

CALGARY BRANCH NEWSLETTER

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District Director:

Roy Goodall

Auditor:

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Presidents Report - Winter 2015

In late October, the Branch Presidents from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta met in Airdrie for a two-day Conference hosted by District Director Roy Goodall. Also in attendance was National Association Chair, Konrad von Finckenstein, who was a former Judge and has the same concerns for the betterment of our members' benefits as the rest of us.

Judge von Finckenstein described for us the new Strategic Plan Committee which is made up of two Directors and five staff members, one of them being Roy Goodall. This working group met on October 20, 2015 and will meet again in December, 2015 to discuss the Strategic Goals to be presented to the Annual Members' meeting in June, 2016.

These goals include protecting pensions and health care measures (including pharmacare and home care); enhancing retirement and volunteer recruitment while increasing membership in our organization and improving volunteer training. In response to the concerns from the 2015 Annual Members' Meeting, there will be emphasis on improving communication not only between the Branches and National Office, but also with the membership at large. As well, there is a great need for us to improve communication between ourselves and other Veterans' groups and the RCMP Association.

Our Branch has been advocating on these issues for several years as we want to help each of our over 4000 members in Calgary and District to achieve ultimate happiness in their retirement through our organization. As you are aware, we were recognized for outstanding service to our members at the last Annual Members' Meeting. The trophy is now on display in our office at 302 in the Kerby Centre. We invite each of you to drop in any weekday morning between 10 a.m. and noon to have a look at it. We look forward to seeing you there or at one of our quarterly luncheons.

Marlene LaMontagne, President, Calgary and District, Alberta #16

According to Biomimicry, the Solutions to Our Most Pressing Problems May Already Exist Around Us

Biomimicry is a new discipline that looks to nature to solve design and engineering problems. Formulated by Janine Benyus of the [Biomimicry Institute](#), the thinking goes like this:

Life's been on Earth for [3.8 billion years](#), and in that time life has learned what works, and what's appropriate here and what lasts here. And, the idea is that perhaps we should be looking at these mentors, at these biological elders. They have figured out how to create a sustainable world. So rather than inventing it from scratch, why don't we take our cues from them. These are Earth savvy adaptations.

Watch the video...

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/leila-conners/biomimicry-solution-problems_b_8401268.html?utm_hp_ref=world

TheWorldPost, A Partnership of the Huffington Post and Berggruen Institute

November 2, 2015

At the end of each year, the Treasury Board provides the Association with information on the pension indexing increase that is effective on Jan. 1, 2016.

Accordingly, effective Jan. 1, 2016, the pension indexing increase for public service, Canadian Forces, RCMP, and federally-appointed judges' pensions will be 1.3%.

Information on the calculation of this index can be found on the Public Works and Government Services Canada website at :

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/remuneration-compensation/services-pension-services/pension/pubs/pens-annts-01-index-eng.html#pens-annts-01-s6>

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES

November 18, 2015

Exciting news – Federal Retirees has a new website!

Visit www.federalretirees.ca today to see what we have to offer.

You'll find information on our latest advocacy campaigns, tools and resources on finances and health, information on our Preferred Partners, and a full section on travel to help you find and plan your next adventure.

And, we're very excited about our new member account login, which will make renewing your Federal Retirees membership as easy as a few clicks.

Update your browser favourites and login today at www.federalretirees.ca!

(And, if you see anything that seems out of place – click on the Contact Us section and let us know.)

National Association of Federal Retirees

Time for federal, provincial governments to break out of their health care ‘silos’(iPolitics)

Looking back on one of the longest and most contested federal election campaigns in years, I am struck, as many others have been, by the limited scope of the public discourse on national health care issues.

When it comes to delivering health services on a national scale, Canadian Blood Services has a unique viewpoint: we are the country’s only federally regulated, provincially and territorially funded, pan-Canadian health-care delivery organization.

We operate Canada’s blood system outside of Quebec, but also much more. We deliver programs in stem cells, cord blood banking, and organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Through an end-to-end supply chain that includes bulk-purchasing, warehousing, distributing and medical expertise in utilization, we also manage a substantial portfolio of biologics on behalf of provincial and territorial governments.

This diverse national platform gives us both a singular unifying lens on Canadian health system issues and a perspective underwritten by an ongoing commitment to cross-jurisdictional collaboration and coordination. From that vantage point, we know that in certain key areas, governments and health-system partners do more together than they can on their own.

We have also learned that a large part of innovation is doing things differently and setting up conditions for success. Perhaps the best example of this perspective in action is tied to our origins almost two decades ago.

In 1997, when federal, provincial and territorial governments were reforming the blood system at the height of the tainted blood crisis, they chose to establish something unprecedented in the country’s health care arena: an arm’s-length, pan-Canadian, cost-shared model where blood products are collected, manufactured and distributed nationally for the benefit of patients. Within this system, blood and blood products, including IVIG, albumin and factor products, are available to patients inside the country’s insured health system, in a manner similar to that being proposed for a national pharmacare program.

This means that whatever their economic background — and whether they live in Edmonton, Alberta, or Edmundston, New Brunswick — patients can count on reliable access to an adequate supply of consistently high-quality blood products. When it comes to equity of access and product quality, particularly in the context of pharmaceuticals, this level of service is the exception in Canada, rather than the norm.

In a sense, Canadian Blood Services’ programs act as bridges across provincial and territorial health “silos.” Indeed, our experience with the blood system, but also with the Canadian Transplant Registry and the interprovincial sharing of organs, has shown that collaboration and coordination across jurisdictions can be game-changers in creating better, more equitably accessible health care in Canada.

This is not to say these cross-jurisdictional approaches are easy, or that there should be a national solution to every health-care problem we face. As those with experience in interprovincial relations will know, differing political realities and fiscal constraints across the country make collaboration and decision-making highly challenging by nature. But collaboration, coordination and consensus are doable, and their dividends are what we all strive for: better health, better system performance and better value for Canadians.

Whether as conveners of policy discussions, regulators of systems, or funders of programs, when federal and provincial governments collaborate and have “skin in the game,” patients and health systems see great leaps forward. So, as our newly elected federal officials take office, I urge them to look at what’s working within Canada’s health systems and forge ahead.

While health care necessarily falls under provincial jurisdiction, federal, provincial and territorial governments can — and do — collaborate for improved health-system performance. Canadian Blood Services’ experience is the proverbial “proof in the pudding.”

Dr. Graham Sher is the CEO of Canadian Blood Services

The time has come for universal pharmacare. One in five Canadian households cannot afford the prescription medicines they need. It’s a crisis with only one solution(Toronto Star)

<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2015/10/29/the-time-has-come-for-universal-pharmacare.html>

September Quarterly Luncheon at Fort Calgary (Door Prizes supplied by Jamieson Vitamins)



Calgary Branch President Marlene LaMontagne with Jamieson Vitamins Representative Colleen Ruest



Basket of Jamieson products won by Barry Johnson



Timex watch won by Doug Raynon

2016 Quarterly Luncheon Dates:

- February 19
- April 15 (AGM)
- September 16
- November 18

November Quarterly Luncheon at Fort Calgary – Piper Alf Miller piped in Calgary Branch President Marlene LaMontagne (carrying the wreath used for November 11th ceremonies), Directors Rob Malcolm and Chuck Johnston

Veterans, former Public Service employees and Calgary Branch Office volunteers were recognized during the meeting and thanked for their service.



Chuck Johnston, Marlene LaMontagne, Rob Malcolm



Piper Alf Miller

New Alberta Health Services Board features strong health care expertise

Minister of Health Sarah Hoffman has created a new board to govern Alberta Health Services and further stabilize Alberta's health-care system.

The organization has been without a board since 2013.

“Stable and effective health care is of vital concern to every family in Alberta. This group has firsthand knowledge of health care delivery, governance and solid fiscal planning that is needed to strengthen and stabilize the health system in a prudent and sustainable way. It will provide oversight that will ensure AHS is able to give patients the care they need from the right health care provider in the right place at the right time.”

Sarah Hoffman, Minister of Health

“I am honoured and excited to be taking on this role, and I'm looking forward to working closely with Minister Hoffman and my fellow board members to provide leadership and guidance to Alberta Health Services. Together, this board holds a tremendous amount of experience and talent, and we will do our utmost to serve the interests of Albertans and to support the committed and hardworking people within AHS.”

Linda Hughes, Alberta Health Services Board Chair

The new board members are:

- Linda Hughes (Chair)
- Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn (Vice-Chair)
- David Carpenter
- Hugh D. Sommerville
- Marliss Taylor
- Glenda Yeates

In addition, Richard Dicerni, Deputy Minister of Executive Council, will serve on the board, bringing a strong connection between Alberta Health Services and government. Dicerni has more than four decades of nationally-recognized experience in public sector governance and management in various capacities.

Minister Hoffman is reaching out to other community leaders, including the Grand Chiefs of Treaties 6, 7, and 8, as well as Métis representatives, to ensure Indigenous representation for the AHS board.

The board will report directly to the Minister of Health. The Minister, in turn, will work closely with the board to set objectives for and ensure the success of Alberta Health Services.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS – Calgary Branch Office

We are seeking volunteers to work in the Office which is open Monday to Friday 10:00am to 12:00 Noon. Duties include processing receipts for payment of membership fees, providing contact information for Pensions and Benefits, referrals to the HBO and following up on general membership inquiries. Call 403-265-0773 or send an email to fsnactal@telus.net if you can spare a few hours to assist the members.



Robert (Chuck) Johnston

Chuck was born in Kingston Ontario 7 Apr. 1940, moved to Picton Ontario as his father was in the military (army). While in high school he also spent 4 years in the army reserve – Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment. In 1960 he joined the military in Toronto Recruitment center and spent 34 years as a physical and recreation instructor and director serving with all three forces army, navy, and air force. He also served with the United Nation in the Golan Heights. He is trained in search and rescue and survival training, got a private pilot license, volunteered as a fire fighter, and he played drums and trombone in a 40 piece marching band. He has on many occasions ran marathons (in both Calgary and Vancouver)



Married to his wife Karen in 1964 and they are now retired in Calgary as of 1995. They have two children Susan and Brian who are both married with two children each, both of their families still are also living in Calgary

He and Karen have volunteered with trout's unlimited for the past 16 years helping to rescue stranded fish from the irrigation canals in the surrounding areas, 30 to 50 thousand fish a year he also enjoys fishing, hiking, gardening, and playing hockey with the 55+ senior league.