

President's Report to NAFR Edmonton AMM May 4,2022

During the 2021 calendar/fiscal year the activities of Edmonton Branch were minimal. In March 2021, we hosted a webinar on the topic of Ageism and Elder Abuse using Zoom™. Attendance numbers were modest, but all who attended were pleased with what they learned during the presentation. We also held our branch annual members meeting (AMM) on May 5, 2021, again using Zoom™. Because of the Covid pandemic, there had not been an AMM in 2020 (to present the 2019 reports). Therefore 2019 and 2020 reporting was presented at that time. During 2021 the branch board of directors met using Zoom™ about once per month to conduct any required business but planning for future activities was tempered by the unknowns arising from the pandemic.

At this writing, most government restrictions on in-person gatherings have been lifted. However, uncertainty surrounding the virility and transmissibility of the evolving variants, coupled with the higher risk status of many of our members, requires us to proceed with caution.

There will be a hybrid **National Annual Members Meeting** in mid-June 2022. Many delegates and observers from across the country will travel to Ottawa for an in-person meeting. Those who are not comfortable with meeting in person will participate via a computer link. I will not be attending and Brian Emdin (who is currently our past president) will carry the proxy for voting on behalf of our branch. Two observers will also attend.

Our branch normally holds elections at our AMMs with half of our executive positions filled one year and the other half the following year, in both cases for two years terms. In 2020 and 2021 our lack of an in-person meeting prevented us from having meaningful elections. In both years all executive members agreed to serve for one additional year in their office. The same is true for 2022 with one exception. After 6 years in the position, I am stepping down from being president. I will remain on the board as past president. At this writing, there is one nominee for president. I encourage anyone who is interested to offer to stand for election, or just to serve as a board member.

I have greatly enjoyed my time as president and want to express my thanks to each person who has served as a board member during that time. I hope that circumstances will allow our branch to resume in person meetings soon, and I look forward to seeing many of you at that time.

Ross Gillespie, Edmonton Branch President