

# BRANCH REPORT

## MB30 | WESTERN MANITOBA BRANCH

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### President's message

As I write this, it is hard to believe that fall is already upon us, and that winter is quick on its heels. Last year, we had a delay in shipping out the Sage magazine because there were issues with the printers, paper shortage – I believe. Hopefully, this year, this bulletin will be in your hands prior to Christmas.

Over the past couple of years many of us have experienced challenging times with Covid-19, lack of products and services as we were “shut down” and now we are experiencing inflation and labour shortages. There is and always will be constant change. We must try to remain upbeat and positive going forward.

We are very happy to represent you and all retirees to the rest of Canada. Our purpose is to ensure that the entire country is aware of the service you have performed, and to ensure that the retirement you have worked for and paid for is secure.

There are some rumblings that there will be political pressures to find ways to balance budgets and reduce government spending. Our association is preparing to defend your pensions and benefits vigorously and proactively from any anticipated threats. We will all need to voice our concerns through advocacy campaigns.

Our membership comprises a population that is vulnerable to Covid and other viruses. The pandemic exposed problems within Canadian long-term care and home care systems. More than 80 per cent of Canada's total COVID-19 deaths occurred in long-term care. Our Association has addressed these problems and outlined action plans. We urge you to read more on older adult care and the recommendation for improvements on the national association's website:

[Federal Retirees COVID-19 Information Hub | Federal Retirees](#)

and in particular; the brief that was presented to government:

[Read Federal Retirees' brief on COVID-19 and seniors.](#)

PARTNER BANNER

## Branch membership and activities

This past year we welcomed 18 new members and 4 members that transferred from other branches.

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

### Employment background of members:

Public Service 282  
 Canadian Forces 151  
 RCMP 62  
 Retirees' Partners 275

443 members reside in the Brandon-Souris Riding (Larry Maguire, MP)

251 members reside in Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa Riding (Dan Mazier, MP)

29 members reside in Churchill Riding

47 members reside outside Western Manitoba region.

Where are **most** of our members located?

Brandon 332	Boissevain 16
Carberry 12	Dauphin 34
Erickson 13	Flin Flon 8
Killarney 29	Minnedosa 13
Neepawa 14	Onanole 25
Rivers 11	Russell 11
Shilo 48	Souris 13
Swan River 8	The Pas 12

### **Veteran's Week:**

Last November representatives from our branch attended three Remembrance Day Services and presented wreaths. Ideally, we would like to have a NAFR member attend the Legion branches (outside of Brandon) to present wreaths or donate to their poppy funds at services. If you would be willing to attend a Remembrance Day service at your rural legion branch, please let us know. We have a budget to cover the costs of wreaths and donations. Thanks to members who attended and placed wreaths in 2021:

Kathy King (Brandon) – “I was honoured to lay the wreath, and all went well. I think it is important to have someone there in person to lay the wreath. To me, it shows respect, that it means enough to actually show up.”

Greg Ericson (Killarney) - “There were approximately 50 to 60 people out for the service in Killarney and I was honoured to lay the wreath for the NAFR.”

Wendy Jarvin (Erickson) – “There were approximately 40 people in attendance. It was an honour to attend, my father was a veteran.”

## Holiday Greetings:

In addition to our Season Greetings eblast that was sent to all members, we placed Holiday Greeting advertisements in the following community papers in 2021:

1. South Mountain Press / Crossroads.
2. Shilo Stag
3. Brandon Sun
4. Minnedosa Tribune
5. Boissevain Recorder

The branch plans to budget and place Holiday Greeting advertisements each year to include other communities on a rotating basis in our branch area.

## You and Your Survivor Workbooks:

Following Medicine Hat Branch's endeavor, we developed a 9 page insert listing current contacts (Government phone numbers etc.) to accompany the workbooks. We delivered and mailed over 34 workbooks with the insert to members requesting them.

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:

We will be resuming our plans for a social event to commemorate the occasion. As per our by-laws, "the Branch is an entity and agent of the National Association of Federal Retirees established by the Charter issued by the Board, on February 22, 1980". We had to delay our plans in 2020, now your directors are hoping to hold the celebration in Spring 2023.

The National Association will be celebrating their **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary** in 2023, and they have some special promotions planned to observe that achievement.

Your Board of Directors have been meeting regularly via "Zoom." Due to the continuing shadow of COVID-19, the branch Annual General Meeting in April 2021 was a virtual one – and we made quorum. Regrettably, we did not fill all our executive positions, we still have a vacant vice-president and a vacant secretary position. The minutes from the "Annual General Meeting" are posted on our branch website.

<https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/branches/manitoba/western-manitoba-branch> .

<b>Board of Directors</b>		<b>Expiry Date</b>
President	Wendy Jarvin	2023
Vice-president	Vacant	2024
Treasurer	Rae McBurney	2023
Secretary	Vacant	2024
Director-at-large	Garnet Shearer	2023
Director-at-large	Brett Turner	2023
Director-at-large	Brad Kelso	2023
Director-at-large	Jane Brunet	2024
Director-at-Large	Terry Gunnlaugson	2024
Director-at-Large	Kathie King	2024

Function/Activity

Branch advocacy liaison officer	(Vacant)
Branch communications coordinator	Garnet Shearer
Branch Facebook page	Wendy Jarvin
Media coordinator	Brad Kelso
Meeting place advisor	(Vacant)
Nominating committee chairperson	William Stadnyk

Due to the lack of in-person activities all branches are having difficulties securing volunteers at this time,. At our branch, we have adopted the message that any Involvement with the branch would be appreciated and communicated the idea of a member being a "Friend of the Board" and helping out from time to time. We have small projects that need temporary help. If you want more information, please contact me by email [westernmanitoba@federalretirees.ca](mailto:westernmanitoba@federalretirees.ca)

Over the past few years, the Association and your Board of Directors have focused on getting the message out about the helpful information that the Federal Retirees are providing to its members; and the public - concerning protection of pensions and health plans, advocating for seniors, along with all the other benefits of belonging to our Association, including our preferred partners.

I ask you to consider what friends and acquaintances are eligible for membership and would benefit by becoming a Federal Retirees member? Membership is open to employees and retired members of the Public Service, Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP. Membership fees remain low at less than \$6 per month or \$70 per year for couples and less than that for a single membership. If you need a handy one-page handout called "Why Should You Join NAFR?" please go to our website to view a copy.

Your Board of Directors are grateful for the comments and suggestions we receive and the opportunity to improve how we serve you. These past 2 years has thrown some difficult challenges at us but let us look inside our hearts and find the things that we are really thankful for and celebrate them. So this holiday season, please take some time to give thanks, be thoughtful of others and give when and where you can.

Best of luck and good health in 2023!



Wendy Jarvin  
President

We encourage you to visit [Federal Retirees on Facebook](#) to view the latest news and activities of our Association. And while you are there, check out our own Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FederalRetireesWesternManitoba> . Be sure to "Like" the Facebook pages to get regular updates.