

## National Association of Federal Retirees – Edmonton Branch

### General Membership Meeting December 6, 2017

#### President's Report

Since our meeting on September 6th, one or more members of the Edmonton Branch board have attended/participated in the following:

- **September 12 -13<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – The Alberta Grey Matters Conference. This annual event provides learning and networking opportunities for our board members. Attendees represent a very wide range of seniors' organizations, service providers to seniors and departments at all three levels of government which provide services to seniors. It is sponsored, in part, by the Alberta Ministry of Seniors and Housing and provides opportunities to meet with representatives of that ministry.
- **September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017** -- A Meeting in Grande Prairie with our members from that area. Two lawyers from that area presented on Wills and Estates (similar to the presentation we had at our September meeting in Edmonton). We have had attendance of 30 – 40 members each fall for the past several years and a decision was reached that a committee of local members will organize and run next years meeting in Grande Prairie with some advice and support from the Edmonton Board.
- **October 2 – 3, 2017** – Regional Meeting Red Deer. Several members of our board attended this meeting which included the other Alberta Branches plus the two National Directors who represent the Prairies and NWT District. The National President and a few staff members from our National Office were also in attendance to share information, participate in discussions and provide training to branch board members.
- **October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – Members of our board assisted a representative from our National Office in the running of a Veterans Town Hall. This was one of a dozen town halls held in cooperation with branches located near 12 Canadian Armed Forces bases across the country. Our association gathered input from retirees, serving Canadian Armed Forces members, RCMP members and their families about the transition process out of uniform and veterans' experiences afterwards. The results of these discussions will be rolled into a report that will be presented next spring to the federal ministers of Defence, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety. There is an article in the current issue of Sage about this.
- **November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – Our Board held a planning workshop where we discussed a “Looking ahead 10 years” document received from the President of our National Board. We prepared a reply with our thoughts

and suggestions for the future of the national association. We also reviewed a planning document which was compiled from the breakout sessions of the Presidents' Forum held in June in conjunction with the National AMM. Based on both of these documents and our own discussions we also prepared a draft workplan for our branch for 2018. As was requested, a copy of our workplan was shared with the Co-Chairs of the National Presidents' Forum. They will summarize the results from all of the plans received from branches across the country and share the results. Branch committees have been created to flesh out the work plan and implement it.

### **Other Items**

**New Board Members** – Since our last meeting we have had two new member added to our board, Mick Rempel and Sylvia Kennedy.

**Website** – Transition our website from [www.nafredm.ca](http://www.nafredm.ca) to our pages on [www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca) is well underway. Mick Rempel, who recently joined our board, has taken on the challenge of completing the transition. He is learning the process through the on-line tutorials and progressing at an accelerating rate. I encourage you to visit the site and offer your feedback and suggestions to Mick. His contact information is on the *Contact Us* link on the left side of every Edmonton Branch page. To see our web pages on [www.federalretirees.ca](http://www.federalretirees.ca), click on *Branches* and follow the dropdown menu to *Alberta*, then *Edmonton*.

**Facebook Page** - Please check out our Facebook page: Go to Facebook.com and then search for "National Association of Federal Retirees Edmonton Branch. Please "Like" our page to help us increase our profile on Facebook.

**Branch Email Address** – We are now using [edmonton@federalretirees.ca](mailto:edmonton@federalretirees.ca) as our general email address. Previous address ending in "@gmail.com" are no longer in use. Membership related inquiries can still be sent to [nafrsocial@yahoo.ca](mailto:nafrsocial@yahoo.ca).

**Alberta Dental Fee Guide** -- Edmonton Branch, working with other Seniors Organizations in Alberta, has been a relentless advocate for the return of a Provincial Dental Fee Guide. We are please to have played a part in the advocacy that has led to the new, fairer schedule that was recently announced by the Provincial Health Minister to be effective on January 1, 2018. It is unclear at this time which fee guide will be the basis of our members' claims processing in 2018. I encourage you to ask your dental service providers if they are using the new Alberta Dental Fee Guide for their charges to you.

**Pension Rate Increase** -- If you receive email from our national office, you will have already learned that our pensions will increase by 1.6% effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

**Membership** – We currently have 1860 doubles (3720 members) plus 1862 singles for a total branch membership of 5582. We would love to hear your ideas on how to grow our membership. Speak to any board member, send us an email ([edmonton@federalretirees.ca](mailto:edmonton@federalretirees.ca)) or call our Branch Service Phone: **780-413-4687** (from outside Edmonton call toll free **1-855-376-2336**) or you can email ([rossgill@outlook.com](mailto:rossgill@outlook.com)) or call me (**780-416-8300**). For Membership Inquiries call our Membership Chair Heather-Anne Elliott-Martin (**780-942-2664**).

Ross Gillespie