

# BRANCH REPORT

## AB16 | Calgary & District

### CONTACT US

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#### President:

John Bakator

#### Vice-President:

Paula Fuerst

#### Secretary:

Lynne Herzog

#### Treasurer:

Stuart Kidd

#### Directors:

Sandra Laye  
Bonnie Pratt  
Anne Prusakowski  
Alton Whelan  
Bob Woods

#### Past President:

Roloin Vetsch

### President's message

Welcome members of the Calgary and District.

This is my first report to all of our members, and I am very excited about the opportunities and growth that lie ahead under our new leadership.

I was honoured to be chosen as the new Calgary and District branch president in April. I am deeply grateful for the invaluable mentoring from Roloin Vetch, our esteemed Past President, who has left a strong foundation for us to build on. Her guidance has been instrumental in shaping our growing and energized board of directors, and we all look forward to her continued advice.

Each Branch Annual Meeting is a time of renewal. Our board of directors has added new members with much experience and fresh perspectives. They include Liz Herzog (Secretary), Stuart Kidd (Treasurer), and Alton Whelan (Director at large). Our former treasurer, Paula Fuerst, is now our vice president and a very professional leader.

The board accepted Carr McLeod's resignation from the board and wished him all the best in his future endeavours. We deeply appreciate his contributions and his presence will be missed.

One of the burning issues we are facing is continuing to provide effective and efficient core branch services. Based on a recent survey of our members (that survey had a 21% response rate!), the top issue identified as a significant consideration (88%) told us that advocacy overall about pension issues, veteran's issues, a national senior's strategy and pharmacare.

PARTNER BANNER

These issues are occurring in real-time. For instance, most retired Albertans feel the CPP is essential to their income security. Unfortunately, local politicians have routinely turned away organizations such as ours for face-to-face meetings to put forth our concerns.

When you add other pressing issues, it becomes evident that we need more members doing the right thing by offering their time, trouble, and effort to move the needle on these fundamental advocacy issues. A recent survey of our members shows that roughly 37% of our members are engaged in volunteer activities; sadly, only 4% volunteer for our Branch.

The most significant difference seems to be the need to ensure our **ASK** is given and that the term “volunteer” has many shades and emphases. For example, manning a table at a public event and handing out material could be something we need, and maybe you can provide an afternoon. Another example is attending a coffee meeting and bringing potential new members, which could qualify as volunteering efforts.

So, here is our **ASK**. Don't hesitate to contact the office, and our member engagement liaison will return your call or email to discuss how we can help you coordinate your time, trouble, and effort.

Here's to a great beginning. Have a great summer and fall.



Respectfully,

**John Bakator**  
*Branch President*

## Advocacy

Bonnie Pratt is our advocate liaison, working tirelessly to deliver our message to decision-makers and members alike. One way to show support is to attend one of these coffee meetings. Alternatively, share the information with others either by word of mouth or on social media.

Soon, our branch is working with the National Office to create a coalition-type effort with other like-minded organizations. Supporting such an initiative requires our members' efforts to help plan, organize, and carry it out.

## Information Sharing

Our efforts over the past year have shown some positive results, including an increase in engagement and the attraction of more members to become followers of our Facebook Page. New members to our page have increased by 50%. Again, based on the recent members survey, roughly 35 % of our members check social media platforms – Facebook. If you are not a follower of our page, we urge you to become one, as we post content you can get it in your feed. If you are not a member due to uncertainty about privacy and security, we will offer a tutorial to ensure your account is as secure as possible.

## Upcoming Events

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, we are hosting our 60th Anniversary as a branch. The event will be held at The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland (Fort Calgary). Registration will be through Eventbrite, and we will communicate details via email, Facebook and in person events such as coffee talks. We hope to see you there.

## Staying Connected

We recently reviewed details about our branch membership and identified that over 10% 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](mailto: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](http://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.

### Reminder to mark your calendars!

**Event:** Calgary & District Branch 60th Anniversary

**Date:** September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Time:** 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

**Location:** The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland (Fort Calgary)

Details to follow.

### 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)