



National Association of Federal Retirees Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

Central Manitoba Branch #32, Portage la Prairie, MB

Minutes of the Fall Meeting held on Wednesday October 23, 2024.

Date and time of Meeting: Wednesday October 23, 2024, 11:30 am for sign-in, 12:00 pm for lunch and meeting starts at 1:00 pm.

Location of Meeting: The Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 65 located at 275 Duke Avenue, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0S5 Phone # (204)857-5558.

Central Manitoba Branch #32 Executive Present at the Meeting: Glen Jones, President, Léo Girouard, Vice President/Secretary, Bill Crewson, Treasurer, Ruth Johnson Member-at-Large, Colin Wilcox Member-at-Large.

A total of 19 other branch members and 4 guests attended the meeting for a grand total of 28 counting executive board members.

President Glen Jones called the **meeting to order at 12:31 pm.**

President Glen Jones - **Moment of silence** for members who have passed away since our last AGM in 2023 (The names we are aware of are: Bill Pearcey).

President Glen Jones introduced our guest speakers - Dr. Michael Gray (General Practitioner in Portage la Prairie for 27 years). Spoke on health during senior years and making sure that we maintain mobility through exercise and regular doctor visits. He mentioned webmd is an excellent internet resource. As we age, health will decline and you need to be as ready as you can. Regular sleep is important to maintain good health. Social activity is important to interact with people. Reading is important to maintain cognitive ability. Before you go to the doctor's office clean up and put on fresh clothing. Tell the doctor of any new symptoms you have noticed lately. Bring your medication bottles with you to the doctor's visit so the doctor knows what you are taking. If you believe you are having a stroke or heart attack, call 911 for an ambulance. Do not drive to the hospital as you may not make it.

Registered Nurse Twyla Jaworski, foot care nurse, inMotion Physiotherapy Clinics and more (inmotionnetwork.ca), works at the Portage clinic and can be reached at 204-239-4730. She



National Association of Federal Retirees Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

Central Manitoba Branch #32, Portage la Prairie, MB

spoke on what a foot nurse will help you with and this is to keep you mobile and keep you from falling as your feet support your body.

Glenn Armstrong, NAFR Manitoba Provincial Advocacy representative provided an advocacy report which is attached to these minutes.

President Glen Jones – Presented Ruth Johnson with a Certificate of Appreciation for the many years (15 years) she has been involved with the executive of our branch. She will keep assisting the branch with phoning members for meetings.

Colin Wilcox, Member at Large – Spoke on the program our branch has developed to provide our members and seniors in our branch area with a **scams and fraud awareness pamphlet** due to the fact many seniors are being targeted by fraudsters. Several local businesses have provided funding for this program. At least 500 have been distributed by our executive to various senior complexes in our branch area. We will continue the program through funding provided by several local businesses. Another 600 pamphlets are being prepared.

President Glen Jones - **Minutes of the March 26, 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) are attached for your information. They are not being adopted at this time.**

President Glen Jones – **Any changes to your contact information should be sent by you to the NAFR National Office in Ottawa, ON because they handle your contact information.** This can be done online or by mail with a covering letter with your signature indicating what changes you want made to your contact information. Our treasurer Bill Crewson can also help any member in that regard by making changes on the online system.

Financial Report – Bill Crewson – Treasurer, presented a clear financial accounting of the branch finances. Copies of the financial documents were provided to every member at this meeting. We do receive grants of money from national office to assist us in doing more for our branch.



National Association of Federal Retirees Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

Central Manitoba Branch #32, Portage la Prairie, MB

President Glen Jones – **Any questions or concerns from the floor?** No one had any comments.

Closing Comments: President Glen Jones asked that we encourage our members to recruit new members and invite them to come to our meetings. He also asked what speakers or subjects' people would be interested in hearing about at our meetings. Several suggestions were: Accounting expert, lawyer for wills and power of attorney, local senior services, Portage handy van representative, Hydro representative concerning upgrades to your home, banking or financial representative to speak about financial matters, chip mortgages, representative of a mobility aid company to discuss how to make your home more accessible to someone who becomes less mobile.

President Glen Jones mentioned that our next meeting will take place sometime in April 2025, but no specific date has been chosen yet. In the AGM in the spring, we can only have one guest speaker because much administration is discussed and dealt with. During our fall meeting we will have two speakers.

President Glen Jones moved that this **meeting be adjourned**. Seconded by Keith Johnson. All in favour. Carried.

Meeting concluded at 3:11 pm on Wednesday October 23, 2024.

Meeting minutes prepared and typed by Léo Girouard, Vice President/Secretary of NAFR Manitoba Central Branch #32 on Wednesday October 23, 2024.

(Léo Girouard)

Vice President/Secretary of NAFR Manitoba Central Branch #32

(Glen Jones)

President of NAFR Manitoba Central Branch #32

Financial Statement

Page 1 of 2

Balances



Year 2024

Branch Central Manitoba Branch

	2023	2024
	Actual	Actual
Assets		
Assets - Chequing	\$5,448.92	\$6,561.59
Assets - Computer & Equipment	\$565.41	\$565.41
Assets - Other	\$517.08	\$5.00
Assets - Petty Cash	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$6,531.41	\$7,132.00
Liabilities		
Liabilities - Accounts Payable	\$591.19	\$0.00
Liabilities - Future Year Fees	\$173.24	\$173.24
	\$764.43	\$173.24
Net Assets	\$5,766.98	\$6,958.76
Reserved		
Reserved Equity - IT & Equipment	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Reserved Equity - Other	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reserved Equity - Training/Succession Planning	\$2,465.84	\$2,465.84
	\$3,965.84	\$3,965.84
Unreserved		
Unreserved Equity	\$2,454.71	\$1,801.14
Earnings (Loss)	-\$653.57	\$1,191.78
	\$1,801.14	\$2,992.92
Total Equity	\$5,766.98	\$6,958.76

Current year Equity = prior year Net Assets +/- current year Earnings (Loss)

Financial Statement

Page 2 of 2

Earnings/Loss



Year 2024

Branch Central Manitoba Branch

	2023	2024
	Actual	Actual
Revenue		
Fees - Adjustments	-\$24.95	\$7.20
Fees - National (incl. per capita & CC fees)	\$2,019.49	\$1,013.24
Other Revenue	\$15.13	
	\$2,009.67	\$1,020.44
Expenses		
Branch Advocacy Event	\$408.81	
Branch AGM (excludes food & bev)		\$150.00
Branch Financial Management	\$75.00	\$100.00
Branch Meeting Expenses (excludes food & bev)	\$451.20	\$122.04
Branch Recruitment Event (includes food & bev)	\$524.00	\$456.00
Branch Recruitment Event Sales	-\$110.00	\$-200.00
Branch Volunteer Support & Engagement	\$68.65	\$2,246.56
Community Activities / Events	\$245.56	\$25.20
Equipment & Depreciation Expense	\$141.00	\$1,927.12
Member Only Event (includes food & bev)	\$220.00	\$50.00
Member-only Event Sales	-\$110.00	
Reg/Dist/National Meeting Expenses		\$96.45
Reimbursed Expenses	-\$408.81	\$-6,400.00
Stationery / Office Supplies	\$623.67	\$1,255.29
Operating Expenses	\$2,129.08	\$-171.34
Reserve Spending (non-operating)	\$534.16	
Non-Operating Expenses	\$534.16	
Total Expenses	\$2,663.24	\$-171.34
Earnings (Loss)	-\$653.57	\$1,191.78

2024 Fall Branch General Meetings

October 08 2024 – Brandon

October 16 2024 – Winnipeg & District (Speakers Series)

October 22 2024 – Pinawa

October 23 2024 – Portage La Prairie

The 4 priorities of Advocacy are:

1. Retirement income security
2. National seniors strategy
3. Veteran well-being
4. Pharmacare

A few updates:

1. Bill C-319 to increase the OAS payments by 10% for the 65 to 74 year old crowd, has been referred without amendment by Committee – back to the house. It is presently in Third Reading. If passed in the House of Commons, it will be referred to the Senate for their consideration. The 75+ crowd received a 10% increase as of 2022.
2. Bill C-64, Pharmacare Act has been passed by the House of Commons and is currently waiting for Third Reading in the Senate.
3. The Government of Canada has announced the new Canada Dental Care Plan. We do not yet know enough about the linkages to our Pensioners Dental Services Plan.
Be careful that you do not opt out of the PDSP, as you cannot rejoin the plan later.

Our immediate advocacy priorities;

1. Continue to build linkages to the new Government in Manitoba.
One of the priorities announced by the new Government of Manitoba, was the creation of an Independent Seniors Advocate. The Premier has announced as part of their National Seniors Day video, that the required legislation will be passed in November.
2. There will be a Federal election, sometime on or before October 25, 2024. We need to build a small project team of Advocacy champions in Manitoba. There will be 2 tasks for that project team:
 - a. Preparations to host Townhall meetings with Party candidates before the election
 - b. by meeting with incumbent MPs between now and Christmas.

Pensioners Dental Service Plan

The transition of the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP) to Canada Life is set to take place Nov. 1, 2024. The Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (Treasury Board) has confirmed the new PDSP contract requires a positive enrolment process. Positive enrolment is how plan members provide their personal information, including address, banking and dependent information and give consent for Canada Life to use personal information to process benefits and manage their dental plan.

Learning from the Public Service Health Care Plan transition experience, for this transition, Canada Life will complete the initial positive enrolment for as many PDSP members as possible. Treasury Board advises that this will help ensure that there is no interruption in the processing of dental claims for members and their eligible dependants as of Nov. 1.

Many of our members will have received an email from Canada Life on September 04 2024. It will advise if their positive enrollment was completed by Canada Life from the existing PDSP files.

Each member will then need to sign into the Canada Life portal to verify/complete their profile information. It is the same Canada Life portal as for the PSHCP, with the same userid and password. After signing in, the member will be able to chose PSHCP or PDSP.

The member should verify their Personal Information (mine needed some edits), their plan details (including printing their PDSP card), Communications preferences, banking information (I had to fully complete this section) AND verify that your dependent information is correct. ALSO, any Power of Attorney (POA) documents filed with SunLife, were NOT transferred to CanadaLife and must be resubmitted.

If a PDSP member hasn't received this information by mid-September, it means that Canada Life couldn't complete positive enrolment for that member. In that case, the member must complete positive enrolment manually online by visiting the [Canada Life PDSP member services website](#) and clicking on the link to complete positive enrolment.

OR call the Canada Life PSHCP/PDSP Member Contact Centre at 1-855-415-4414.

On October 07, Sunlife of Canada sent out an email to existing PDSP clients, reminding them that SunLife will cease to accept new claims as of October 25 2024. Clients may access their SunLife PDSP files for another 18 months.

PSHCP Update

MSH International (our international travel portion of PSHCP coverage) has completed the upgrades and improvements to their online portal. There remains differing opinion on creating a userid on the MSH International Portal. Do you do it before, or only if you need to make a claim? Personally, I created a userid now, before travelling.

PSHCP issues seem to have calmed down. The bulk of the issues are related to coverage disputes/appeals. Also, we have about 10% of members that do not have the computer or internet capacity to use the online portal.

As of June, an updated Public Service Health Care Plan booklet is available for download on the Canada Life website. You may also get a copy mailed to you, by calling Canada Life at 1-855-415-4414.

My Canada Life at Work app.

For those of you that are handy with your smartphones, Canada Life has an app that you can download from the Google Playstore or the Apple App Store.

The app provides you with access to PSHCP and now also PDSP.

Province of Manitoba Health Services for Seniors

Seniors' Eyeglass Program

The Province provides a small subsidy towards the purchase of new eyeglasses. Your Optometrist, or Dispensing Optician should be making the application on your behalf. If you make a claim for new eyeglasses through PSHCP, they will deduct the \$\$ subsidy from your claim.

Central Manitoba Branch #32, Portage la Prairie, MB

(DRAFT) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Tuesday March 26, 2024.

Date and time of Meeting: Tuesday March 26, 2024, 12:00 pm for lunch and meeting starts at 1:00 pm.

Location of Meeting: The Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 65 located at 275 Duke Avenue, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 0S5 Phone # (204)857-5558.

Central Manitoba Branch #32 Executive Present at the Meeting: Glen Jones, President, Léo Girouard, Vice President/Secretary, Bill Crewson, Treasurer, Ruth Johnson Member-at-Large, Colin Wilcox Member-at-Large.

A total of 16 other branch members attended the meeting for a total of 21 counting executive board members.

President Glen Jones called the **meeting to order at 12:54 pm.**

President Glen Jones – **Housekeeping announcements.** Our branch has been able to add several new local preferred partners with the National Association of Federal Retirees. Your membership card has to be presented at each location in Portage la Prairie, MB to receive your discount. These include Bill's Sticky Fingers Restaurant with a 15% discount on meals, Hill's Drug Store on store products (10% discount), not including prescriptions or any tobacco products, Panko's Food Store 10% discount except tobacco products, Craig Dunn Chevrolet and Dodge dealerships, \$500.00 off the purchase price of a new vehicle.

President Glen Jones encouraged all members to seek out prospective new members to join our association. Membership recruitment is vital for the branch survival.

Association membership cards do not expire. If you require a new one, please contact national office and they will issue a new one.

President Glen Jones - **Moment of silence** for members who have passed away since our last AGM in 2023 (The names we are aware of are: Al Lightfoot, Marianne Abbors).



National Association of Federal Retirees
Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

Central Manitoba Branch #32, Portage la Prairie, MB

President Glen Jones introduced our guest speaker - RCMP Constable Larry Neufeld (14 years service) Media Liaison Officer for Central Plains Area RCMP (Portage la Prairie Detachment). Cst. Neufeld spoke on various scams and frauds for approximately 45 minutes, including a question-and-answer period. He spoke on grandparents' scam, various computer frauds, phone scams and identity fraud. He mentioned the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre in North Bay, ON is run by the RCMP and has an excellent website outlining all the latest fraud and scam schemes and how to protect yourself. You can also report scams and frauds online to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, but they will refer your complaint to your local police if it deserves investigation. Several members had questions which were answered by Cst. Neufeld.

President Glen Jones - **Minutes of the April 5, 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be adopted.** Each member was provided a copy of those minutes. Moved by Ron Porter, seconded by Barb Bradley, carried.

President Glen Jones – **Update is required to our branch website on the main NAFR website.** He asked if anyone wanted to take this responsibility, but no one responded. The website will be updated and we will notify all members using the e-blast system.

President Glen Jones – Any changes to your contact information should be sent by you to the NAFR National Office in Ottawa, ON because they handle your contact information. This can be done online or by mail with a covering letter with your signature indicating what changes you want made to your contact information. Our treasurer Bill Crewson can also help any member in that regard by making changes on the online system.

Advocacy Report – Léo Girouard – Vice-President/Secretary presented a typed report to each member on our advocacy efforts in 2023 regarding the Provincial election for an MLA in the Portage area. We held a town hall meeting for all candidates on September 14, 2023 with only two MLA candidates and 14 other people attending even though this event was covered by The Graphic Leader in a full-page story advising that this event was open to any resident of Portage and area. Coverage by the CFRY radio station was also anticipated. We are now making plans looking at the 2025 Federal elections. We have been in contact with our local MP Branden



Central Manitoba Branch #32, Portage la Prairie, MB

Leslie. We may plan for another town hall, but we have not decided what will work best in our area.

Financial Report – Bill Crewson – Treasurer, presented a clear financial accounting of the branch finances. Copies of all the financial documents mentioned below were provided to every member at this meeting. The reason we have two Year 2024 budget sheets is because our grant from national office has not yet been approved so we have one with the grant if approved and one without the grant.

The Reserves Motion Templated, attached, totalling \$3,965.84 was presented.

The Reviewed Financial Statement for the year 2023 Showing an Earnings (loss) of (\$653.60) was presented. Moved by Bill Crewson, seconded by Terry Bradley, approved.

Year 2024 Budget showing earnings/loss of (\$00.00) was presented, pending that the grant from MBRPP is approved. Moved by Bill Crewson, seconded by Barb Bradley, approved.

Year 2024 Budget showing earnings/loss of (\$351.68) was presented, pending that the grant from MBRPP is NOT approved. Moved by Bill Crewson, seconded by Ron Porter, approved.

Reviewer for the year 2024 will be Noel Smith. Moved by Bill Crewson, seconded by Grace Tufford, approved.

Elections of Central Manitoba Branch board members: Ruth Johnson – Member-at-Large, Bill Crewson – Treasurer, Léo Girouard – Vice-President and Secretary. All these elections were accepted by the membership.

President Glen Jones – Any questions or concerns from the floor? No one had any comments.

Closing Comments: President Glen Jones asked what we can do to encourage our members to come to the meetings? A mention was made that perhaps some members require rides to the meetings. Ruth Johnson asked if perhaps we should have some entertainment (cost involved). Glen Jones also handed out membership referral cards from National Office to each person so



National Association of Federal Retirees
Association nationale des retraités fédéraux

Central Manitoba Branch #32, Portage la Prairie, MB

that everyone is aware these cards can be used to recruit prospective members. No one had any further comments.

President Glen Jones asked if someone would move that this **meeting be adjourned**. Keith Johnson moves that this meeting be adjourned, seconded by June Outingdyke, all in favour. Carried.

Meeting concluded at 3:00 pm on Tuesday March 26, 2024.

Meeting minutes prepared and typed by Léo Girouard, Vice President of NAFR Manitoba Central Branch #32 on Tuesday March 26, 2024.

(Léo Girouard)

Vice President/Secretary of NAFR Manitoba Central Branch #32

(Glen Jones)

President of NAFR Manitoba Central Branch #32