



BRANCH REPORT

MB30 | WESTERN MANITOBA

President's message

As you get ready for winter, I hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits. Everyone is busy during this time of year, whether it be putting winter tires on, planning winter getaways, arranging Christmas parties, finding the ideal presents, or volunteering in our local communities.

The articles in this report highlight our meetings and activities over the past year. Our branch's activities are possible because of the efforts of the branch's board of directors and volunteers. Without their help, we would not be able to keep our branch running, so a huge thank you to all our volunteers.

We want to acknowledge and recognize two of our long-time volunteers of our Branch who have stepped away from the board of directors, while still willing to help out from time to time. Garnet Shearer was our communications coordinator who looked after branch reports, such as this one, e-blasts to members communications in *Sage* magazine and on our website. Garnet was skilled at developing and improving tools to improve branch operations. He served as our executive editor.

Terry Gunnlaugson, a past president who has always brought a persistent hands-on attitude to our mission, is also leaving the board. Terry's recollections about the Association are always sought after, as his knowledge and advice are so respected and valued.

We are thrilled to have added a new member to the board, Jim Doppler. Jim has shown his enthusiasm for the intended objectives of our branch, and we will value his experience. He is also a very committed volunteer with the United Way organization and at CFB Shilo.

Members are the backbone of this organization. We understand that not everyone has the opportunity to volunteer their time. However, we represent your interests at District and National forums, cast votes on your behalf, and oversee the management of your branch assets. Your feedback on the branch operations, activities and contributions to future plans are highly valued.

We are always exploring new ways to connect with our members and potential members.

Recruitment of members and volunteers remains essential to our association. The Association will persist in its advocacy efforts. However, representing a larger membership enhances our bargaining power. Your

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contribution to recruiting new members is crucial as we strive to safeguard our pensions and benefits. We encourage you to invite your eligible family and friends to join our organization.

In closing, on behalf of your executive, I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and all the best for 2025.



Sincerely,

Wendy Jarvin
Branch President

General membership meeting — Jan. 4, 2024

Guest speaker: Christy Dzikowcz, executive director, Toba Centre for Children and Youth Inc., Winnipeg

At the recommendation of our branch secretary, former RCMP member, Kathleen King invited Christy Dzikowcz to give a presentation. The Toba Centre for Children & Youth is a charitable organization that coordinates a collaborative approach to interviewing child abuse victims and children who have witnessed violent crimes. It is Manitoba's only child advocacy center, focusing on the needs of children and youth who have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse or witnessed violence. The center is located at **225 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, Man. R3B 2A6**. They provide a safe and supportive environment for children to share their experiences and receive the necessary help and healing. If you or someone you know has experienced child abuse or witnessed violence, you can contact the center by calling **(204) 944-4200** or visiting their website at tobacentre.ca.



Christy Dzikowcz

Western Manitoba Branch annual general meeting — May 1, 2024



Wendy Jarvin and Don Partrick

Guest speaker: Don Partrick, Westman Prostrate Cancer Support Group

Don Partrick, a volunteer with the **Westman Prostrate Cancer Support Group** spoke passionately about prostate cancer prevention.

The support group is for prostate cancer survivors and those who are presently dealing with prostate cancer, along with spouses, partners, families and friends. The group provides for conversation and support, everyone is welcome. They meet the third Thursday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at Murray House, 521 Frederick St., Brandon. Contact Don Partrick at **(204) 729-7188** or by email at pardon@wcgwave.ca.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 3, Brandon

Here in Brandon, our member **Bob Patryluk** is a dedicated volunteer and “Sergeant at Arms” with the local Legion branch. **Federal Retirees supports the Legion as “veterans well being” is one of our priorities.** The Legion advocates for the care and benefits for all who served Canada, regardless of when or where they served. The Legion also provides representation and assistance to veterans, including currently serving Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members and their families.

At the May 1 annual general meeting, Bob discussed the advantages of being a member of the Legion and the less-known services provided by his branch — it's not only about bingo and meat draws. The Legion raises funds and supports essential services for those in need and responds to the unique needs of their community. In times of local or regional crisis, Legion Branches and Legionnaires are there to support those who have been adversely affected by an emergency.



Bob Patryluk

National Public Service Week

Branch awareness and recruitment ice cream event — Thursday, June 13, 2024

We had a successful “branch awareness and recruitment ice cream” event at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Facility (Research Station) in Brandon. The threat of rain and thunderstorms made us move indoors. We had a good turnout (100+ people), including approximately 45 summer students who enjoyed one or two Dixie cups along with research staff. Our past president, Terry, was busy, explaining what Federal Retirees was all about and handing out bag holders, etc. much to the appreciation of the ice cream ladies: Val, Rae and Kathie. Susan J. Bach, PhD associate director, research, development and technology, thanked us, encouraged the employees to give us a round of applause and said we are welcome back anytime.



Terry Gunnlaugson



"Ice Cream Gals" board members: Val Zoerb, Rae McBurney and Kathleen King

2024-2025 Western Manitoba Board of Directors

Position	Name
President	Wendy Jarvin
Vice-president	Brett Turner
Treasurer	Rae McBurney
Secretary	Kathie King
Director-at-large	Brad Kelso
Director-at-large	Jane Brunet
Director-at-large	Val Zoerb
Director-at-large	Jim Doppler
Friends of the board:	Terry Gunnlaugson and Garnet Shearer

Email addresses continue to be the best mechanism to send timely news, invitations and reminders to members, so, please ensure yours is up to date. Please contact the branch email westernmanitoba@federalretirees.ca. to make sure your contact details are current. Please let us know if there is anything that is of interest to you, or if you have recommendations for guest speakers or branch events that could benefit other members.

Branch website: Our branch page is hosted on the National Association of Federal Retirees' website. To reach us that way, visit federalretirees.ca/westernmanitoba. We have added sub-pages to our site that include financial history and meeting minutes.