

BRANCH REPORT

NL87 | Avalon-Burin Peninsula Branch

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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.

Outgoing President's Update

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and enjoyed the good weather.



Since my last message to members in the Christmas newsletter our Branch has held four board meetings and five members' meetings including our Annual Members' Meeting in April.

From a membership and financial position, the Branch is in good shape. Our membership continues to increase and we are operating within our budget.

Our AMM saw the election of a new board although we were unsuccessful in recruiting a secretary at that time. However, I am pleased to report that we now have a secretary, Ed Lutz, who came on board in June.

Our guest speaker for that event was CEO Anthony Pizzino who provided an update of National Office activities. Also in attendance was National Board Member and Atlantic Director, Roland Wells.

Advocacy was added as a regular agenda item for both board and general meetings as this is a major reason for our existence.

Members of the board attended the Atlantic Regional meetings in Dartmouth and the National AMM in Gatineau. Both events are important in gaining an awareness and understanding of the issues and challenges we all have to deal with and are important opportunities to exchange ideas and gain awareness of where the Association is going. Work continues on the National Strategic Plan and reviewing the structure of the National Office.



BOARD AND VOLUNTEER LISTINGS

Leo O'Brien	President 769-6583
Vacant	Vice President
Frank Mackey	Treasurer
Ed Lutz	Secretary
Directors	
Joanne Morrissey	CBN, Advocacy Liaison
John Baker	Burin Peninsula
Leo O'Brien	RCMP
Len LeRiche	Recruitment & Retention
Steve Boulos	Information Technology
Val Linehan	Canadian Forces & CRM
Bonnie Fox	Communications
Marilyn Best	Provincial Advocacy

Our Branch annual meeting in Marystown was held in June with low attendance again this year. Serious consideration needs to be given to alternative ways to holding this meeting.

We held a planning session in September to look at all aspects of the Branch and come up with a communication strategy, a committee structure and implementation of a Branch operational plan. A review of the Bylaws also took place.

Our annual Barbeque and Dance was a great success and close to 70 members and guests attended and were treated to a great meal and great music.

On a personal note, I have accepted a job opportunity and effective Sept 30, I resigned and Vice President Leo O'Brien assumed the position of President.

I want to wish Leo all the best in his new position and personally thank the Board who have worked with me over nearly three years. Without their dedication and hard work the Branch would not function.

It has been a pleasure to have been your President and I will miss the interaction with the Board and members in general, but I look forward to attending future social events.

Richard Sparkes

Incoming President's Message

Hello everyone. I am pleased to introduce myself as your new President. Past President Richard Sparkes resigned as he took on a new job recently. I have been a member of the Avalon Burin Board since 2016, and I have been Vice President of our Branch for almost three years now. I was a High School teacher for two years, 36 years as an RCMP Officer and 9 years as a Director with Commissionaires NL.

I look forward to serving you, and I am hoping to see you at our meetings and social events. Our Branch has been very active, but we rely on your involvement to keep it that way. I will do my utmost to continue to make our Branch a successful one. I want to take this opportunity to thank Richard for his commitment and dedication over the past years, and I look forward to seeing him come out to our events. It was my pleasure to serve with him. I also want to thank each member of our Board for their dedication and commitment. They are truly a wonderful team to work with. Take care and stay safe.



Leo O'Brien





Branch Board 2024-25: L-R Steve Boulos, Roland Wells (Atlantic), Marilyn Best, Len LeRiche, Joanne Morrissey, Bonnie Fox, Richard Sparkes, and Frank Mackey.

Missing from photo: Val Linehan, John Baker, George Noseworthy, Leo O'Brien

The Newfoundland Labrador Injury Prevention Coalition

The Newfoundland Labrador Injury Prevention Coalition (NLIPC) was invited to present Defensive Driving for the Older Person at the Federal Retirees general meeting in South River on Oct 9th, 2024. With over 25 retirees in attendance, Rudy Singleton, a retired Senior Traffic Specialist with SafetyNL, enlightened the audience with important safety information related to one of the most risky activities that we undertake each day.



Also, during the session Len LeRiche, Chair of NLIPC Board, (and a board member of the Federal Retirees) spoke briefly about the NLIPC and the mandate and offered a survey to the membership for their feedback. Len hosted a draw for a few prizes and one special certificate offered by SafetyNL covering half the cost of a driver education course worth more than \$475.00. Thank you so much Sean Kelly, CEO, SafetyNL, and the staff for your ongoing support. I want to thank Rudy Singleton for his dedication and commitment toward injury prevention.

Len LeRiche



Rudy Singleton presenting at the Members' meeting in CBN





Attendees at the Members' meeting in CBN

Pre-Retirement Session

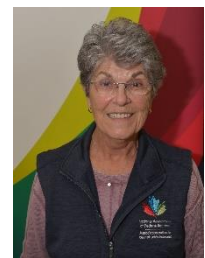
On October 8, the Branch was invited to present at a pre-retirement session held at the Shrine Club. In attendance were DFO and Coast Guard employees as most departments have stopped offering these sessions for retiring staff. Joanne Morrissey presented. Most attendees were not aware of our Association and welcomed the information. Hopefully the session will help us gain a few new members.

Advocacy Update

The National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR) is Canada's largest advocacy group for retirees, representing over 172,000 members, including federal public servants, the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, and federally appointed judges. We work to protect pensions and benefits, and support policies that enhance retirement for all Canadians.

Key Priorities:

1. Retirement income security
2. A National seniors' strategy
3. Veterans' well-being
4. Pharmacare.



Joanne Morrissey, ALO

Two New Advocacy Campaigns relative to our "National Seniors Strategy" were launched this Spring and include:

1. October 9th 2024 was designated as "Ageism Awareness Day" and referencing the Rights of Older Persons, the Association is urging the federal government to support a UN Convention on the rights of older persons to combat ageism and protect human rights for all Canadians.

2. Caregiver Support. With 1.5 million Canadians aged 65+ serving as caregivers, we're pushing for more financial and emotional support for caregivers, who are essential for aging at home. Get Involved - Join our advocacy efforts through Reach 338 to engage your representatives on these important issues.

The 2024 MEGA Recruitment Drive is in full force: Our goal is to increase membership in the Avalon Burin Branch 87. If every member recruits one retiree, we can double our membership and strengthen our collective voice.

Thank you for your support in advocating for retiree rights and benefits!

Joanne Morrissey

Photos of Recent Events



September BBQ at Masonic Hall



Guest speaker, Dean Crawford at September general meeting



September General Meeting at Royal Canadian Legion

Upcoming Events

- **General Meeting:** Wednesday, November 13 at 2:00. Royal Canadian Legion, Blackmarsh Road
- **Christmas Dinner and Dance:** Friday, December 6, Royal Canadian Legion, Blackmarsh Road. Tickets available at the November general meeting.