

BRANCH REPORT

AB16 | Calgary & District

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Bonnie Pratt
Anne Prusakowski
Gabrielle Simpson
Bob Woods

Past President:

Pat Henderson

President's message

I'm writing this during a snowy March weekend in Calgary, but you won't be reading this until early June. So, with my crystal ball in hand, here are several activities and changes in the past few months:

- At the Branch Annual Meeting in April, elections were held for the branch president and vacant director positions on the local board. You can view the current members of the board and their roles on our branch website. Orientation sessions are scheduled to be completed by June.
- The Saskatoon branch hosted a May meeting for the Prairies Northwest Territories District. Delegates from the Calgary branch met with colleagues to discuss topics in advance of the Association's annual meeting scheduled for mid-June.
- The Association's strategic plan for 2021-2024 expires this year and a draft strategic plan 2024-2027 consultation document was shared with branches. The document charts the course for our Association's future strategic direction. Consultations occurred at various levels of the organization, and the final plan is expected to be presented at the 2024 annual meeting of members in June.
- Several local members have expressed interest in serving as volunteers with the branch. We are contacting these members and will be providing orientation and training sessions/materials in the upcoming months.

It is with mixed feelings that I write this message to the branch membership. This is my last president's message as I chose to not seek re-election this year. I've been a board member since 2019 and served as branch president since early 2022. It's been a challenging

PARTNER BANNER

yet rewarding experience and I thank our members for sharing their concerns with and support for our board. Whether it be a question you raised, your willingness to assist, or your attendance at branch events, it all mattered.

I am especially grateful to my board colleagues and the volunteers, past and present. There have been many accomplishments such as navigating through service delivery under pandemic restrictions, dealing with an office renovation, implementing digital systems for our records, formalizing our succession planning process, introducing a social media presence for our branch, assisting members with the transition concerns from Sun Life to Canada Life, increasing our advocacy activities, and the refinement of a branch operational plan.

Along with our many accomplishments, I am most thankful for the positive experiences and the relationships I've formed during my tenure. I am confident that your new board will continue making a positive impact, and I encourage you to get involved with the branch.

I'll continue to be engaged with the branch board, as I am serving in an advisory capacity as the past president. I hope to cross paths with many of you in the upcoming months.

Thank you for being a part of my journey! Your new branch president will be featured in the Fall 2024 Branch Report.



Respectfully,

Roloin Vetsch
Branch President

Staying Connected

We recently reviewed details about our branch membership and identified that close to 20% of our 4000 members do not have an email address on file with the Association. The Sage Magazine is only published quarterly, and our branch is only given two free printed inserts. We have alternated between providing a printed insert and an electronic emailed insert (which is cost-free).

For next year only, we are planning to provide 4 printed copies of our Branch Report. We want to ensure members receive important information included in these reports. As there is a cost to printing these inserts, we encourage you to provide us with an email address so that you can receive timely information. You may be missing important news about events, branch or national news, or updates on health and dental plan changes.

There are options available on the type of email you are willing to receive from us, and you can specify your preferences.

Here's how you can let us know about any changes:

Through your branch:

- Refer to the contact information on page 1 of this branch report.

Through our national office:

- Phone: 1-855-304-4700 (toll-free)
- Email: service@federalretirees.ca
- Mail: Federal Retirees - 865 Shefford Road, Ottawa ON K1J 1H9

Enter your own information:

If you have established a login account with us, you can login to your account on our national website at www.federalretirees.ca and correct your contact information there.

- Click on "Login" near the top right corner then enter your membership number and password.
- You can enter or change your email address, phone numbers, and other information on the "My Profile" page.
- You can go to "My Addresses" and enter your permanent or a temporary mailing address.
- You can go to "My Communications Preferences" to establish what information you are interested in from your Association, and how you would like to receive that information.

National Public Service Week (NPSW) 2024

NPSW is observed annually throughout the third week of June. In 2024, NPSW will take place from June 9 to 15. Your branch board is planning to recognize the contributions of public servants, past and present. We encourage you to share stories about local public servants to celebrate their contributions. More information will be shared via our social media (Facebook and Instagram), on our branch website, and via email communications.

Happy 60th Birthday!

The Calgary and District Branch celebrates its 60th birthday this year. A branch event is planned for late September 2024 and more details will be announced in the upcoming months.

Advocacy Update

Meet & Greet Events:

These are held in district towns outside Calgary to provide members not in the city opportunities to meet the Branch Board. Two member events, attended by 20+ members, have been held since last spring and more are planned for the upcoming year. We continue to poll members outside Calgary about interest in such an event, as the events are also geared to membership recruitment.

Coffee Meetings-Kerby Centre and Fort Calgary:

We have held two coffee break events in the city of Calgary. They are intended to be small, informal, and focused on giving members a chance to share their ideas and opinions. We've been pleased with the interest and engagement of our local membership and more of these events are being planned.

Reach 338 Objectives

With a federal election on the horizon on or before October 2025, the Branch continues to request meetings with elected officials. Since last November, we have sent letters to five MPs requesting a meeting, with 2 agreeing to in-person meetings. In all cases we needed to identify constituents willing to add their name to a meeting request and to attend a meeting with us. We will continue to reach out to our members for that purpose.

Advocacy Training

Training is a key activity at regional, district and national meetings. At the May district meeting, attendees discussed National Office advocacy plans, best practices and current activities. The training was led by our advocacy program officers from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

A Spotlight on Local Veteran Activities

Did you know that our local branch supports one of the association's priorities, veteran well-being, in several ways?

- Collecting food bank donations for veterans at our in-person branch meetings
- Participating at the Peacekeepers' Day memorial service held annually at Garrison Green
- Participating at Remembrance Day services in Calgary
- Inviting local service organizations to inform our board/members about local service groups. In March 2024, the Calgary Veterans Services Society provided the branch board an overview of the Clearwater Retreat facility in Caroline, AB. The site offers accommodations and a 142-acre property, providing our Unsung Heroes an escape from life's daily pressures, all at no cost.
- Connecting with local legion branches to provide information about Federal Retirees and to encourage membership in the Association.

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