

BRANCH REPORT

AB16 | Calgary & District

CONTACT US

Room 302
Kerby Centre
1133, 7th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 1B2
403-265-0773

calgarybranch@federalretirees.ca

federalretirees.ca/calgary

President:

Roloin Vetsch

Vice-President:

Maggie Smith

Secretary:

Gabrielle Simpson

Treasurer:

Paula Fuerst

Directors:

John Bakator
Ron Beimes
Paul Dumouchel
Jennifer Johnson
Sally Manchurek
Bonnie Pratt
Anne Prusakowski
Bob Woods

Past President:

Pat Henderson

President's message

As 2022 draws to a close, most of you will be busy with preparations for the festive season. This time of the year also gives us an opportunity to reflect on the special moments and relationships that we share with family and friends.

I'm taking this opportunity to look at what the Calgary and District Branch has achieved this year. There have been changes, challenges, departures, new ideas and a plan for the path forward.



We were saddened this year with the passing of our previous branch president, Guy Lallier. Guy was a long-time volunteer, starting as the Branch Treasurer in 2016. In 2019, he did double-duty by also assuming the Vice-President role. In 2021, he became the Branch President, but he continued with all his unassigned tasks such as managing our IT systems, telephony needs and membership activities. We'll miss his humour and his commitment to our association.

New members were elected to our branch board in April 2022 and portfolios and project have been assigned. Several former board members continue to volunteer in an advisory capacity or on special committees. One new committee is working on a board development plan which covers aspects such as role definitions, recruiting campaigns, board orientation and board members training and development. All current board members were scheduled for online strategic planning sessions this fall, which will assist us in updating our branch's operational plan for 2023 onwards.

PARTNER BANNER

A national branch survey was conducted during the summer to assess branch needs and challenges. The results will help our national office and branches identify support, resources, and information or training gaps that exist.

In mid-September, H el ene Nadeau, a current director on the national board, was elected as the new national Vice-President for the association. The position was vacant when our local branch member, Roy Goodall, was elected as the National President earlier this year.



Anthony and Elaine Baumann, the Tourism Calgary presenter

In late September, our branch hosted a combined regional (provincial) and district meeting, the first in-person event for the Prairies since 2019. The meetings were attended by Branch Presidents and observers from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Our association's CEO, Anthony Pizzino, made his first visit to our city, so of course he was made an honorary Calgarian through a White Hat ceremony! Anthony was joined by Roy Goodall, National President, and several national office staff. Discussions covered a range of topics, such as advocacy, volunteerism and recruitment, upcoming changes to the Public Service Health Care Plan and concerns about the health care crisis for seniors.

By the time you receive this report, we hope to have hosted our first in-person branch meeting (scheduled for November) since 2019. Although we have continued to conduct quarterly branch meetings via ZOOM, we all have looked forward to meeting members face-to-face again.

Thank you to the volunteers who have stepped up to help us deliver events, work on committees and provide advice. Most of all, my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues on the Calgary and District Branch board of directors. Your encouragement, hours of volunteer time and sense of team have inspired and supported me endlessly this year!

As always, please contact us with your questions/comments/suggestions. We look forward to seeing you soon. Enjoy the magic of the holiday season and best wishes for health and happiness in the new year!



Sincerely,

Roloin Vetsch
Branch President

NAFR Regional Meeting

September 27th, 2022

The Alberta regional meeting focused on re-activating efforts around advocacy, volunteerism, member engagement, and the long-term health effects of Covid.

While nationally advocacy efforts continued (Retirement Income Security, National Seniors Strategy, Veterans well-being and Pharmacare), attendees agreed that Covid brought regional **grassroots** advocacy efforts to a near standstill. With the political landscape in Alberta changing, attendees agreed now is the time to revitalize regional advocacy efforts.

- Federal retirees have a wealth of knowledge, skills and abilities needed for regional advocacy efforts with respect to retirees' financial security, health, and well-being.
- If you are interested in joining the cause, a first step would be to update your member profile information and let us know how you can help. [Click here to login and update your profile.](#)

The regional meeting ended with an excellent presentation on the increased need for long-term health care and supportive living measures. The need for continuing care can come at a time when it is least expected and cause significant stress for those affected e.g., not knowing the Alberta Health Services (AHS) processes to assess and match the appropriate level of care to a patient's needs. AHS provides options for continuing care that include finances, residency (including different levels of independence) and hospice. Find more information by [visiting the AHS website.](#)



Our Branch volunteers, Della Mckee & Signe McIntosh, giving a helping hand at the check-in

Next Quarterly General Meeting will be in February, 2023 via Zoom:

Canada Revenue Agency/Government of Canada will be presenting information on the following for adults 65+: Income, Benefits, Credits, Deductions, Scams, Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)

**Date and Registration details will be forwarded via email as we get closer to the event.

On the Horizon:

2023 is National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR) 60th anniversary! Watch for information on the website as well as in Sage magazine.

2024 is Calgary & District's 60th anniversary! We will be providing information on celebration activities scheduled as the event gets closer and events are finalized.

Reaching out to you

Neil Diamond had it right. Spring became summer so quickly and here we are Federal Retirees. We aren't worried about putting kids through school, or our next promotion but we all are, or should be, worried about protecting our pensions and benefits, and improving retirement for all Canadians.

Calgary & District branch is **actively recruiting for MEMBERSHIP VOLUNTEERS!**

What does a membership volunteer do? Fun things – truly!

- Be an ambassador for the Branch by joining us in visiting with your former departments and colleagues to share the benefits of joining the association. Training for membership volunteers will be provided and the branch will supply coffee and donuts for in-person recruitment sessions!
- Generate and help implement creative ways to engage members and non-members alike; with our own western brand of doing things.

Remember, one doesn't have to be retired to join and reap the benefits of Federal Retirees. As a member you know the benefits and can help others to enjoy them too. The more members we have, the stronger and more influential our collective voice will be!

Also, the Association's MEGA Recruitment drive is on until December 31, 2022 ([Mega Recruitment Drive | Federal Retirees](#)). Refer a new member for your chance to win one of 14 prizes including the grand prize - \$10,000 cash courtesy of Johnson Insurance. Plus, all newly recruited members will themselves be entered into a draw for \$250. What have you got to lose? Nothing!

Federal Retirees Members Information

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

Calgary & District: <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/branches/alberta/calgary-district-branch>

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

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