

# NL Retired Teachers' Foundation Report

by Geraldine Wall

The Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation continues working to fulfill its mandate of providing assistance to provincial charities for children with special needs, and honouring the life and work of deceased colleagues through our Book of Remembrance. We are dependent on the generosity of our members and friends to achieve these goals. Funds are generated through an annual donation from our sponsoring body, the RTANL, donations from our seven Divisions, In Memoriam donations, bequests, and various other means initiated by the Divisions such as craft fairs, bakeless bake sales, etc., which have proven to be very successful and have generated large amounts. In Memoriam cards are available from any member of the Board and at funeral homes throughout the province (not all funeral homes display them, so you need to ask for them). It's a great way to remember a colleague and at the same time assist our special children. Your Foundation is a registered charity, and 100% of funds raised go directly to services for children.

All operational costs of the Foundation are provided by our sponsoring body, the RTANL. To assist in keeping operational costs minimal, a new method of Board of Director Election has been initiated. The Board will consist of seven members, all from the same Division, plus the Past Chairperson (to serve a one-year term), and the President of the RTANL. It is our desire to rotate every two years, at which time another division would take on the operation. This would enable more members to get familiar with our Foundation and encourage greater participation of newer members. The Foundation Constitution was updated following BGM 2018 to reflect minor housekeeping items, and to be consistent with RTANL Constitutional changes.

The newly elected Board of Directors are from Western Division. The first meeting was held on November 13, 2018, at Sobeys Community Room in Corner Brook. This location is provided free of charge. The purpose of this meeting was to familiarize new Directors with Foundation goals,

the means by which they are achieved, and the criteria followed in selection of eligible charities to receive donations. The spring meeting has been scheduled for May 10, 2019. The purpose of this meeting is to consider any new request from charities. Such requests will be considered, as well as discussion around other eligible charities to receive donations this year. These donations are dependent on availability of funds for the year. This is not a guaranteed annual donation. Each charity is evaluated annually according to need and funding they receive from other sources. The decision on charities of choice for 2019 will be decided at that time and they will be informed at that time.

We are still not getting information on our deceased colleagues for the Book of Remembrance. To date, we have received just a few information forms. We encourage all members to submit information for deceased colleagues so they can be recognized in our Book. We ask Divisions to encourage families of deceased members to submit the information as well. Previously compiled books are housed at The Rooms in St. John's. We presently compile information electronically on the RTF site (which is included on the NLTA webpage under the RTANL link). The form is available and can be completed easily and quickly.

Once again, we extend a sincere thank you to the RTANL, our seven divisions, and all members and friends who donate so generously to our Foundation. We could not continue to build on our legacy without your help.

## **Members of the Retired Teachers' Foundation:**

Geraldine Wall	Chairperson (Corner Brook)
Lily Critch	Vice-Chairperson (Steady Brook)
Roberta Pafford	Treasurer (Corner Brook)
Jane Murphy	Secretary (Benoit's Cove)
Agnes Hughes	Member at Large (Corner Brook)
Selena Pieroway	Member at Large (Pasadena)
Elizabeth Thomey	Member at Large (Deer Lake)
Dianne Squarey	Past Chairperson (St. John's)

## Overview of the Purpose and Activity of the Retired Teachers' Foundation

The purposes of the Foundation are two-fold:

- (a) to honor the life and work of former teachers of the province; and
- (b) to operate exclusively as a charitable organization to assist institutions and groups that provide medical treatment and/or educational training for children who are incapacitated.

The recipients of our help are registered charities as well, so we are complimentary in helping them reach their goals, for example, in providing specific equipment that meets a child's special need. This Foundation is unique in that:

- (a) no part of the principal fund is used except to produce interest;
- (b) the Board of Directors are volunteers and receive absolutely no expenses from the Foundation;
- (c) the interest earned annually is disbursed by contributions to other charitable children's organizations;
- (d) expenses incurred for postage, stationary and other office supplies are paid by the sponsoring group, which is the Retired Teachers' Association.

The Foundation was conceived by the late C. Lloyd Buffett in 1983 and created with the assistance of the RTANL Central Division, who provided sponsorship for many years. It was incorporated in 1985 and received official status as a charitable organization in 1987. The RTANL, during BGM 1994, voted unanimously to assume responsibility for sponsorship. All seven Divisions support the Foundation by undertaking various fundraisers (i.e. bakeless bake sales, auctions, ticket sales on various paintings and craft items, socials, donations in memory of individual deceased members) plus "lump sum" donations from Divisions in memory of deceased teachers passing away during each year. The Sisters of Mercy also donate money upon the death of a member. Thus, each year the Foundation is able to donate approximately \$30,000 to children's charities **to bring our grand total since 1987 to \$369,750**. Contributions may be made to the Foundation from anyone who wishes to honor the memory of deceased teachers: **Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation, 3 Kenmount Road, St. John's, NL, A1B 1W1**.

## RTANL MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

On **January 15, 2019** the fee for members of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (RTANL) increased from \$0.75 per pay period to **\$1.00 PER PAY PERIOD** for a total annual membership fee of \$24.00.

The increase, recommended by the RTANL Provincial Executive, was endorsed by the Biennial General Meeting held in St. John's on October 2-4, 2018.

In order to work effectively, the Provincial Executive members (who often reside at great distances from each other) need to meet at least twice each year. The Provincial Executive will also meet with the Division Presidents and the Retired Teachers' Foundation at certain times. The cost of transportation, hotel accommodations and meals has all increased considerably since the fee of \$18.00 was approved at BGM in 2002. The RTANL also has financial commitments to the Newfoundland and Labrador Coalition of Seniors and Retirees, the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART), and the Eastern Canada Retired Teachers' Organization (ECRTO). Be assured that the Executive and Committee members endeavour to keep a careful eye on expenses to get the greatest value for the dollar.

