the New Year.



The Board has been active, on your behalf, during our association's 60th anniversary year. On a personal note, I would like to thank all Board members for their support throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you.

We held seven board meetings, seven members' meetings and two social events. Two of these members' meetings were held outside St. John's. We met in Marystown in June and in South River in October.

A new Board was elected at our annual members' meeting last March. However, we are seeking the services of a Secretary. If you are interested contact any member of the Board. This is an important position and is vital to the smooth operation of the branch.

The Branch was represented at the District meeting in Dartmouth and the National AMM in Gatineau.



BOARD AND VOLUNTEER LISTINGS

Richard Sparkes	President 745-4517
Leo O'Brien	Vice President
Frank Mackey	Treasurer
Vacant	Secretary
Directors	
Joanne Morrissey	Conception Bay North
John Baker	Burin Peninsula
George Noseworthy	RCMP
Brian Briffett	Recruitment & Retention
Steve Boulos	Information Technology
Val Linehan	Canadian Forces & CRM
Bonnie Fox	Communications
Marilyn Best	Advocacy



Canada Life

One issue that received a lot of attention this year was the implementation of the new PSHCP contract with Canada Life which came into effect on July 1.

There is no doubt that the transition from Sun Life to Canada Life was not a smooth one for all our members. Personally, I received quite a number of calls from members expressing frustration with their attempts to contact Canada Life on specific questions with wait times on the phones extending to hours.

National Office was also flooded with calls and actually had to hire staff to handle the complaints.

However, with the addition of staff at Canada Life, the situation is improving and I hope it continues to do so.

South River Members' Meeting

The Branch had its annual Conception Bay North meeting in June and it was well attended.

Guest speaker for the meeting was lawyer Doug Moores, who gave a presentation on Wills and Estates. The presentation was well received and a lot of valuable information was provided to help us better prepare for that often-neglected topic.



Members reviewing the budget documents





Cake cutting in recognition of the 60th Anniversary of NAFR: L-R: Joanne Morrissey, Elaine Hillier, Leo O'Brien, Bonnie Fox, Frank Mackey, Richard Sparkes, Brian Briffett, George Noseworthy, Marilyn Best and Steve Boulos.

Missing from photo: Val Linehan and John Baker

Membership

Our membership has increased by 173 this year and totals 2231 as of the end of November. We need your continued support and encourage you to reach out to eligible members and promote our association and its benefits.

We are a major advocacy group for pensioners in particular and seniors in general. Our Association's past achievement in advocating for pension indexing has resulted in a 4.8% increase in our pension benefit for the coming year.

However, we cannot become complacent in our efforts to ensure we have a voice. NAFR works tirelessly on a provincial and federal level to ensure retirees are heard across the country and to advocate for better retirement income security, a national senior's strategy, improved outcomes for veterans and a universal public pharmacare program.

You can do your part by maintaining your membership, encouraging eligible retirees and those approaching retirement to join and keep NAFR a strong voice for all of us.

In closing, I wish you the very best throughout the holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Stay safe.

Richard Sparkes
President Avalon–Burin Branch 87



Pre-Retirement Session

On October 17, the branch was invited to present at a pre-retirement session held at the Shrine Club. In attendance were DFO and Coast Guard employees as most departments have stopped offering these sessions for retiring staff. Joanne Morrissey presented with Steve Boulos assisting. As in past sessions, most attendees were not aware of our organization and welcomed the information. Hopefully these sessions will spread the word and help us gain a few new members.

September BBQ

Our Annual BBQ and Dance was held at the same venue as last year - Freemasons Hall 115 Mount Carson Avenue in Mount Pearl. It was a great event. The location, food and entertainment were excellent and we had a great turnout. Music was provided by Mr. Music, Chris Pretty.

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Attendees enjoying a delicious meal at the annual bbq.



Christmas Dinner and Dance

Our annual dinner and dance was held at the Legion on December 1st. A lovely turkey dinner was served and excellent music supplied by Mr. Music, Chris Pretty. A fabulous time was enjoyed by all.



Dinner and Dance in full swing

