

# STAYING IN TOUCH



Newsletter No. 98 June 2023

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## Presidents Message

Hello everyone. I hope you are enjoying this beautiful spring weather although a little bit too warm for my liking seeing as it is only May. It does not bode well for our fire season and already my lawn and garden are gasping for more water. Unfortunately one cannot control the weather so we may as well enjoy the sunshine while we have it.

Its been fairly quiet couple of months since our last news letter. We were relieved to learn that the strike by government employees ended with a settlement that all could live with. The issue of "working from home" was really brought to the forefront during COVID and only served to confirm that it is possible. We will see where this goes in future as the government and unions develop policies and procedures around it.

This week, Scott Hodge (Treasurer), Warren Kelley (Advocacy Director) and myself are travelling to Abbotsford to attend the BC/ Yukon District meeting. This is a two and a half day event where we will hold discussions on current issues within the organization and how they effect our areas of responsibility. There will be a particular focus on Advocacy and we will get the chance to meet our new Provincial Advocacy Officer, Renate Sutherland.

In June, these same three people will travel to Ottawa to attend the Annual Members Meeting. An advance agenda has been sent out and besides the regular reports that are common to AGM's there will be a report from the committee that is studying future Branch Financing. This should be very interesting and probably result in some discussion and debate. We will be electing new members to the Board of Directors. One of the candidates for the, soon to be vacant, BC/Yukon representative on the Board is our Treasurer, Scott Hodge. We wish him all the best as it would be great to have a local representative on the Board but we would hate to lose him as our Treasurer. Mixed feelings here, Scott. We also want to thank outgoing BC/Yukon National Board member Brian Strongman for his hard work and dedication while on the Board. All the best in future Brian.

The AMM also features information booths by many of our Preferred Partners. I will be bring back handout information from some of these partners to share at our quarterly meetings. Please check the [NAFR web site](#) if you want to learn more about the benefits of these partnerships.

2023 is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organization and as such, both Provincial and National meetings will recognize this achievement with special celebrations. Our branch will also hold a celebration at our meeting in September. It will be somewhat similar to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of our own branch in 2022. Get ready for a great meal and lots of goodies then.

The various Directors of the North Island - John Finn Branch have prepared reports on their areas of responsibility for this newsletter so I will say "so long for now" and I hope to see you at our meeting in June.



Norma Dean - President.

## **Branch Executive 2021 NORTH ISLAND JOHN FINN BRANCH BC06**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
President	Norma Dean	<a href="mailto:president@nijf.ca">president@nijf.ca</a>
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Treasurer	Scott Hodge	<a href="mailto:treasurer@nijf.ca">treasurer@nijf.ca</a>
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## Publisher

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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

## 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.

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

### **NEW MEMBERS THAT HAVE COME INTO THE BRANCH:**

FERLAND, Karen & Roch;  
PRESTON, Melissa & Jeffery;  
KOCK, Robert;  
DOUCET, Marc & CARINO, Marichu;  
CARON, Tanja & Philippe;  
STANTON, Brenda & Daniel;  
ARCAND, Diane & Stephen;  
TOPACIO, Herman;  
DECARIE, Doreen;  
SWAINSBURY, Brian & BANERD, Darlene;  
TRUESELL, Stephen;  
AITCHESON, Paul; and  
BOISSONNEAULT, Jacques & LACROIX, Roxane.

### **MEMBERS THAT HAVE RETURNED:**

FRASER, Jennie & John;  
JEANS, Carol & Richard;  
BELTER, Linda;  
WALKER, Jan & Garry;  
ROSE, Paulette; and  
BASINGER, Valerie & Allen

Steve Bunyan Membership

# ADVOCACY

As stated in the Presidents message I went to the BC/Yukon District Meeting. There was lots of discussions on the maybe expected elections that may come sooner than later. Members of the Branch Executive will be in contact with the two MPs' that are in our electoral Districts' Rachel Blaney and Gord Johns to keep up to date on what the direction of is Parliament on our important issues, support for our **Seniors, Veterans and Pharmacare**.

We had a presentation from the new BC Advocacy Officer, she is working very hard trying to get up to speed in her new role and will be sending me any new information that is coming from National Office.

We also had a presentation from the BC Senior's Minister, she had a very good presentation that I am trying to condense her lengthily presentation in to a hand out package for our June Luncheon.

Warren Kelley  
Vice President, Advocacy  
BC06 John Finn Branch



## WELCOME BACK TO THE WORLD

**\*SAVINGS ON THE REMAINING 2023 PACKAGE HOLIDAYS!  
\*2024 & 2025 "EARLYBIRD SAVINGS" ON CRUISES & TOURS**

**\*NEW 5\* RIVER, OCEAN, & EXPEDITION CRUISETOURS; FLIGHTS INCLUDED:  
\* SAIL & SIGHTSEE THE RIVERS OF THE WORLD, OR OCEAN CRUISE  
TOURS: MEDITERRANEAN & BALTIC; GREAT LAKES; ICELAND; W & E  
EUROPE; EGYPT/JORDAN; PANAMA CANAL/CENTRAL AMERICA; MEKONG;  
AU/NZ; ASIA; TOKYO-VANCOUVER; HONGKONG-VANCOUVER; AUCKLAND-  
VANCOUVER; GRAND VOYAGES; WORLD CRUISETOURS; & EXPEDITIONS TO  
THE ANTARCTIC/SA/GALAPAGOS; AFRICA CRUISETOURS/SAFARIS.**



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Before or After Your Cruisetour.  
\* NO SERVICE FEES: Free Service By Aji Fliss, TA, to Customize Your Flights &  
Arrange Your Vacation.  
\* TRAVEL ASSISTANCE With Your Full Vacation Plans, Best Health & Safety  
Protocol, & Advisories.  
\* FULLY EXPERIENCE LOCAL LIFE: Inspiring Cultures, Historic & Dramatic  
Settings, & UNESCO Sites.  
\* YOUR RIVER, OCEAN OR EXPEDITION CRUISETOUR INCLUDES: Airfare,  
Transfers, Hotels, Tours, All Meals, Wine & Beer with Lunch/Dinner, WIFI,  
Health/Safety, Host Services, & Entertainment.**

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

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



## **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.

At the conference we were updated on our national membership numbers and we are coming out of the Pandemic in a very positive direction, our numbers are increasing which is a very good sign that the Organization is getting the overall support to fight for our future benefits.

Remember the Public Service Health Care Plan has some major changes coming in July, keep an eye out for more details that should be coming to all our members.

## **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**

**ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A FIFTH GRADER QUESTIONS ...?**

- 1. The supplementary angle of a 60 degree angle has how many degrees?**
- 2. The US State of Indiana borders which of the Great Lakes?**
- 3. True or False? Plants are not part of the food chain?**
- 4. To the nearest mile, how long is a standard Olympic Marathon?**
- 5. True or False? The wolverine is a member of the canine family?**



Sybil Rose Laprise  
Ernest Bachman  
Margaret Crites  
John McLellan  
Bruce Barnes  
Leonard Earler  
Jack Campbell  
Ralph Hogarth



**June Luncheon/Meeting**  
**National Association of Federal Retirees**  
**North Island – John Finn Branch**  
**on Wednesday, June 14th, 2023**

**At the Best Western Westerly Hotel**

**11:00 am – Meet & Greet**

**12:00 pm – Lunch – Summer Indoor Picnic**

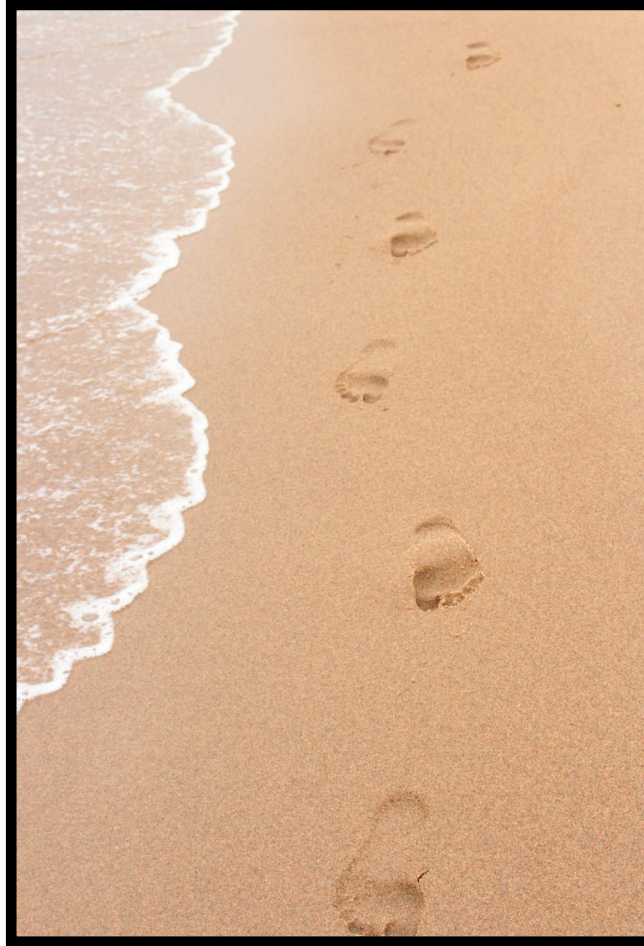
**Hamburgers, Chicken burgers, and all the “fixins”**  
**With Salads and**  
**Chef’s Choice Dessert**  
**Cost - \$15.00 per plate**

**1:00 pm –Business Meeting from your Executive**  
**Door Prize Draw and 50/50 Draws**  
**All members welcome.**

**Bring a new recruit for our branch.**

**For reservations call - Lena Jenkins at 250-897-0038**  
**Or Annette Store at 1-705-796-5198 (Campbell River)**

PLEASE ENJOY YOUR SUMMER  
IN OUR LITTLE BIT OF PARADISE



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

1. 120 degrees
2. Lake Michigan
3. False
4. 26 miles
5. False