

NL Retired Teachers' Foundation Report

by Mona Rose, Foundation Chair

The Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation was established in 1987 with two clear mandates: To provide assistance to children with special needs by providing financial help to their respective provincial charities and to honor the life and work of deceased teachers through the compilation of a Book of Remembrance. We welcome each new retiree and for those who may be unaware, our Foundation is governed by a constitution and set of by-laws which are available for review online at nlta.nl.ca/rtanl.

It has certainly been my privilege to chair this Foundation for the past three years and work with so many dedicated teacher retirees. Each year a minimum two formal Foundation committee meetings were held. The satisfaction of knowing that time in retirement can still be used to make a difference in the lives of children is invaluable. Alongside this satisfaction comes the privilege of meeting so many fellow retirees across this province, not to mention the personal growth of learning so much about the Foundation and the RTANL! I am truly thankful for this opportunity. The time has now come to hand over the administrative responsibilities and sponsorship to another Division. This is in keeping with the continued goal of raising awareness and creating ownership though out the organization. Beginning October 2024, Avalon East will assume this role.

Since its inception the Foundation has been very successful and 2023 was no exception. From 1987 to present day the Retired Teachers Foundation has made contributions in the amount \$550,250.00 to children's charities in this province! This is really something everyone should be proud of! In 2023, we were able to contribute \$30,000.00 to selected provincial charities. This amount was actually an increase of \$2,000.00 over the previous year. Cheques for 2024 will be finalized during our meeting in September and again, \$30,000.00 will be distributed to the following recipients:

Mazol Shriners Patient Transportation Fund	\$7,500.00
The War Amps Champ Program	\$7,500.00
Canadian Diabetes Association-NFLD Division.	\$3,750.00

Candlelighters Association of Newfoundland and Labrador.	\$3,750.00
Newfoundland and Labrador Down Syndrome Society.	\$3,750.00
St. John's Therapeutic Riding Association-Rainbow Riders	\$3,750.00

It's only through the tremendous financial support and commitment of members of the Retired Teachers Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (RTANL) that all this is possible!

A very huge thank you to the following:

- The RTANL Provincial Body
- Our sponsor, who for the past 3 years has been the Con-Tri Division.
- Each of the eight Divisions of the RTANL who annually make contributions.
- Members of the RTANL who donate funds through In Memoriam, bequests from Wills, other individual donations from members and friends of the Foundation. (Donations from members and friends receive a receipt for income tax purposes. In memorandum cards are available from Divisions, some funeral homes and retirement living residences). Anyone can donate by sending a personal cheque to: Newfoundland and Labrador Retired Teachers' Foundation, 3 Kenmount Road, St. John's, NL A1B 1W1. Please reach out to a Foundation member with any questions.
- Divisions who voluntarily organize fundraisers in addition to their annual donations. While the Foundation does not organize public fundraisers many Divisions voluntarily add to their annual donations by undergoing very successful fundraising efforts among their own members at regular meeting. For this we are truly thankful! Con-Tri for example began a Toonie drive at each meeting whereby each member and guest present merely drops a toonie in the hat! Avalon East had a number of prize draws and a 50/50 ticket sale at their annual Christmas Luncheon. Western organizes a very successful annual Bakeless Bake Sale which so far in 2024 have raised \$3885.00! During Provincial meetings tickets have been sold on draws for items donated such as

sealskin dolls. Every penny raised counts when it is used to enhance the lives of children!

Dare I mention the Covid word but it did impact our face-to-face presentations to recipients! Thankfully we are getting back to normal. I was so delighted to visit the Rainbow Riders facility and present a cheque of \$3750.00 to their Executive Director, Kelly Sandoval! A tour of the facility and seeing those smiling faces firsthand as I interacted with program participants really validated the importance of what we do as a Foundation! What a special day it was! I attended the Avalon East Christmas function where I presented a cheque for \$7500.00 to Mr. William Radford (Mazol Past Potentate)

It has been the hope of the Foundation that familiarity among our membership will continue to grow. To this end we have worked diligently within the Association. As Chair of the Foundation, I have had the pleasure of attending and presenting at various provincial and local meetings. Notably, it was a delight to participate in the Con-Tri Outing in Lower Island Cove and the Division Presidents' Meeting in St. Johns. Additionally I presented at meetings in Clarenville bringing together Con-Tri and one of the newest Divisions, Tri-Bay. Many members were previously unaware of the Foundation's mission and impact so I enjoyed the opportunity to provide an overview during these presentations. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing a new found appreciation for the work of the Foundation as awareness continues to grow. Foundation reports are included in the RTANL newsletter and we have even had a presence in social media. Information about the Foundation is now included in the NLTA Pre-Retirement packages and at the seminars. Special thank you to Sharon Penny for including this in your provincial agenda! I feel our membership has become increasingly more aware of the Foundation and the great things that are happening.

In addition to its primary mission, the Retired Teachers Foundation has remained dedicated to its second mandate: managing the Book of Remembrance. This cherished project commemorates the lives of deceased members of the Retired Teachers' Association, ensuring that their legacies are preserved for future generations. Families of deceased members provide biographical information and a photo, which can then be carefully recorded and made available for online review. We have made the process of submitting information more accessible and user-friendly. An updated information

form is now available online and can be printed and mailed or submitted electronically. This year we received 38 submissions by mail. These were recorded by our Foundation board member Calvin Young. Thank you Calvin for your dedication. All submissions are now available for online viewing. Currently, the Book of Remembrance has six volumes which have been deposited to the Room's Archives and are available for viewing. As new entries are received online, hard copies are being added to a seventh volume which will also be deposited when complete. Thank you NLTA office personnel for your assistance. We encourage all members to visit the following link nlta.nl.ca and to assist families in submitting information when needed.

In closing, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each dedicated Foundation committee member for your support and commitment during this past three years. You have made invaluable contributions to the success of our Foundation and for that I am truly grateful.

Pauline Bishop Treasurer (Carbonear)
Patricia Jayne. Vice-Chair (Victoria)
Sherry Howell Secretary (Western Bay)
Calvin Young Member at Large and Book of
Remembrance (Upper Island Cove)

Sharon Penney Member at Large (Victoria)

As we transition, I wish the new sponsoring body, Avalon East, every success as they choose a new Foundation Committee. May your dedication and efforts continue to drive the Foundation's mission forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona C. Rose, Chair

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Labrador 2021-24