

# Retired Teachers' Foundation Biennial Report 2016-18

*E. Dianne Squarey, Chair 2016-18*

It is one of a kind! We have heard it many times! It is the Retired Teachers' Foundation!

I feel honoured to have been chair of the Foundation for 2016-18. It has been a busy two years and the Board has worked diligently on your behalf. We have held six meetings, five of which were back to back with Provincial meetings in order to help offset costs.

As many of you are aware, the decision was made during the 1980s at Central Division to assist the most vulnerable children of our province in honour of deceased colleagues. From this ideal, our Foundation was born. It is a registered charity under the Canada Revenue Agency Act. Since the 2006-08 BGM of the Retired Teachers' Provincial Association, it has operated at arm's length from Provincial, but under its sponsorship. To the Provincial body of the RTANL and the NLTA support staff, we say a sincere thank you for their advice, their assistance when required and the provision of financial support to operate the Foundation. The Board has no monies of its own.

Every dollar received goes directly out to the children of this province for which it was intended. It is costly to run a Foundation. Costs incurred are covered from a percentage of members' fees channelled through the Provincial Body. This term we had three members from Western division, one from Central Division, one from Con-Tri and three members from Avalon East as well as the President of the RTANL. No matter where meetings were held, related costs were the same. And they were high! It is our recommendation that, in order to defray such costs, the main body of the Board come from the same division and change every two years if possible. It does not require any change in our Constitution or By-Laws. It would also serve to highlight the Foundation in the various Divisions over a period of time. In today's world, meetings can certainly be held electronically. Indeed, this avenue must be explored. For myself, I sincerely believe that, even using this format, Board members must be able to meet "face to face".

The NL Retired Teachers' Foundation continues to significantly make donations to Newfoundland

and Labrador children's charities. During the past two years, \$58,000 was donated to 6/7 various charities. The recipient charities are chosen on an individual basis. Neither the charity nor the amount of the donation is guaranteed. Charities are reviewed annually. To date, \$313,800 has been given with \$3,589.15 in a savings account to be added to donations in the next fiscal year.

Charities in receipt of donations in 2018 include:

- NL Candlelighters – \$3,000
- NL CNIB Post-Secondary Orientation Program – \$3,000
- NL Downs Syndrome Society – \$3,000
- NL Mazol Shriners Patient Transportation Fund – \$7,500
- NL Rainbow Riders Children's Services – \$3,000
- NL Diabetes Association Children's Services/Camp Douwanna – \$3,000
- War Amps Champs Program for NL Children's Services – \$7,500

From where do these funds originate?

- Donations to "In Memoriam" is one source. (It is worth repeating that for every dollar donated to "In Memoriam", 100 percent goes to assist a child in our province). Updated "In Memoriam Cards" have been designed and printed for your use. They can be obtained from your Division or in respective funeral homes.
- The generous contributions of each of the Divisions and the Provincial body of the RTANL. Certainly, there would be little funds to distribute without the Divisions. They hold auctions, craft sales and bakeless bake sales in order to help. A sincere thank you is extended to all our Divisions for their hard work.
- Bequests. We were just recently advised of such a bequest from the estate of a deceased colleague. Be assured it will be used wisely.

Generally, the Foundation itself does not raise money. It has been done three times in its history. The third time was in the past year. Members, wanting to help, donated several items to the

Foundation. The Board decided to put these items on tickets province-wide. Again, it was the Divisions that made it successful. Certainly, all members of the Board did their part. Despite all odds, it was successful. Just under \$3,000 was realized.

The winners were:

- 1st prize – Quilt donated by Mary Tobin: winner was Beverly O'Reilly (Central Division)
- 2nd prize – \$200 Canadian Tire gift card donated by two members of Avalon East: winner was Lorraine Drodge (Western Division)
- 3rd prize – Lap rug donated by a friend of the Foundation: winner was Sandra Carpenter (Bonavista Division)

Please be advised that while such generosity is appreciated, the Board respectfully recommends that such items be referred to the member's own Division to handle as they see fit.

How do we distribute the funds? The vehicle chosen was to work through recognized provincial charities which deal specifically with children's special needs. This term, a committee was struck to review all previous recipients and to present criteria to assist in the decision-making process. A further recommendation for 2018-19 is to develop a more formal application form. A charity would complete said form stating the intended purpose as to how the money would be used to support the incapacitated children of our province.

The Foundation's other mandate is to remember the life and work of our deceased colleagues. Over the past four decades, Books of Remembrance have been compiled. Past volumes are housed in The Rooms Archives here in St. John's. It is with a debt of gratitude to retired teacher, Joe LaFitte, and the NLTA support staff, that submitted profiles of deceased teachers since 2011 are now online at [www.nlta.nl.ca/rtf](http://www.nlta.nl.ca/rtf). A blank form can be found there for future submissions. Please peruse. You might even think about printing off the blank form for yourself. Upon completion of the relevant sections, place it among your own important papers. We can assure you that this will be a welcome help to your family at some later time. Relevant insert cards have also been designed and printed to place in a sympathy card.

These cards will help families explore this option should they wish to do so.

Two other items of note are:

- With the help of the NLTA Communications Department and the financial assistance of the Avalon East Division, a banner was designed and purchased. This banner highlights the work of the Foundation. It is hoped that the banner will be displayed at all important functions concerning the Foundation. It will be housed with the incoming Board in 2018-20.
- As noted in the RTANL provincial newsletter, the Board recommended updates to our Constitution and By-Laws. These changes were brought forward at our AGM on October 3, 2018. All were passed.

At our AGM on October 3, 2018, the newly elected Board members were as follows:

- Chair – Geraldine Wall
- Vice Chair – Lillian Critch
- Secretary – Jane Murphy
- Treasurer – Roberta Pafford
- Members at Large – Elizabeth Thomey, Selena Pieroway and Anges Hughes
- Other members – Dianne Squarey (Past Chair) and Albert Legge, President of RTANL

On behalf of the Board 2016-18, we wish them well. We know that under the leadership of Geraldine, the Foundation is in good hands.

In closing, it has been a pleasure to serve as your Chair. A sincere thank you is extended to all who assisted in any way and who offered encouragement along the journey. I would be remiss if I did not say a special thank you to the Board members who served with me these past two years.

Last, but not least, to my husband Art, without whom I could not have travelled this path. His technological know-how was invaluable to say the least!

I believe in the work of the Foundation. It is more than a dispenser of funds. For myself, the answer lies in the fact that just as we chose teaching as our life's work, we choose to continue to help the children of the province even in retirement. Be proud of your Foundation. Support it! Help it grow and develop.

Again, thank you to all.