



A Handbook
for New Members
of the
Retired Teachers' Association
of
Newfoundland and Labrador
2023

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I. Greetings from Provincial Executive

Greetings to all of you who have retired from teaching. You are now on a long coffee break, a continuous recess. Our Association (the RTANL) welcomes you. Promise yourself to enjoy every minute of your retirement! You have earned it.

We encourage you to attend your Division/Regional meetings and consider participating on a Provincial level. So get involved. Now is the time to do all those things which you kept delaying “until retirement”. Well, now is the tomorrow that you kept putting off yesterday!

Growing older is no more than a bad habit which a busy person has no time to form. Continued best wishes as you move into a new phase of your life.

With one slight change, we would like to quote a famous Irish Toast:

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
And rains fall softly upon your fields.
And throughout the years of your retirement,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.*

II. RTANL History

On November 12, 1971, representatives of the Newfoundland Teachers’ Association (NTA) met with 30 pensioned teachers at St. Andrew’s School, St. John’s, to consider a proposal to organize a Retired Teachers’ Association (RTA). The meeting was chaired by C. Lloyd Buffett. The following motions were put forth:

- (a) MOTION: (Walter Moore/Jesse Blackmore) “That this group organize into a Retired Teachers’ Association.” **CARRIED**
- (b) MOTION: (Cyril Bull/Ray Mercer) “That Walter Moore, Walter Hudson, Annie Noel and Sophie Edgcombe be the Interim Executive of the Association.” **CARRIED**

Shortly afterwards, a Western Division of retired teachers was similarly organized in Corner Brook. On June 13, 1980, a Central Division was organized in the Grand Falls-Gander area.

By the mid 1980s, the RTA was comprised of three Divisions (Central, Eastern and Western) plus a Provincial Council. In March 1989, with financial assistance from the NTA, members from the Divisions held an organizational meeting in Gander to reactivate the RTA. At that meeting, an Executive was elected and plans were made to hold a Reunion of retired teachers in October 1990 to coincide with what would be the First Biennial General Meeting (BGM) of the reactivated RTA.

As of 2023 there are **seven** Divisions, namely: Avalon East (1971); Western (1972); Burin (1997); Bonavista (1997); Con-Tri (1996); Coast of Bays (1997); Tri-Bay (2019); and **three** Regionals, namely: Labrador West (1998); Plaisance (2005); and Stephenville (2019).

At the first BGM, the Executive Committee outlined the objectives of the RTA, explained why all retired teachers should become members, presented a set of By-Laws for approval, and urged those present to carry the information back to their Divisions. The success of this gathering was evident from a motion passed unanimously “that a second Reunion be held to coincide with the next BGM”.

III. Historical Highlights

- Membership

In 1992, a motion was passed at BGM requesting that Government make automatic deductions of \$10.00 per year from all retired teachers. This began in 1993. Any teacher who wished could “opt out”. Membership increased dramatically. However, automatic deductions were later discontinued, and now retired teachers wishing to become members of the RTANL must submit a membership application.

- Name Change

In 1994, to reflect the fact that our membership included retired teachers who had taught in or belonged to the Labrador portion of our Province, the RTA became the RTANL.

- Structure

The RTANL is comprised of a Provincial Executive, plus a number of Divisions. As per Article VII of the Constitution, a Division may form one or more Regionals, and, with the approval of the Provincial Executive, such Regionals may become Divisions.

- Publications

A suggestion at BGM 1996 resulted in a motion to have a “book of memories” published. The result was **Tales Told By Teachers, Volume I**, published in 1998, containing a collection of the experiences of 98 retired teachers. It was so successful that there was a second printing, and a second volume printed in 2010.

- Biennial General Meeting (BGM)

The meeting place and date of BGM is decided by the Provincial Executive at the first meeting of its term of office. From 1990 to 2004 these BGMs were held in Gander. The ninth was held in St. John’s in 2006 and continues to be held on a rotational basis in various parts of the province. At BGM 2022, a motion was passed to have every SECOND BGM take place in Gander.

- Reunions

The practice has been to hold a Reunion to coincide with the BGM. However, the decision to hold a Reunion is decided by a vote at BGM.

- Retired Teachers' Foundation

The Foundation was set up in 1982 by Central Division and incorporated in 1985. In 1987, it received its official status as a charitable organization.

At BGM 1994, the **one hundred twenty** (120) members present voted unanimously to accept the Central Division's invitation to have the RTANL take over sponsorship of this Foundation.

IV. Membership

Membership in the RTANL is made up of Active, Associate and Honorary members. **(Constitution 2006 - Articles III and IV)**

Membership Fees:

- A. Membership fees for Active and Associate Members shall be established by resolution at a general meeting of the Association.
- B. Fees shall be divided fifty-fifty (50-50) between the Provincial Executive and the Divisions, the fifty percent (50%) that goes to the Divisions being shared on a per capita basis.
- C. The percentage of a Division's funds to be given to a Regional shall be decided by the Division Executive in consultation with the executive of the Regional, and shall be subject to review every year.
(Constitution 2006 - Article V)

Membership Year:

The membership year shall extend from September 1st to August 31st of the next calendar year.

(Constitution 2006 - Article VI)

V. Major Activities

- A. Benefits and Wellness

The RTANL has a representative on the Group Insurance Board of Managers.

In addition, members can access financial benefits by showing their RTANL Membership Card at participating businesses, a list of which is posted on the NLTA website: www.nlta.ca.

B. Biennial Award

An award for service to the Association (RTANL).

Guidelines:

1. Nominees must be members of the Association (RTANL) and reside within the Province.
2. Nominees must be noted for their activities **within** the Association (RTANL).
3. Nominations must be received no later than May 30th of the BGM year.

The Biennial Award Committee (three members of the Provincial Executive) will receive and assign numbers to all submitted nominees. A Selection Committee made up of two (2) members of the Provincial Executive who are not on the Biennial Award Committee and three (3) other members of the RTANL to be appointed by the President of the RTANL will by examination determine the Recipient of the Award.

Selection must be made and the decision communicated to the Chairperson of the Biennial Award Committee by September 15th of the Award Year. All information provided to the Selection Committee must be returned to the Chairperson of the Biennial Award Committee once the selection process is completed. The winning nominee is to be presented with a suitably engraved plaque and their name is also to be engraved on a permanent plaque which is to be displayed at the NLTA Building.

C. Liaison

1. NLTA

- (a) RTANL shall maintain an ongoing liaison with the NLTA as a means of communication between the two Associations.
- (b) Upon invitation from the NLTA Executive, the President of the RTANL, or designate, shall represent the RTANL at the NLTA BGM.

2. Divisions

Division Presidents are invited to attend a Provincial Executive meeting once every two (2) years at the invitation of the Provincial Executive of the RTANL.

3. ACER-CART (Canadian Association of Retired Teachers)

The RTANL is a member of ACER-CART and sends two (2) representatives (as per the approval of BGM) to the ACER-CART meeting held in Ottawa in June of each year. Our Newsletter regularly devotes space to communication from ACER-CART.

4. Other

The RTANL shall co-operate whenever possible with other organizations/associations whose objectives do not conflict with those of the RTANL, and whose purposes reflect the concerns of our members.

D. Political Action

The Coalition (formerly the Political Action Committee), was established to lobby Government for improved benefits for retired teachers. In 2002, the Committee presented Government with a Brief titled **Losing the Race: Making the Case for Regular Increases in Pension Benefits to Retired Teachers**. The Coalition remains committed to the mandate of improving benefits for retired teachers and continues to work toward this goal.

E. Newsletters

To keep members informed on items of current interest and concern, two newsletters are published electronically per year (June and December) containing reports from Divisions, BGM, and the Coalition, as well as stories, tips, advice, and articles of interest to retired members. Between newsletters, members can go to the RTANL website at www.nlta.ca/rtanl to access more information.

F. Retired Teachers' Foundation

This foundation was set up in 1982 by the Central Division to “honor the life and work of all retired teachers” and is a charitable foundation for “the well-being of children”. Donations are invested and the interest earned is used to “assist institutions that provide medical treatment and/or educational training on a not-for-profit basis to incapacitated children”. Members from all Divisions play a very active role in supporting “their” Foundation.

“Remembrance” books continue to be compiled with biographical information for deceased teachers who have taught in Newfoundland and Labrador. From 1987-2022, the amount of \$490,750 has been donated to children’s charities. (Please note that this amount increases by approximately \$28,000 per year).

Further information is available from the Foundation, and donations can be sent to our address:

Retired Teachers' Foundation
3 Kenmount Road
St. John's, NL A1B 1W1

