

# STAYING IN TOUCH



Newsletter No. 96 December 2022

Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement No. 40033460

Greetings and salutations to all BC06 members. As I sit here, the day before Halloween, looking out my window at all the brightly coloured leaves that tell me fall is well and truly here, I find myself looking back at the year so far. I remember a relatively average winter, a long and wet spring and a hot dry summer that lasted until late October. I loved the nice weather but did not like what was happening to my plants and bushes. Since it started to rain they are looking much happier although the lawn is still pretty brown.

The past year for our branch has been interesting. For the first few months we were trying to get a grasp on “what to do about COVID”. Could we meet in person, should we meet in person, do or don’t we wear masks, and so on. We held our AGM in March via Zoom. The attendance wasn’t amazing but we did manage to get a quorum so important issues were discussed and passed. Following that National Office (NO) advised that the moratorium on in person meetings had been lifted so we started planning our 40th Anniversary celebrations and held a very well attended meeting/party in June. Moving on to September we held our first regular meeting back at our former spot in the Westerly Hotel. Attendance was a bit below our pre covid levels but all in all pretty good. Now it is time for the Christmas Party. Details on the party are further in this newsletter. We are hoping that as many as possible will attend. Remember, you must purchase a ticket in advance.

The Board of Directors has been working hard on your behalf throughout the year. We managed to submit a budget to NO which included a plan for eliminating the previously named Defense of Benefits account. This Reserves Plan was presented to the members at the AGM and received approval. A full report on spending will

be presented at the 2023 AGM. One of our first priorities was to increase our membership as we had lost a few members during COVID. Some of this was due to members not bothering or forgetting to renew their membership during and following the period of lockdown. We were happy that Joan Sykes, part of the phoning team, agreed to take on the task of phoning these members with a reminder of how important the Association was for the ongoing protection of our pensions and benefits and encouraging them to renew. Steve Bunyan, our dedicated Membership Director was able to give Joan the lists of names to phone.

Gordon Richardson, Health Benefits Officer responded to queries from members on issues relating to their benefits, Warren Kelley kept on top of Advocacy initiatives and Cherie Kelley did a great job producing and distributing the quarterly newsletter. Lorene Hill, a relatively new board member, took on the job of Programs and with the help of Lena Jenkins (welfare) and Cecile Turnbull (secretary) put together an amazing 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Lorene then managed to arrange for a location and meals for the September meeting, the Christmas party and all the meetings in 2023. Thankfully we now are guaranteed some continuity for at least a year. At the 2022 AGM, our former Treasurer, Serge Gosselin, announced his retirement. We were very sorry to see him go. Bill Turnbull (Communications) took on the responsibilities of Treasurer while we searched for a replacement for Serge. I am happy to announce that we have been successful in filling the Treasurers position. New member, Scott Hodge, has accepted this challenge. Thanks so much to Bill for stepping up and keeping our finances on track.

In closing I would like to remind members that we are looking for people who would be willing and able to sit on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in learning about our board and what positions are open please email me at [n-ad-2@hotmail.com](mailto:n-ad-2@hotmail.com) and we can chat.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Norma Dean - President



## Branch Executive 2021 NORTH ISLAND JOHN FINN BRANCH BC06

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President	Norma Dean	250-890-1218	<a href="mailto:n-ad-2@hotmail.com">n-ad-2@hotmail.com</a>
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Secretary	Cecile Turnbull	250-338-1857	<a href="mailto:cecile.turnbull@shaw.ca">cecile.turnbull@shaw.ca</a>
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Membership	Steve Bunyan	250-703-3558	<a href="mailto:sgbunyan@shaw.ca">sgbunyan@shaw.ca</a>
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Communications	Bill Turnbull	250-338-1857	<a href="mailto:bc.turnbull@shaw.ca">bc.turnbull@shaw.ca</a>

## 2023 Membership Fees

- The 2023 annual membership fees, **effective Jan. 1, 2023**, are \$52.56 for a single membership and \$68.28 for a double membership.
- For the 82 per cent of Federal Retirees members who pay by dues deducted at source (DDS), their monthly deductions, or one-twelfth of the annual amount, will be calculated by the Pension Centre and reflected on their first pension statement of the new year.
- For the 18 per cent of our members **who have not opted into DDS and who pay their membership fees by cheque or by credit card**, where the renewal date falls before Dec. 31, 2022, payment for membership renewal will be submitted based on the 2022 fees of \$51.36 (single) and \$66.60 (double).
- Any credit card payments or cheques not postmarked before 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Dec. 31, 2022, must be submitted at the 2023 rates.

# Publisher

**NORTH ISLAND JOHN FINN BRANCH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL RETIREES (NAFR)**

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Representing retired federal employees and spouses from the Public Service of Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Federally Appointed Judges



## **WELCOME BACK TO THE WORLD**

**FOCUS: LATE 2022 / 2023 / 2024: \*EARLYBIRD SAVINGS\* :**

**\*NEW RIVER, OCEAN, & EXPEDITION 5\* CRUISETOUR ITINERARIES:**

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER/ NEW ORLEANS/MEMPHIS; GREAT LAKES; ICELAND; W & E EUROPE; EGYPT/JORDAN/ISRAEL; PANAMA CANAL/CENTRAL AMERICA; AUSTRALIA/NZ; MEKONG; & EXPEDITIONS TO THE ANTARCTIC/SOUTH AMERICA, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, & AFRICA!**

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**\* FOR A PROFESSIONAL FREE CONSULTATION & TO BOOK YOUR VACATION PACKAGE,**

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**Ph #250 898 3358 / [afliss@shaw.ca](mailto:afliss@shaw.ca) BC Consumer Protection Reg #54575**

**Call Aji to book: RIVER, BARGE, EXPEDITION & OCEAN CRUISES. COACH TOURS, CYCLING, WALKING, SOLO & THEME TOURS. REUNIONS. GROUPS. INTL FLIGHTS. ALL INCLUSIVE RESORT/FLIGHT PACKAGES WEDDINGS. LONGSTAY, CUSTOM & EXOTIC PACKAGES**

**"We Look After the Details so YOU Can Enjoy Your Journey of a Lifetime!"**





## ***Welcome New Members***

Alan & Esther Bayles

Kim Heath

Jean-Claude Parent

Douglas & Jean Leshures

Sherry & Grant MacLeod

Trevor McIvor & Elizabeth Harvey

Carl Schouten

Daniel Staples

Arlene Tompkins & Donald Hall

Diane & Martin Wittoeft



**North Island – John Finn Branch**

**National Association of Federal Retirees**

**Wednesday, December 14th, 2022**

**Christmas Luncheon Meeting**

**At the Best Western Westerly Hotel**

**Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**11:00 am – Meet & Greet**

**12:00 pm – Lunch – Christmas Turkey Dinner with all the “fixins”.**

**Cost - \$25.00 per plate**

**1:00 pm – Short Business Meeting from your Executive**

**Guest – Santa Claus**

**50 wonderful draw gift give-aways for those that attend - Plus a Door Prize**

**All members welcome. Bring a new recruit for our branch.**

**Tickets must be purchase in advance – Call to purchase your ticket for this event**

**Lorene Hill at 778-992-1925**

**Lena Jenkins at 250-897-0038**

**Annette Store at 1-705-796-5198 (Campbell River)**



## **MEMBERSHIP UP-DATE**

**Do we have the correct information on you as a member?** It is important to us and to you that our records are up to date. If the label on this newsletter has your initials instead of your given name, we may not have all the information we need to ensure that you get all the updates from your branch or National Office. Please fill in the following and send it to us (address on Page 1).

Surname ..... Given Names:.....

Mailing Address: .....

City/town ..... Postal Code ..... Phone .....

E-mail address:.....

Pension is from: CF .... PS .... RCMP .... Other ..... I receive a survivor's benefit Yes.....No .....

**It is important to let the branch know of any changes in the above information**

## **NAFR Branches Focus their efforts on the following items:**

- Delivering strong representation for federal retirees on their pension, health and dental benefits and security;
- Standing up for retirement income security;
- Working with veterans' on their well-being;
- Insuring that seniors' voices are heard and recognized in federal cabinet;
- Delivering historic advocacy efforts on behalf of federal retirees and veterans.

People are curious and ask how many members the association has? Some approximate numbers from the year 2020. Across Canada we have approximately 176,000 Members. Here in BC we have 15 Branches with approximately 26,000 members. Our North Island John Finn Branch (BC06) has approximately 2000 Members. So you can see that if we proceed ahead as a focused group we can influence our Governments both at Federal and Provincial levels.

## **ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A FIFTH GRADER ?**

1. How many degrees are there in each angle of an equilateral triangle?
2. "Won't" is a contraction of what two words?
3. The two most common clefs used in modern music are the treble and what clef?
4. What month comes last alphabetically?
5. Ivan the terrible was a czar of what country?
6. The Little Mermaid was written by what 19th-century author?

Gordon Richardson, Health Benefits Officer.

## SPOUSAL MEDOC ELIGIBILITY

Some of our members have been confused about spousal eligibility for MEDOC coverage due to different requirements being published by NAFR and Johnson Inc.

Confusion arose as NAFR stated that a spouse must be a member of NAFR to obtain coverage and Johnson Inc was offering a Family Plan in their brochure.

I have been in contact with both parties by Email and both updated their requirements for coverage. NAFR and Johnson Inc both stated that:

A spouse qualifies for the Medoc travel insurance only if the spouse is also a member with the national association of federal retirees and is covered by the PSHCP.

- There is no longer a 'Family Program' – this program was discontinued about 6 years ago.
- If you had been with the NAFR since before 2017 and both you and your spouse had been covered by the Medoc travel insurance since, then your spouse does not need to become a member with the association to qualify for Medoc as your policy is grandfathered. The requirement for a spouse to be a member to qualify for Medoc came into effect January 2017, so if there hasn't been an interruption in your service with Medoc and with the Association then you can keep the single membership with NAFR and your family policy coverage with Medoc. A spouse qualifies for the Medoc travel insurance only if the spouse is also a member with the national association of federal retirees and is covered by the PSHCP.

Hopefully Johnson Inc will update their MEDOC brochure for next year to avoid further confusion.

There have also been questions about Long Term Care Insurance issued by Johnson Inc.

Long Term Care Insurance. (LTCI)

This insurance is no longer available from Johnson Inc, but policies purchased are still in effect and premiums are still being deducted. To Contact Johnson Inc for an update on your policy use this procedure:

Toll Free Phone: 1 – 800 – 461 – 4155

Press 1 For English

Press 4 For Other

Press 2 For System

Press 1 For Health

This sequence will make contact with a human who will be able to give you updated information

**HAVE YOUR POLICY NUMBER READY.**



**A Covid Christmas....(but that was last year!)**

**T'was the night before Christmas, but Covid was here  
So we all had to stay extra cautious this year  
Our masks were all hung by the chimney with care  
In case Santa forgot his and needed a spare  
With Covid, we couldn't leave cookies or cake  
So we left Santa hand sanitizer to take  
The children were sleeping, the brave little tots  
The ones over 5 had just had their first shots  
And Mom in her kerchief and me in my cap  
Had just settled in for a long winter's nap  
But we tossed and we turned all night in our beds  
As visions of variants danced in our heads  
Gamma and Delta and now Omicron  
These covid mutations that go on and on  
I thought to myself "If this doesn't get better  
I'll soon be familiar with every Greek letter"  
Then just as I started to drift off and doze  
A clatter of noise from the front lawn arose  
I leapt from my bed and ran straight down the stair  
I opened the door and an old gent stood there  
His N95 made him look pretty weird  
But I knew who he was by his red suit and beard  
I kept six feet away but blurted out quick  
"What are you doing here, jolly Saint Nick?"  
Then I said "Where's your presents, your reindeer and sleigh?  
Don't you know that tomorrow will be Christmas Day?"  
And Santa stood there looking sad in the snow  
As he started to tell me a long tale of woe  
He said he'd been stuck at the North Pole alone  
All his white-collar elves had been working from home  
And most of the others said "Santa don't hire us!  
We can live off Jobkeeper now, thanks to the virus"  
Those left in the toyshop had little to do  
With chain supply disruptions, they could make nothing new  
And as for the reindeer, they'd all gone away  
None of them left to pull on his sleigh  
He said Dasher and Dancer were in quarantine  
Prancer and Vixen refused the vaccine  
Comet and Cupid were in ICU  
So were Donner and Blitzen, they may not pull through  
And Rudolph's career can't be resurrected  
With his shiny red nose, they think he's infected  
Even with his old sleigh, Santa couldn't go far  
Every border to cross needs a new PCR  
Santa sighed as he told me it would be nice  
If children could once again sit on his knee**

*He couldn't care less if they're naughty or nice  
But they'd have to show proof that they'd had their shot twice  
But then the old twinkle returned to his eyes  
And he said that he'd brought me a Christmas surprise  
When I unwrapped the box and opened it wide  
Starlight and rainbows streamed out from inside  
Some letters whirled round and flew up to the sky  
And they spelled out a word that was 40 feet high  
There first was an H, and then an O, then a P  
It spelled HOPE when it added the E  
"Christmas magic," said Santa as he smiled through his beard  
Then suddenly all the reindeer appeared  
He jumped into his sleigh and he waved me good-bye  
Then he soared o'er the rooftops and into the sky  
And I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight  
"Get your vaccines, my friends, Merry Christmas, good-night"*

*Then I went back to bed and a sweet Christmas dream  
Of a world when we'd finished with Covid 19*

#### **FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

*Cherie E Kelley, CD  
Editor*

*E&OE*

#### **ANSWERS - ARE YOUR SMARTER THAN A FIFTH GRADER**

1. 60
2. will not
3. bass
4. September
5. Russia
6. Hans Christian Anderson



William Bate

Georgina Dalton

Rhonda Evans

Audrey Fallock

Gary Flath

Helen Ford

Elizabeth Gilchrist

Albert Golem

Erwin Kruger

Len Kuchynski

Barbara MacKenzie

Joanne Nash

Robert Ian Sibbald

Ross Vandament

George Wedge

HOPE EVERYONE HAS A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS

25 DECEMBER

Merry  
Christmas

May your  
Christmas be  
graced  
with peace,  
joy, and  
blessings!

