

# BRANCH REPORT

## NB65 | Fundy Shores Branch

### President's message

Dear members of the Fundy Shores Branch,

2025 is going to be quite an eventful year, one which will impact all of us. Our world is living in turbulent and uncertain times. We have seen the impact here in Canada with the resignation of the prime minister and a federal election looming with many issues that are of great importance to us as federal retirees. Those issues will be part of the national conversation and include long-term care along with research showing that many seniors feel isolated and overwhelmed. Let me share with you a story to illustrate that point.

I was recently in the hospital for an operation. Once back in the ward, one of the other patients struck up a conversation about his health issues and the stress he was feeling due to a myriad of health problems. Over the course of the conversation, I discovered he was a federal retiree and had been with the Coast Guard for over 20 years but he was not aware of his benefits via Canada Life. He had the card but knew nothing about what he was fully entitled to. He is not an unusual case. I find in my conversations with seniors many feel vulnerable and unaware of what resources they can call upon when various health issues impact them. I believe, that sometimes, by listening to others and asking gentle questions, we allow others to open up and share their stories. This gentleman is one of us but unaware of the support he might be able to receive. I hope maybe this story prompts us to reach out to our fellow seniors to offer support and presence.

Whilst our Association must focus on critical issues such as governance of the association and setting priorities for the branches, the encounter I had with this fellow patient brought into sharp focus our need to be truly present to each other. I think that is the ultimate strength of the association. Thus, I cordially invite you to our annual meeting to be held on **April 29, commencing at 4 p.m.** The venue will be the same as last year which is the **The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 69, 714 Wilson St., Saint John.** A dinner will be served and a brief business meeting will take place but the main thrust of the meeting is to provide an opportunity to connect and interact with each other. As I write I have again reached out to the provincial minister for seniors, the Hon. Lyne Chantal Boudreau, to see if she will be part of our gathering and have a conversation with us regarding her vision and priorities. Also, one of our two Atlantic national board



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members will join us to share with us important initiatives that are being undertaken by the Association's board of directors.

Please mark this date in your calendar and make a point of inviting and bringing along a federal retiree who might not know much about our Association. And if you know a person still working in the government, invite them to come along since we advocate on their behalf to ensure they will have the same wonderful benefits we rely upon. Further details about the evening will be forthcoming via a few email blasts.

Take care,

**Geoffrey Howson**

President of the Fundy Shores Branch

