



BRANCH REPORT

MB30 | Western Manitoba

CONTACT US

425 – 457 9th Street
Brandon, MB
R7A 3K8
(855) 304-4700
westernmanitoba@federalretirees.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

Western Manitoba Fall General Meeting

Date: October 20, 2026

**Time: 11:30 a.m. to
1:30 p.m.**

Riverbank Discovery
Center

545 Conservation Drive
Brandon, MB

President's message

As we step into Fall, we welcome a season of changes. The weather cools, colours change, gardens are harvested and if you are lucky — someone is giving you some of their bounty — tomatoes or crab-apples?

When autumn settles in and children head back to school and familiar routines, many of us find ourselves inspired to make plans of our own. For seniors, it's a season that naturally nudges us toward hobbies, learning, and community life. Advertisements for art classes, exercise groups, curling leagues, line dancing, and technology workshops start popping up everywhere, reminding us that there's always something new to explore. Fall has a way of boosting creativity and encouraging fresh starts. It's a wonderful time to get involved in your community — perhaps even through volunteering — and to embrace activities that bring joy, connection, and purpose.

As you read through this branch report and our recent activities, you'll see the many ways volunteers contribute to our success. Our board members don't just volunteer with us — they share their time and talents across the community, often juggling multiple roles. Individual members also make meaningful contributions, each one strengthening the fabric of their communities. I hope you enjoy their stories. Volunteering isn't only about doing good for others. It's also about feeling connected, purposeful, and inspired. Giving your time can spark a deep sense of connection and purpose.



Sincerely,

Wendy Jarvin
Branch President

Mega Recruitment Drive

**Refer a member to Federal Retirees
for a chance to WIN terrific prizes!**

Fill out a ballot at federalretirees.ca/mrd

federalretirees.ca
retraitesfederaux.ca

belairdirect.

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Branch Highlights

CFB Shilo Annual Symposium



Vice-President Jim Doppler at the Shilo Symposium

The branch continued its focus on member support, information sharing, and recruitment with a return to the CFB Shilo Annual Symposium on October 22, 2025. This was our second year hosting an exhibit, featuring national and branch materials — and a festive bucket of Halloween treats. The event offered an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the association, meet potential new members, and strengthen our presence within the Shilo community.

National Award Winner – Terry Gunnlaugson



At our Nov. 4, 2025, General Meeting, we proudly recognized Terry as the recipient of the National Association of Federal Retirees Volunteer Award, presented June 2025 at the Annual Meeting in Gatineau. During our meeting, Terry was also honoured with a Certificate of Congratulations from the Hon. Grant Jackson, MP for Brandon–Souris. For more than 50 years, Terry has exemplified the spirit of volunteerism at the local, provincial, and national levels. He has guided our branch for over 15 years in roles including Branch President, Vice-Pres/Past Pres, and Director. His dedication extends well beyond our organization. Since joining the Wheat City Lions Club in 1976, he has taken on numerous leadership roles, including three terms as President. Terry's enthusiasm remains as strong as ever, he continues to give generously of his time energy, and heart.

Volunteer Recognition – Larry Weisgerber



At our Jan. 20, 2026, meeting, the branch recognized and thanked member Larry Weisgerber for his valuable support. Larry played a key role in helping the branch acquire and secure a NAFR wreath — supplied by the Carberry Legion — for the Remembrance Day Service at CFB Shilo. The wreath is now stored on base for future ceremonies. Larry will continue to represent our branch at Remembrance Day services when he is able. As a retired CFB Shilo employee, he remains a strong link to the base community. With 45 branch members living on or near the base, his presence and relationships are invaluable, and he continues to support our recruitment efforts.

Royal Canadian Legion – 100 Years of Service to Canada



Robert (Bob) Patryluk, Sergeant-at-Arms at Brandon Legion Branch #3 and a NAFR member since 2005, spoke at our Jan. 20th General Members Meeting about the Royal Canadian Legion's 100th Anniversary. To mark this milestone, all new members can join the Legion for free in 2026. Bob highlighted how membership strengthens the Legion's work in supporting Veterans and communities nationwide, while also offering many volunteer opportunities at their local branches.

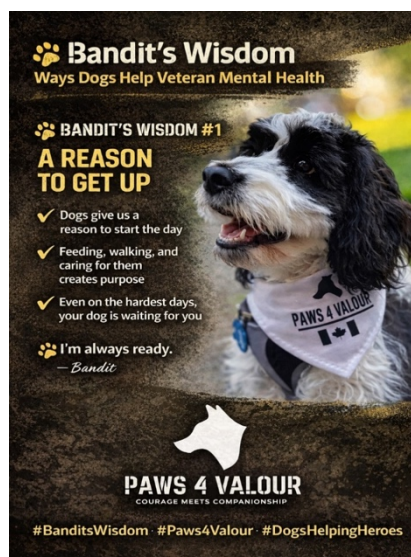
Remembrance Day Participation



The branch continued its annual awareness initiative by taking part in Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11, 2025. The branch provided funds to secure 11 wreaths at Legion branches across our region. We were also fortunate to have our own members volunteer to present the wreaths on behalf of the branch, ensuring a meaningful and respectful presence at each ceremony.

Member Kathy Jasienczyk at Neepawa RCL ceremony

Paws 4 Valour – Rebuilding Connection, One Loyal Companion at a Time



Members Joel and Shauna Langley are the heart behind Paws 4 Valour in Western Manitoba, creating a welcoming environment where veterans and first responders can train with their dogs and rebuild community. With expert guidance from 20/20 Canine Companions and PAT Dogs, participants receive free, caring training funded by Project Resilience 911. Though based in Westman, the program's online presence allows it to support people well beyond the region. By combining skilled dog training with peer connection, Paws 4 Valour helps participants rediscover teamwork, resilience, and belonging—often beginning with a simple wagging tail. For support or questions, contact Joel and Shauna Langley at info@paws4valour.com

Facebook: Paws 4 Valour

Did You Know

A useful Website Validator www.scam-detector.com

This website can be used to validate websites as a measure to reduce phishing and help eliminate scams.

Manitoba Seniors Eyeglass Program

If you've experienced delays in receiving reimbursement from Canada Life for eyeglass purchases, here's why. Manitoba Health provides a small subsidy (up to \$75) toward eyeglasses for seniors 65 and older. Under Treasury Board directives — not Canada Life — this subsidy application must be processed first, even if you are not eligible, before Canada Life can assess your claim. Manitoba Health is currently experiencing processing delays of 3-6 months. Once your subsidy is reviewed, Manitoba Health will mail you a letter confirming your entitlement. This letter must then be forwarded to Canada Life so your claim can be completed. We are working to find a solution as this delay in receiving reimbursement is an inconvenience for our members.

Change of Email Address

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 if you are not receiving recent emails. Or through our national office: Phone: 1-855-304-4700 Email: service@federalretirees.ca

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 [Federal Retirees Western Manitoba](#). Be sure to “Like” the Facebook pages to get regular updates.