



PEIRTA Newsletter

Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association

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From the President

It's hard to believe that it is newsletter time again. This publication leads us to our annual meeting in Summerside on November 6, 2008. We would hope for a strong attendance as we propose to place resolutions before the membership which will profoundly affect our organization. I learned at our national annual meeting that we as teachers are a very powerful lobby group in this country. Seniors' organizations across Canada are looking to retired teachers for leadership on various issues. In our province many retired teachers are assuming leadership roles in various facets of our society. I feel that it is important that our organization be able to stand firmly on its feet and participate both provincially and nationally. It is

with this in mind that we will be bringing the concept of incorporation to our annual meeting for discussion and vote.

PEITF makes sure that we are participants in discussions which will or may impact on us. The matter of group insurance is one of great importance to RTA members, and you will be brought up to date at our annual meeting. We will also be looking for direction in this matter. The indexing of teacher pensions is a varied bag as we look across Canada, and is a matter of extreme importance to our retired teachers. Without adequate indexing we are sure to fall into financial concern as the CPI continues to go upward.

Your executive will also be looking for your thoughts on the operation of our organization. In 2008 we held socials in all three counties. It appeared to us that the idea of Spring Fling was fading as we did not have sufficient response in 2007 to have one. There are no doubt many issues and directions which our members want us to pursue, so when we gather in Summerside on November 6, come with your ideas.

I found the ACER-CART annual meeting to be a tremendous learning experience. The extremely positive



relationship that exists between ACER-CART and all other teacher organizations (except Manitoba) is very rewarding. The relationship with CTF is also exceptional. We held our meetings in the CTF building and were treated to a meal by CTF. It is clear that teacher organizations and retired teacher organizations for the most part feel that it is advantageous for us to work together. The membership of ACER-CART is 160,000, so we can be a very influential organization. (My ACER-CART report appears on p. 7.)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2—From the editor; RTA Executive

Page 3—PEIRTA Constitution

Page 5—Executive resolutions to annual meeting

Page 6—Travel, study, work

Page 7—ACER-CART 2008

Page 8—Out and about

Visit our Web site at

www.peirta.com

From the Editor

We got our first newsletter out on time (thanks to Jim, Joyce, Eldon, John Cameron, and Isabel Lewis), have received some positive comments, and if anyone is complaining, they're not doing it to me. About a dozen people so far have opted to view subsequent newsletters online, and our offer stands for anyone else who might want to do so. Send me an e-mail, and I will let you know when it will appear on

the RTA and PEITF Web sites.

The most important content in this issue is related to the annual meeting. Your executive has done a good deal of work on the RTA Constitution, and the new version is published in this newsletter for your perusal prior to the annual meeting on Nov. 6, when it will be approved, amended, or rejected. We're hoping for a good turnout.

Johnson Inc. have increased their

support for our newsletter, and in return we have agreed to display their logo in our banner. Without their help it would be virtually impossible to publish in our new format.

We welcome input from our members. Contact the president or any executive member if you have questions, concerns, criticism, etc. All compliments may be sent directly to me!!

Letters to the Editor

Members of the PEIRTA are invited to submit letters to the editor and/or other material for our newsletter.

Letters to the editor must be no more than 200 words (revised). The editor retains the right to select material to be published, and to edit for length. Substantive changes will be approved by the author. All letters must be ac-

companied by the author's full name, contact information, and one-line bio (e.g., Marg Stewart retired from Bluefield High in 2004).

Opinions expressed in letters to the editor, and material authored by those other than official representatives of the PEIRTA, shall carry a disclaimer stating that opinions are not those of

the RTA Executive or editor of the newsletter and do not necessarily reflect policies of the PEIRTA.

Our next issue will be published in mid-December. Send material to me at 34 Belvedere Avenue, Charlottetown, PE, C1A6A8; or, better still, e-mail margstewart@pei.eastlink.ca.

PEIRTA Executive and Officers 2007-2009

President: James MacAulay (961-2818)	festival@eastlink.ca
Vice-President: Cindy McNally (859-3260)	johnmcnally@pei.sympatico.ca
Past President: John Rowe (838-2098)	rowe@pei.sympatico.ca
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Prince: Spurgeon Robbins (436-7335)	spurgeonrobbins@hotmail.com
Queens: Eldon Rogerson (628-3816)	erogerson@eastlink.ca
Kings: Aquinas Ryan (961-2782)	RR St. Peters Bay, PE C0A 2A0

Pension Committee Representative: Frank McQuaid

Group Insurance Representative: Kimball Blanchard

Executive Proposes Constitutional Changes

Editor's Note — Below you will find the revised constitution for the PEIRTA. So that you can easily compare the current constitution with the suggested revision, existing wording has been crossed out, with new wording inserted in bold. This constitution will be discussed and approved with or without amendments at the PEIRTA Annual Meeting on November 6 at the Summerside Legion. Please bring your copy with you.

Constitution for Prince Edward Island Teachers' Association (PEIRTA)—Revised Jan/08

1. NAME

The name of the organization shall be ~~the Retired Teachers' Association of Prince Edward Island~~ **Retired Teachers' Association.**

2. OBJECTS OBJECTIVES

The ~~objects~~ **objectives** of the Association shall be:

- a) to maintain and increase professional and social contacts,
- b) to keep informed ~~on~~ **of** developments in education,
- c) to meet with government and negotiate better terms for retired teachers,**
- d) to meet with outside organizations/merchants to obtain social/financial benefits for retired teachers,**
- e) to maintain a liaison with the PEI Teachers' Federation,
- f) to furnish recommendations and advice to the Provincial Executive and other committees of the PEITF on matters affecting **the** welfare of retired teachers.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Active

Any teacher who was a member of the PEITF at the time of his/her retirement shall be eligible for active membership in this Association if:

- a) he/she is in receipt of a pension pursuant to the PEI Teachers' Superannuation Act, or,
- b) he/she was eligible for such pension on his/her retirement.
- c) PEITF retired professional staff in receipt of a pension pursuant to the PEI Teachers' Superannuation Act shall be eligible for membership.**

Affiliate

- a) A retired teacher shall be eligible for affiliate membership in the Association if he/she is in receipt of a teacher's pension from outside ~~Prince Edward Island~~ **PEI.**
- ~~b) PEITF retired professional staff in receipt of a pension pursuant to the PEI Teachers' Superannuation Act shall be eligible for affiliate membership.~~
- b) A retired teacher's spouse receiving pension pursuant to the PEI Teachers' Superannuation Act shall be eligible for affiliate membership in the ~~Retired Teachers' Association of PEI~~ **PEIRTA.**
- c) A retired teacher who held a valid PEI teaching contract at any time during his/her career shall be eligible for affiliate membership in the PEIRTA.**

(Constitution, cont'd)

4. RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The rights, privileges and responsibilities shall be extended as follows:

- a) To active members the full rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership.
- b) To be an executive member, a retired teacher must be a member in good standing of PEIRTA.**
- c) All PEIRTA members will automatically be members of ACER-CART, the national retired teacher's organization.**
- d) To affiliate members the full rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership except the right to hold office in the ~~Retired Teachers Teacher's Association~~ **PEIRTA.**

5. FEES

- a) Membership ~~fees~~ **dues** shall be established by resolution at the annual meeting of the Association.
- b) Affiliate members shall pay the same fee as members.**

6. MEMBERSHIP YEAR

The membership year shall ~~extend from the date of one annual meeting to the next annual meeting~~ **be from January 1 to December 31 of any given year.**

7. EXECUTIVE

- a) The executive committee of this Association shall be: President, Vice-President, immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, ~~one additional member, and one member representative from each of the other two counties county.~~ **The members of the Executive Committee with the exception of the Past President shall be elected for a term of two years at the Annual Meeting of the Association.**
- b) Members of the executive committee, with the exception of the Past President, shall be elected for a term of two years at the annual meeting of the Association and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.**
- c) The in-coming executive committee will assume office by January 1 of the calendar year following the election.**
- d) The signing authority for the PEIRTA shall be any two (2) of the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer.**

8. COMMITTEES

- a) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the executive committee through any cause, the executive committee shall name a member to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.
- b) The executive committee shall appoint from time to time such committees as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Association.**

9. ANNUAL MEETING

~~The Annual Meeting shall be held in October or at such other time as determined by the Executive.~~

- a) The annual meeting shall be held within the first seven days of November each year or at such other time as determined by the executive.**
 - b) The new executive will be elected every second year at the AGM.**
 - c) Between the AGM and January 1 of an election year, a transition meeting of the past executive and the**
-

(Constitution, cont'd)

in-coming executive shall be held.

10. LIAISON BETWEEN THE PEIRTA AND PEITF

~~Any representation which the Association wishes to make to any organizations, persons, Government Department or other agency outside the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation shall be conducted through the regular channels of the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation.~~

- a) Minutes of PEIRTA meetings will be forwarded to PEITF.**
- b) The PEIRTA shall submit a financial statement annually to the Provincial Executive of PEITF.**
- c) PEITF may select a member to attend executive, special or annual meetings of the Association.**

~~11. ANNUAL REPORT~~

~~The Association shall submit a financial statement annually to the Provincial Executive of the PEITF.~~

11. AMENDMENTS

After a one-month notice of motion to amend the Constitution has been given to each member, the Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members present at any regular session of the Annual Meeting of the Association. ~~subject to ratification by the Provincial Executive of the PEITF.~~

~~13. REPRESENTATION AT PEITF BOARD OF GOVERNORS~~

~~Upon invitation from the PEITF Executive, the Association may appoint a member or members to attend meetings of the Board of Governors as an Associate delegate(s).~~

~~Associate delegates have the right to address the Board of Governors and speak on any motion with the permission of the Chairman, but may not vote.)~~

Executive Resolutions to the 2008 Annual Meeting

1. Be it resolved that the Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association become incorporated as a non-profit company 2 under the regulations of the province of Prince Edward Island.

2. Be it resolved that the present constitution of the Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association, with the proposed amendments, become the bylaws of the Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association Inc.

3. Be it resolved that the annual membership dues of the Prince

Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association be set at \$1.00/month (\$12/year).

4. Be it resolved that the Spring Fling be officially replaced with county socials each year.

5. Be it resolved that in the election year, each county representative will be nominated at the county social.

6. Be it resolved that the financial records of the Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association be reviewed by an out-

side source selected by the executive prior to the AGM in an election year. Should a new treasurer take office in a non-election year, this review will take place at that time.

PEIRTA Annual Meeting

November 6, 2008

Summerside Legion

Registration 9am

Meeting 10am

\$20 per person

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Deadline October 8; one bus already filled!

Travel, speak French, and soak up French culture

Located in Trois-Rivières, a modern city with a 350 year history, an international French school (non-profit organization—part of the Trois-Rivières University) offers French immersion programs for elders who want to improve their French while learning about Quebec society. French language classes are offered in the mornings, while afternoons are reserved for conversation, workshops, and immersion activities in the surrounding community, such as guided visits to historical sites Les Forges du Saint-Maurice (the first

industrial community in Canada) and the Sanctuaire Notre-Dame-du Cap (the largest sanctuary to the Virgin Mary in North America), and day trips to Montreal and Québec City (celebrating its 400th anniversary this year). Participants are lodged in the university dorms and therefore have the opportunity to enjoy a typical Francophone university setting. The French immersion programs are offered in partnership with the Routes to Learning Canada non-profit organization. Every year approximately 150 elders, mostly from English

Canada, participate.

French Immersion: A Key to the Francophone World
(three week program, #2764RJ)
May 24-June 12, 2009 **OR** June 28-July 17, 2009

Learn French and Discover La Nouvelle-France
(Two week program, # 11645RJ)
October 5-17, 2008 **OR** March 22 to April 3, 2009

To enrol, or for more information, go to **www.elderhostel.com**.

Retired teachers are in demand for teaching positions overseas. For an example of what might be available, please see the B.C. posting on our Web site. Please be advised that this message is for your information only, and that the PEIRTA accepts no responsibility for any experience you might have should you decide to investigate or take advantage of this kind of opportunity.

ACER-CART Report—17th AGM, Summer 2008

Representatives for the 14 retired teacher organizations from every Canadian province and the Yukon gathered at the Canadian Teachers' Federation in Ottawa on June 6-7, 2008 to share ideas, renew acquaintances, meet new friends, report on activities of the ACER-CART committees, and discuss common issues. [A full AGM report is posted on www.acer-cart.org.]

Major issues addressed at this meeting included a revamping of the constitution and bylaws documents, clarification of the purpose of the ACER-CART Reserve Fund and the process for its utilization, and financial report formats. Johnson Inc. representatives updated the meeting on cancer care and accessibility to drug treatment, including accessibility to 24 newer cancer drugs and their public funding status across Canada. A "Best Doctors" plan was explained—an insurance plan that provides participants with quick access to a second medical opinion, when desired.

2008-09 Elections: Helen Biales (RTO/ERO) was re-elected President, and Vaughn Wadelius Vice-President. Regional representatives are Dr. Thomas Gaskell (RTO-NSTU), Atlantic; Patricia Steele (QPARSE), Quebec; Arnold Hull (RTO/ERO), Ontario; and Wadelius (RTAM), West. While Pierre Drouin will continue as Executive Director of ACER-CART, due to other professional responsibilities he will resign as of December 31, 2008. Lynne Richard (CTF) continues in her secretarial support role for ACER-CART.

Motions were passed to pursue the following initiatives:

- Lobby the Government of Canada to establish a national pharmacare program with a national formulary; establish a national childcare program that is affordable, accountable and accessible; review and amend the Privacy Act to ensure that privacy of personal information is respected; and develop national strategies to inform seniors of their rights and available services, and to reach out to victims of elder abuse.
- Take the lead in future Pre-Budget Consultations as per ACER-CART policies.

- Develop a position paper in support of the federal government taking more responsibility for health care.
- Pursue the issue of the error in calculation of CPI by Stats Canada and request that pensioners be reimbursed accordingly; pursue the elimination of the OAS clawback and Age Credit reduction.
- Address the following issues as priorities for 2008-2009: elder abuse; availability and cost of prescription drugs; the effect of escalating property taxes on retirees.
- Establish a search committee to replace Executive Director Pierre Drouin.

Committee Reports

Pension and Retirement Income Committee (Arnold Hull, Chair)

Issues emphasized by the committee included the need for guaranteed inflation protection and COLAS for retirees; and matters related to property tax (assessments, appeals, and the role of seniors in property tax discussions).

Communications Committee (Vaughn Wadelius, Chair)

The Web site has been updated to include slide show photo presentations on AGMs since 2006; improved document information; and a revamped "What's New" page. Two editions of *OPTIONS* were produced in 2007-08, along with special e-mails, media releases, and political action updates and news alerts for directors. Contact lists for member organizations are being up-

dated. Members were saddened by the death of our Webmaster in January. His duties were assumed by the Communications chair.

Health Services and Insurance Committee (Thomas Gaskell, Chair)

Data from the surveys on two-tier health care systems, types and costs of health plans, and drug plan make-up and costs to seniors has been reviewed. It was agreed to reaffirm current policy on health care in Canada, lobby for a national formulary/drug plan, coordinate a common front for enforcement of the core principles of the Canada Health Act, and initiate efforts for an ombudsman and trained provincial advocates for seniors.

Additional Representation - CNSO Helen Biales, our representative with the Congress of National Seniors Organizations, was requested to seek an awareness campaign by CNSO to take action against elder abuse.

President Helen Biales' comments to the meeting can be seen on the ACER-CART Web site www.acer-cart.org.

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**ACER-CART
Executive
2008-2009**



L to R: Dr. Thomas Gaskell (Atlantic Rep); Patrick Brady (Past President); Helen Biales (President); Arnold Hull (Ontario Rep); Patricia Steele (Québec Rep); Vaughn Wadelius (Vice-President and West Rep)



May, 2008. Jim MacAulay (right) presents Danielle Frenette with PEIRTA Award (to the highest ranking non-scholarship student entering year two of BED program). On left is Graham Pike, Faculty of Education, UPEI.



Pierre Drouin, Executive Director of ACER-CART, cutting his retirement cake



**ACER-CART
Atlantic Directors**

L to R: Tom Gaskell (NS); our Jimmy; George Little (NB); Roger Doiron (AEFNB); James Dobson (NFLD alternate); Don Case (NFLD)