

BRANCH REPORT

AB16 | Calgary & District

CONTACT US

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Acting President:
Roloin Vetsch

Vice-President:

Treasurer:
Bonnie Pratt

Membership:
Jennifer Johnson

Secretary:
Gabrielle Simpson

Volunteer Coordinator:
Sally Manchurek

Health Benefits Officer:
Paula Fuerst

Directors:
Gerry Thompson
Heather Thompson
Maggie Smith
Ron Beirnes
Anne Prusakowski

Past President:
Pat Henderson

President's message

Greetings my fellow NAFR members. With the easing of COVID restrictions in our province, we remain cautiously optimistic that we will return to more "normal" times soon.

By the time you receive this report, our branch will have conducted our April 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM). There are some significant changes to the Calgary board, as several of our long-term directors have retired. I want to express sincere gratitude for the contributions of Guy Lallier, Gerry Thompson, and Heather Thompson during their many years with NAFR and our branch specifically. Their contributions have made your Board stronger and better able to serve our membership.

As I'm writing this report in late March, I can't speak to the April AGM Board election results, however, election results are posted on our branch website. If you are interested in serving as a director, a volunteer, or a Friend of the Board, please contact us for details. We thank all volunteers who have come forward to assist us in providing services to our members. More volunteers are always needed!

Your board conducted a review of our physical office needs and is working on re-opening of our Kerby Centre office. In the interim, we continue to serve our members virtually. We hope to resume in-person branch meetings in late 2022. The landscape has changed in the past two years, and our board is researching venues and catering options.

The board has continued with its monthly ZOOM meetings, working on activities such as:

1. Finalizing revisions to our branch bylaws for presentation at the April AGM for approval.

PARTNER BANNER



2. Updating our 3-year operational plan to account for delays due to the pandemic. We continue to focus on four areas: advocacy, membership retention and growth, organizational excellence, and branch financial management.
3. Developing a branch volunteer succession plan to ensure Board capacity and our volunteer base.
4. Working with NAFR branches and stakeholders in Alberta to advocate for the creation and funding of an Alberta Seniors Advocate.

Please note that we do not hold board meetings during July and August, but we are always available to respond to your questions and comments.

We look forward to seeing you in-person later this year. Have a wonderful and safe summer!



Sincerely,

Roloin Vetsch
Branch President

Shall we try something new when we do together??

We are all ever hopeful that we can soon return to normal life. That doesn't necessarily mean going back to only the same things we did before all this "pandemic stuff" happened. Perhaps it's time to reframe some of the things we use to do – like our members' gatherings. We could add some other fun events to our repertoire outside of our quarterly business meeting!

An annual golf tournament, a BBQ in the park, second-hand clothing drive, a NAFRAB16 Bazaar, a "support local walk on 17 Ave", we could even hold an event outside Calgary proper (we do have a whole district) the possibilities are endless. We would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

Just a few upcoming days of recognition

- **Alberta Seniors' Week 2022 - June 6 to 12**
- **National Public Service Week - June 12 – 18**
- **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15**
- **National Aboriginal Day - June 21**
- **World Alzheimer's Month – September**
- **National Seniors Day - October 1**

The time has come, the Walrus said....

Change of membership happens in all organizations and the Calgary & District NAFRAB16 branch is no exception.

This year, we have significant change happening with the 'retirement' of long-standing volunteers Guy Lallier, and Gerry Thompson.

Gerry Thompson



Gerry has been with Federal Retirees since 2007, joining to support what was then the Federal Superannuates National Association because she "wanted to support FSNA and assist other retirees in receiving and understanding their benefits".

Never shy to take on challenges, Gerry joined the Calgary & District Branch that same year. On our Board, she has served as President, 1st Vice President and Director, and as a regular volunteer in the Office.

Those words however don't really tell the whole story. Gerry has been a pillar of the Calgary Board, taking on any task that needed a strong leader. She has been the face and power behind all our quarterly branch meetings, she is our historian, our by-law guru, our operational and financial planner, our motivator, and our confidante. Gerry says the time has come to leave the Board however, she will stay close as Friend of the Board – THANKFULLY!!

Guy Lallier



Guy has been with Federal Retirees since 2013 and though not retired at the time, that didn't stop Guy from jumping on the bandwagon in support of Federal Retirees. Guy wasn't shy to take on any task asked of him and he even volunteered for many more.

Guy became our telecommunications, computer, and software guru, and just in case we didn't keep him busy enough he put his hand up to be Treasurer for many years and then Vice President in 2019. In 2020 Guy took on the Treasurer and Vice President roles at the same time, and then stepped up to be our Branch President in 2021.

Regretfully, Guy retired as President in early 2022 to take on more pressing matters.

As Latin writer Publilius Syrus said, "Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm." Guy can hold the helm in stormy waters.

On behalf of all our members and especially the Calgary & District Board, we want to thank these two dedicated individuals for their time, passion, diligence, leadership, and tenacity.

Exploring locally and supporting local

Sunrise comes early now, and the warm weather is upon us. Its time to get outdoors and enjoy ourselves. Sometimes we forget to explore the wonders that are in our provincial backyard. According to TripAdvisor, some amazing places to visit and things to do in Alberta include:

- Heritage Park Historical Village
- Banff Gondola
- West Edmonton Mall
- Calgary Zoo
- Moraine Lake
- Athabasca Falls
- Maligne Lake
- Canmore Cave Tours
- Fort Edmonton Park
- Icefields Parkway
- Elk Island National Park
- Grassi Lake

Visit the TripAdvisor website: [THE 15 BEST Things to Do in Alberta - UPDATED 2022 - Must See Attractions in Alberta, Canada | Tripadvisor](#)

NOTICE: Calgary & District Branch contact email address has changed from nafrcalg@telus.net to calgarybranch@federalretirees.ca. **Please update your bookmarked links.**

Federal Retirees Members Information

National : <https://www.federalretirees.ca/>

Calgary & District Branch: [Calgary & District AB16](#)

Facebook - [National Association of Federal Retirees - Calgary YYC](#)

For questions or inquiries, please phone 403-265-0773 or email calgarybranch@federalretirees.ca