



Federal Retirees Edmonton Branch  
E - Newsletter  
November 2019

*Please share this newsletter with any member or potential member you know who may not receive e-mail.*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Ross Gillespie, President  
rossgill@outlook.com

***On behalf of your Edmonton Branch Board,  
Season Greetings, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***

The fall of 2019 was a busy one for Edmonton Branch. September 4<sup>th</sup> was our Fall General Membership Meeting (GMM). September 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> we were in Yellowknife meeting with members and recruiting new members.

September 18<sup>th</sup>, we met with members in Grande Prairie and October 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> was the Regional Meeting in Red Deer with other Alberta branches. Mixed in with this was advocacy activities for the October 15<sup>th</sup> Federal Election as well as planning for our on-going recruiting activities and our Winter/Christmas GMM on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Details on these are elsewhere in this newsletter.

For the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 GMM, all members are encouraged to “Bring a prospective member” and both you and the prospective member will be entered into a prize draw. If the prospective member joins within 60 days, both of you will be entered into a second prize draw. This is in addition to any prizes you may win in the national MEGA recruiting drive that was announced in the fall edition of Sage which ends on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our trip to Yellowknife was both busy and fruitful. We were breaking new ground by seeking to recruit from amongst currently working NWT Territorial employees, as well as current Federal employees. We presented to fifty-one individuals on the benefits of membership in NAFR and also provided them with information on their pension plan. By early October we had 29 new members, consisting of 13 couples and 3 singles. Our experience in Edmonton suggests that new members will continue to join for at least several months. There are about 5,300 Territorial employees and 500 federal employees in the NWT and an unknown number of current retirees. With just under 300 NAFR members at present, there is a lot of potential for growth. The presentation on the Public Service Pension Plan by a certified presenter, a topic that all current employees are anxious to hear more about, brings them in the door and the benefits of membership convinces them to sign up. We were a relatively unknown organization on this first trip, but I believe that knowledge of us will continue to spread as attendees talk to their friends and colleagues. We are planning to return in 2020 to build on our success. Also in the recruiting area, we will be repeating our Pension Information Sessions in Edmonton on January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1st, 2020.

As you know, we have three General Membership Meetings each year, in May, September and December. A meal is enjoyed, branch business is conducted, and a limited amount of time is available for presentations on topics of interest to our members.



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In 2020, we are going to pilot stand-alone information sharing sessions with two or three presentations of interest to members. These will be afternoon sessions that will include coffee, tea, etc. and a light snack. If it is as successful as we anticipate, they will be repeated (on other topics) two or three times per year. Please tell us the topics that you would like to see presentations on by emailing [edmonton@federalretirees.ca](mailto:edmonton@federalretirees.ca) or by phoning 780-413-4687 or 1-855-376-2336.

**BULLETIN**  
**Pension indexing rate for 2020**

Effective Jan. 1, 2020, the indexing increase for public service, Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP and federally appointed judges' pensions will rise to two per cent. More information on the calculation of this index can be found in [the News and Views section of our website.](#)

**UPCOMING EDMONTON BRANCH EVENTS**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019**

**Christmas/Winter General Members Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**

- Royal Canadian Legion, Kingsway Branch, 14339 – 50th Street, Edmonton
- Doors Open at 10:30 AM for Social Hour, Dinner is served at Noon
- Admission: \$20.00 per person

**Presentations:**

We are pleased to present **Colleen Frances Lazoruk**, Vocalist and Saxophonist, for your entertainment.



Colleen Frances Lazoruk

**RSVP:** Heather-Anne Elliott-Martin (Before November 29, 2019)  
Phone 780-942-2664  
E-mail: [nafsocial@yahoo.ca](mailto:nafsocial@yahoo.ca)



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Reservations are required as we must pay for the number we declare to the caterer.

Anyone wanting to attend *ONLY* the meeting, please indicate so in your RSVP. Space will be reserved. Meeting will start about 1:00 PM.

***When you RSVP, please let us know if you are bringing a potential member guest or guests, and how many.***

PLEASE NOTE: Membership is open to anyone who is recipient of a Federal pension and retirement benefits or is a member of the pension plan for current and former members of Canada's Federal Public Service, Armed Forces and the RCMP. This includes those currently employed.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS:**

At this General Membership meeting, a motion will be introduced to collapse (close) our **\$45,313.28 "Defence of Benefits" Reserve Fund**. *We are no longer able to hold a reserve fund for this purpose.*

Additional motions will be presented to create reserve funds which are anticipated to total approximately the same amount. The purposes of these reserves may include Advocacy, Equipment, Recruiting, Outreach to members in other communities in our branch area, Training, and Support of small branches.

Additional information will be available at the meeting. Or, inquiries may be directed to 780-413-4687 (1-855-376-2336 toll free) or [edmonton@federalretirees.ca](mailto:edmonton@federalretirees.ca).

**ADVOCACY AND RECRUITMENT**



David P Riffel, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP,  
Advocacy and  
Recruitment

**Advocacy.** Following Provincial and Federal Elections, NAFR's Priorities have not changed. We will continue to advocate to the new governments on the following issues:

- **Make Retirement Income More Secure:** Canadians deserve a secure and dignified retirement, with a guaranteed and sufficient source of income.
- **Prioritize Pharmacare:** All Canadians should have access to the medications they need. A universal, public, comprehensive, accessible and portable national pharmacare program would cut costs and lead to a healthier population.



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- **Improved Well-Being for Veterans and Their Families:** Veterans have served Canada and were willing to risk their lives to do so. Now it's Canada's turn to support veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to ensure that they and their families have the well-being, care and benefits they deserve.
- **Implement A National Seniors Strategy:** Canada needs a National Seniors Strategy that optimizes health, financial security and social inclusion so all Canadians can age with dignity.

Additional information on these priorities is available by accessing the association's website at [federalretirees.ca](http://federalretirees.ca). Don't forget to check out the Edmonton Branch web pages while you are there.

**Recruitment.** The Edmonton Branch continues to engage and recruit new members and we ask our current members to also do so.

The Branch will be hosting two more Pension Information Sessions, which incorporate NAFR Information/Recruitment and MEDOC Travel Insurance presentations, in Edmonton Saturday, **January 25<sup>th</sup> 2020** and **February 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**. These sessions will be directed at current Federal Public Service employees who are eligible for NAFR membership. Working Public Servants in the Edmonton area will be invited to attend. More details will be published in December.

**WE WELCOME VOLUNTEERS!**

The Edmonton Branch is continually in need of volunteers to fill positions on the Board of Directors or committees. ***We believe you have valuable skills and experience to share.*** This is an opportunity to put your years of experience and your valuable skills to work, helping the branch achieve our goals to protect Public Service Pensions and Benefits, Enhancing the quality of life for all seniors, inform and assist federal retirees with regard to their rights, and co-operate with other seniors'/pensioners' organizations on mutual objectives. We welcome everyone who wants to actively support the organization.

A special perk: you will get to work and associate with some pretty great people.

To share your skills and talents, please email us at [edmonton@federalretirees.ca](mailto:edmonton@federalretirees.ca) or phone **780-413-4687**. From outside Edmonton call toll free **1-855-376-2236**. We'll be sure to get back to you. ***You can make a difference.***

***Wishing you and your families good wishes and happiness for Christmas and throughout the New Year.***