



## July news from your branch

Your National Association of Federal Retirees Eastern Manitoba Branch board is up and running, and excited to support the Association and its members. This year, we are planning to hold **coffee chats** in Lac du Bonnet and Beausejour, an abbreviated **fall general meeting** and our annual spring **branch general meeting**, both in Pinawa. Recruitment is key for the longevity of our Association, as membership fees allow us to do the important work of protecting your pension and benefits. If you know of current or retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces or RCMP, please **encourage them to come to an event** or check out our branch page at [federalretirees.ca/easternmanitoba](http://federalretirees.ca/easternmanitoba).

Did you know, eligible members can also sign up to receive the latest news and resources from Federal Retirees? If you know of someone who may be interested, please [refer them to the Federal Retirees website](http://federalretirees.ca) to get the following member benefits free of charge:

- Breaking news
- Monthly newsletter
- Branch invites
- A subscription to *Sage60*, our quarterly online magazine

And speaking of advocacy, your team of national office staff and volunteers across the country are working hard. Over the years:

- We challenged the \$30-billion pension surplus grab from the public service, Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP superannuation accounts.
- Our lobbying led the government to annually increase the pensions of our members, retired public servants and their dependents, to keep up with the cost of living.
- In 2001, Federal Retirees' advocacy efforts led to the creation of a dedicated dental plan — the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP) — for all federal retirees.
- We lobbied to continue survivor benefits for surviving spouses who remarry and to give federal retirees who marry after retirement the right to obtain a survivor pension for their spouses.
- We've worked to ensure that the Supplementary Death Benefit improves and increases for federal retirees and veterans.

And past achievements include:

- **Improved retirement security** — Fighting Bill C-27 and Target Benefit Plan conversions, and putting retiree Phoenix issues on the agenda.
- **A national seniors' strategy** — Championing a national seniors strategy and calling for the appointment of a minister for seniors
- **Support for Canada's veterans** —Facilitating meaningful discussion on challenges facing veterans and their families

On a separate note, after 14 years of volunteering, **Maureen Macdonald** has retired from the board of the Eastern Manitoba Branch. A big thank you to Maureen for her service and well wishes for her next journey. We are now in need of a new secretary and would love to have a few other new board members as well. We are a small but energetic board looking for ways to enhance your experience as a member. If you think you can help as a board member or even as a “friend of the board,” assisting with odd jobs/events, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to me at **(431) 276-6222** or [easternmanitoba@federalretirees.ca](mailto:easternmanitoba@federalretirees.ca).

For our golfers, the **Winnipeg & District Branch** will be holding a **golf tournament** at the Scotswood Links in Elm Creek on Wednesday, Aug. 13, and is opening up several spots for teams from the Eastern, Central and Western Manitoba Branches. If you are interested in registering a team, [please check out the attached poster](#) and register directly with the Winnipeg & District Branch by July 28.

And finally, our **fall general meeting** has been booked for Oct. 7 — mark your calendars, and we hope to see you there. Have a wonderful summer and take care.

Sincerely,

**Alanna Wilcox**  
President, Eastern Manitoba Branch