

BRANCH REPORT

MB30 | WESTERN MANITOBA BRANCH

President's message

Greetings

I am enthusiastic about the goals that our branch has set for itself this year. Enhancing volunteer resources and operations will be the branch's primary goal. Our board of directors is inspired and committed. We are always looking for new and creative ways to interact with members and raise awareness of our branch among current federal employees. We must spread the word that the main purpose of our Association is to safeguard our pensions and benefits.

Our branch has maintained responsible financial management practises throughout the years. Now reforms to the CRA for non-profit organizations have increased the scrutiny of our financial records and has increased the need for detailed spending allocations. In 2023, as in the previous years, we had surplus funds that is calculated on excess amounts over normal operating expenditures. Most branches experienced a surplus due to inactivity during covid. Regulatory requirements necessitates these surpluses be addressed; therefore, the **Branch Infrastructure Reserve** was initiated. This is a unique reserve in that the money in this reserve is available to other branches through surplus allocation. The goal of this reserve is to help fellow branches finance necessary initiatives/purchases that cannot be funded within existing resources. We will be directing our surplus funds to this reserve.

In our Prairie District, we experienced the closure of the Lakeland Alberta Branch, centered in Cold Lake, Alberta. They have amalgamated with the Edmonton branch. Smaller branches need assistance to meet their goals and are challenged with securing volunteers.

A human resources plan with volunteer role definitions and a new volunteer orientation program are in the works for our branch. These initiatives are considered necessary in order to attract volunteers and offer an enriching experience.

Another focus for this year is to revive Membership Recruitment. We need to explore methods of educating prospective members.

It has become more challenging since few federal departments offer opportunities for our organization to address gatherings about the benefits of membership with our organization.



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We have an idea for Public Service Week which may involve an ice cream event! Please share any ideas you may have regarding branch recruitment. Our board of directors decided, after our successful 60th anniversary celebration, that we ought to have more enjoyable membership events.

We would be happy to hear your recommendations regarding future events that could be planned.



Respectfully,

Wendy Jarvin
President

Western Manitoba Branch 60th Anniversary Event, October 26

A superb dinner, entertainment, including a dance band provided attendees with an enjoyable evening at the Lady of the Lake in Brandon. An assortment of prize giveaways was provided by the Association's own Preferred Partners, particularly 1. Collette Travel; 2. Johnson Insurance; 3. Hearing Life Canada; 4. Arbor Memorial Inc.; 5. Relocation Services Group and 6. Tradex Management Inc.



Western Manitoba Branch Membership

Memberships change over the years. In 2023 we welcomed thirty new members.

October 2023:	750 members
October 2022:	770 members
October 2021:	767 members
October 2020:	797 members

Employment background of members:

Public Service	278
Canadian Forces	145
RCMP	63
Retirees' Partners or unstated	264

Communities where most of our members are located

Brandon 347	Boissevain 18
Carberry 13	Dauphin 32
Erickson 11	Flin Flon 8
Killarney 32	Minnedosa 15
Neepawa 14	Onanole 26
Rivers 11	Russell 11
Shilo 49	Souris 8
Swan River 7	The Pas 14

2023 - 2024 Western Manitoba Board of Directors

TITLE	TERM	EXPIRY	NOMINEES TO DATE
President	2 Years	2025	Wendy Jarvin
Vice-President	2 Years	2025	Brett Turner
Secretary	2 Years	2024	Kathie King
Treasurer	2 Years	2025	Rae McBurney
Director-at-large	2 Years	2024	Garnet Shearer
Director-at-large	2 Years	2025	Brad Kelso
Director-at-large	2 Years	2024	Terry Gunnlaugson
Director-at-large	2 Years	2024	Jane Brunet
Director-at-large	2 Years	2025	Val Zoerb (Appointed)

New board members will be required at the AGM this spring. Please consider how you could participate and support our branch. Nominations for board members occurs at the Annual General Meeting.

Remembrance Day Services



Donations were given to nine Royal Canadian Legion Branches in our area: Brandon, Killarney, Minnedosa, Erickson, Dauphin, Carberry, Boissevain, Neepawa and Souris.

Much appreciation to our members who presented the wreath at the Remembrance Day Services on behalf of Western Manitoba Branch: Killarney (Greg Ericson), Minnedosa (Joel Langley), Carberry (Ron Smith), Souris (Rae McBurney), Erickson (Wendy Jarvin)

“Reach out to members” Branch Project September 2023

Board members reviewed all 750 listed in the National Office's directory of members residing in the Western Manitoba Branch area to determine the accuracy of our members email addresses.

Subsequently, 214 letters and 120 emails were sent out for verification purposes along with determining whether members had successfully enrolled with Canada Life in the new PSHCP. The results from this initiative meant we added, modified or restored members' email addresses. Surprisingly, we had 22 letters returned with “not at this address”. Therefore, here’s a reminder for you to ensure you advise address changes with the association.



Update your Contact Information

Whenever you move, change your phone number, or get a new email address, it's important to keep your branch up to date with your new address information. You may be missing important news about events, branch and national breaking news, and preferred partner offerings. And, of course, you can't receive the quarterly *Sage* magazine if your address is not current! More and more, timely information needs a fast method of communication that regular mail just can't provide.

Please let us know your email address.

There are options available on the type of email you are willing to receive from us, and we can fill you in on that once we have your permission to use it. (Please note, in accordance with the Association's regulations, we do not disclose membership information, email addresses or mailing addresses.)

Let us know about any changes:

Through your branch:

Email: westernmanitoba@federalretirees.ca

Through our national office:

Phone: 1-855-304-4700

Email: service@federalretirees.ca

Quote for the Quarter

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

--Pablo Picasso