

# **BRANCH REPORT**

## ON55 | York Branch

#### **CONTACT US**

For general NAFR Issues, please contact NAFR Headquarters:

865 Shefford Rd Ottawa, Ontario K1J 1H9 1-855-304-4700

For Branch-specific issues, please e-mail the Branch or contact a Board Member

#### **BRANCH EMAIL**

federalretirees.york@gmail.com

#### **WEBSITE**

Federalretirees.ca/York

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

York Branch AGM
April 18, 2023
(in person and online)
10:30 am-12:00
Guest Speaker: TBD

Fall Meeting of Members Oct 17, 2023

#### **Branch Board Meetings**

Apr 04,2023 May 02,2023 (online) Jun 6,2023 Sept 12,2023 Oct 3,2023 Nov 7,2023 (online) York Branch is starting on another year. Unless there are further COVID developments or other serious developments, we will see us finally return to a "normal" year. In-person general meetings started up with our Fall Members' Meeting, but attendance was a bit low with continuing COVID concerns. We hope for a bigger crowd for our Spring AGM. We are also getting more experience (and buying more equipment) to run a hybrid meeting, so that members who cannot come for a host of possible reasons can still drop in and take part. This report is written in early January, looking forward to spring 2023. More current York Branch information can be found on the Branch website (federalretirees.com/York).

The York Branch 2023 AGM is set for April 18; planning is underway. Please check the Branch website for current information. The location will probably be the Richmond Hill Community Centre (the traditional location on Avenue Rd), with a business meeting (we must), a guest speaker, and a light lunch. The business meeting will include regular elections (normally with a draft slate of candidates), approval or acceptance of 2022 financial statements, final 2023 budget and 2024 outlook, approval of reserve funds set aside for future expenses, and possibly bylaw changes. We'll also need to talk about things beyond routine Branch matters.

In 2023, our Association will be working on a new strategic plan for NAFR. Some of us remember such activities during our public service careers: sometimes they seemed just exercises in identifying possible exciting work in return for a bigger budget from Central Agencies. Since NAFR is our association, funded by our dues, we need to take a hard look at what NAFR - both the Branches and the Shefford Rd headquarters - is doing or should be doing. There has already been a survey – but just of Branch Presidents. Branches work to inform members and to gather their views to shape the future of our Association: we need members to turn out – in person or via videoconference – and do their part. To aid of this, we would like to have a discussion at our 2023 members' meetings on what you want from the Association, the role you envision for the Branch and equally important, what you feel the Association should not do.



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Apr 04,2023 May 02,2023 (online) Jun 6,2023 Sept 12,2023 Oct 3,2023 Nov 7,2023 (online) The aftermath of COVID (we dearly hope) has given us much to think about. The thought of being a prisoner in a small room – for our own good! – makes many of us shudder. The prospect and reality of the extension of Medical Assistance in Dying attracts some of us and frightens others. I do not like to think of a hospital as a place of being "put down" as well as a place of "making better". We don't like to think of such things – after all we've retired! - but we are going to need to take positions on such matters and make then known.

And we must not be complacent about our pensions. There does not seem to be any immediate threat, but we've all seen the way the economy is going. Continued Government open spending cannot continue forever, and when the screws tighten the search for "fat cats" will start again. We pensioners pay taxes like all Canadians, but we want to keep what we paid for and what we were promised.

### York Board 2022-23

President: Fred Conway Website Editor: Frank Froude

905-669-4489 905-775-7346

Vice-President: Vacant Advocacy Lead: Sharon Carson

905-898-1835

Secretary: Ed Millar Director at Large: Joe Vettese

905-833-5883 905-884-1933

Treasurer: Tom Nichols Director at Large: Vasdev Sawhney

905-505-2079 905-303-3733

Membership: Linda Laffree Director at Large: Sharon Paris

416-225-9066 905-836-1065

Event Coordinator: Marie Macphee Prospective Director: You!

905-841-9244

#### **PARTICIPATE**

Please consider participating actively in Branch and Association activities.

The Branch would like

- Someone interested in updating the sound equipment to take advantage of the newer hearing aids. If you have a knack with electronics this could be you.
- •Someone to set up the equipment for general meetings.
- •You to join the Board to work on issues affecting Federal retirees

