



**PLEASE BRING THIS BOOKLET
WITH YOU TO THE MEETINGS**

2016 SUMMARY OF REPORTS
for the
ANNUAL BCRTA CONFERENCE
and the
RR SMITH MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION AGM
and the
71ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
BRITISH COLUMBIA
RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

BCRTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE: SEPTEMBER 22ND - 23RD, 2016
RR SMITH MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION AGM: SEPT 24TH, 9:00 AM
BC RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION AGM: SEPT. 24TH, 9:30 AM

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INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES

This booklet

Don't forget to bring this Summary of Reports booklet with you to the Conference and AGMs.

Delegates' expenses

Delegates may claim travel and en route meal expenses on the BCRTA expense claim form. Hotel accommodation and parking are covered by the BCRTA. Lower Mainland delegates not staying in the hotel need to register their vehicles at the hotel's front desk, in order to have their parking covered. Friday and Saturday breakfasts and lunches are provided, as is the Friday evening banquet. Meal passes for non-delegates will be available for purchase at the BCRTA registration desk.

Registration and Meet-and-Greet

Registration occurs in the ballroom foyer (at the back of the hotel's ground floor) on the Thursday evening, starting at 7:00 p.m. There will be snacks, a no-host bar, displays and, at 8:00 p.m., a fun-to-watch entertainment.

The Annual Conference

(formerly known as "Delegates' Day")

The Conference begins on Friday with breakfast in the ballroom at 8:00 a.m. Conference proceedings get under way at 8:45 and continue until approximately 3:40 p.m.

At 5:00 p.m. there is a no-host bar in the ballroom foyer, and the banquet begins at 6:00 p.m.

The banquet is followed at 7:30 p.m. by musical entertainment, and dancing for those who wish.

The Annual General Meetings

Saturday's breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m.

At 9:00 a.m. the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation holds its Annual General Meeting, electing its officers for 2016-2017. Almost all of us are Foundation members, and should attend.

At 9:30 a.m. the BCRTA AGM begins, and usually lasts until about lunchtime.

The Annual General Meeting elects the Board of Directors, as well as BCRTA delegates to the pensions debates at the BC Teachers' Federation AGM (held each spring); and makes other major decisions for the organization.

The Board of Directors

The Directors will be meeting at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, then again immediately following the AGM. There is a Directors' Dinner on the Saturday evening where new directors are welcomed and departing directors are thanked.

The Board, consisting of 14 or 15 members from around the province, holds its regular meetings six times a year. The Directors are advised by a number of standing committees that meet on the two days immediately preceding each Board meeting.

BCRTA Committee information

If you are interested in joining a committee, there is a Committee Application Form elsewhere in this booklet. Appointments are made at the Board meeting immediately following the AGM.

Election procedures

Please read the "Selected Election Rules" document included in this booklet. (See also the BCRTA Rules of Order in the Handbook, viewable on the BCRTA website, at www.bcrta.ca.)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BCRTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2016 VANCOUVER AIRPORT HILTON HOTEL 5911 Minoru Blvd, Richmond, BC September 22, 23, 24, 2016

THURSDAY, Sept 22, 2016

Start time	10:00 am	Northern Zone Meeting – Hilton Ballroom
	3:30 pm	Board of Directors Meeting – Hilton Ballroom
	7-:9:00 pm	REGISTRATION / No-host bar and MEET & GREET/Entertainment: Award-winning Dance Performance: “Razzamatap” – Hilton Ballroom & Foyer

FRIDAY, Sept. 23, 2016

BCRTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

8:00 am	Delegates’ Breakfast – Ballroom
8:45 am	Welcome, First Nations greeting, Introductions, Announcements
9:00 am	Geriatrics in Canada: Dr. Paula Rochon: Chair in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Toronto.
10:00 am	Geriatrics Q & A: Dr. Rochon
10:15 am	Refreshment Break
10:30 am	a). Modernization of the Canada Health Act Dr. Colleen Flood: University of Ottawa Chair in Health Law and Policy
10:30 am	b) Break-out for Branch Treasurers or designates
11: 20 am	Modernization of the Canada Health Act Q & A: Dr. Colleen Flood
11:40 am	Golden Star Awards: Charan Gill
11:55 am	RR Smith draws
12:00 pm	Delegates’ Lunch – Ballroom Foyer
1:00 pm	Pensions & Benefits: Gerry Tiede
2:00 pm	Refreshment Break
2:15 pm	Legal issues: Margaret Mason (Partner, Bull, Housser & Tupper LLP)
3:15 pm	Membership Awards: Steve Bailey
3:25 pm	RR Smith draws
3:30 pm	Announcements, Evaluation forms, Nominations deadline
3:40 pm	Closing

EVENING

5:00 pm	No-Host Bar – Ballroom Foyer
6:00 pm	BCRTA Annual Dinner – Ballroom
7:30 pm	Entertainment: Way Cool Band – Ballroom

SATURDAY, Sept. 24, 2016 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

8:00 am	Delegates’ Breakfast – Ballroom Foyer
9:00 am	RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation AGM – Ballroom
9:30 am	BCRTA Annual General Meeting – Ballroom
12:00 pm	(Approx.)-Delegates’ Lunch – Ballroom Foyer

NOTE: Friday & Saturday meals indicated above are provided for Delegates and Official Guests. Tickets to be purchased for others at the BCRTA Registration Desk. Please ensure you bring your meal tickets to each meal – they will be collected.

SELECTED BCRTA ELECTION RULES

PROCEDURES:

4.6.2 For Director

(c) Persons nominated after the July 15th deadline may prepare curriculum vitae for distribution at the AGM, prior to the elections. **Directors, May 2014**

(d) Nominees submitting their forms after July 15th shall have their names added to the printed ballots if they are in the hands of BCRTA Staff by 5:00 pm on the day before the AGM.

(e) A nomination from the floor requires a mover and seconder. **Directors, Mar 2015**

(f) There shall be no candidate speeches except that, if there are nominations from the floor, all candidates for that particular position shall be granted two minutes in which to introduce themselves. **Directors, Mar 2015**

4.5.2 Composition of the Delegation to the BCTF AGM

The BCRTA delegation shall have up to 26 members, including the following:

(a) the BCRTA Directors;

(b) BCRTA voting members elected by the AGM from a slate of candidates comprising:

- i. members who have submitted nomination forms prior to the AGM; and
- ii. members nominated from the floor of the AGM. **AGM 2012**

(Note that Alternates are no longer provided for. See 8.5.4(d), below.)

RULES OF ORDER:

8.5.4 Balloting rules

(a) The printed ballots will include the names of those candidates whose valid nomination forms were in the hands of Office Staff by 5:00 pm on the day before the General Meeting.

(b) The names of candidates nominated from the floor shall, at the direction of the Nominations Chair, be added to the printed ballots by the voters.

(c) A ballot shall be valid if it is marked for at least one candidate but not if it is marked for more than the number of vacancies to be filled. The final determination of a ballot's validity lies with the Nominations Chair.

(d) To be declared elected a candidate must receive more than 50 percent of the valid ballots cast; except in the election for BCRTA Delegates to the BCTF AGM, where candidates are elected in order of the number of votes received, up to the number required to make up the delegation. **Directors, May 2015**

(e) Following an indecisive ballot, where there are more than two candidates remaining over and above the number of remaining positions to be filled, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be dropped from the next ballot.

(f) Candidates defeated in an election for a position shall be deemed to have been nominated for the position next to be filled.

(g) At any time prior to the conduct of a ballot a candidate may, by giving notice to the meeting, withdraw from that election.

(h) Following completion of the election process, and unless there is a resolution to the contrary, the ballots shall be destroyed.

R.R SMITH MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION

President's Annual Report

The R.R. Smith Board of Directors was pleased to grant over \$22,000 to 19 educational charities this past year. Every request was given some funding. Often grant recipients send updates on their projects to the Board. This past year R.R. Smith has published two newsletters that have contained these updates. Unfortunately, not all members receive these newsletters as they are sent via the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association email list serve and not all members have an email address or have updated the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association with their current email address. These newsletters may be read on the R.R. Smith website www.rrsmith.ca or on the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association website under R.R. Smith. The reports are heart warming and uplifting.

The affinity plan that R.R. Smith has with Enjoy Tours has earned over \$1,600 and does not cost our members a cent. Enjoy Tours donates to R.R. Smith whenever a B.C. Retired Teachers' Association/ R.R. Smith member books a tour or trip and lets them know that they are a member. Some branches are booking tours for their members. Please consider participating individually or as a branch.

There will be discussion of and decisions made at the upcoming AGM that change the way R.R. Smith is funded. For the past 16 years R.R. Smith has received additional donations from the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association and branches to fund the many worthwhile educational projects in B.C. and around the world.

According to the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association lawyer, the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association may lose their "Not for Profit" status and run the risk of being taxed by Canada Revenue Agency if they make donations to R.R. Smith. In order to continue to support R.R. Smith, the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association will charge a membership fee that will be split so that \$38 will go to the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association and \$2.00 will go directly to R.R. Smith. Motions making these changes will be voted on at both the R.R. Smith AGM and the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association AGM in September and will take effect July 1st 2017.

Branches will find out at the AGM what the rules are when it comes to donations and fund raising. R.R. Smith, as the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association

established charity, will make it possible for branches to legally raise funds for R.R. Smith. The funds raised are forwarded to R.R. Smith and the branch may decide to put those funds into R.R. Smith's grant fund, endowment fund or to designate the funds to a particular branch project.

Between November 28th, 2016 and November 28th, 2018, R.R. Smith will have to transition to comply with the new B.C. Societies Act. Any necessary updates and changes to R.R. Smith's Constitution and Policies and Procedures will be brought to the 2017 AGM for ratification.

I would like to thank Board members Beverly Anderson, Steve Bailey, Dave Carter, Andy Hattrick, Barb Mikulec, and Sheila Pither for their hard work, help and skill needed to run this organization smoothly. Thank you also to Patricia Laursen (retired in December) and Kristi Josephson who have so capably handled everything in the office. As well, I would like to thank Anders I. Ourom who so freely donates his time and knowledge to help with legal matters. Thank you also to Dan Carter, a retired CGA, who donates his time and expertise to audit our books.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy de Vries, President,
R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation

Motions:

Carter/Bailey that R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation charge a membership fee.

Rational: R.R. Smith has never considered charging a fee simply because the organization has no way to collect a fee. However, the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association will charge a membership fee that will be split so that \$38 will go to the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association and \$2.00 will go directly to R.R. Smith. Both fees will be deducted from the member's pension.

Carter/Bailey that the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation membership fee be \$2.00.

Rational: This amount was suggested by the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association as the portion of membership fee they were willing to split with R.R. Smith.

R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation
2016 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
Positions Available: Five (5) – 1 year terms

Bev Anderson (Langley)

Dave Carter (Coquitlam)

Judy de Vries (Langley)

Andy Hattrick (Vancouver)

Sheila Pither (Vancouver)

R.R. SMITH 2016-2017 DRAFT BUDGET
July 1st, 2016 to June 30th, 2017

REVENUE:

BCRTA (\$1 per member)	\$ 14,519
Interest on Terms	\$ 1,800
Donations anticipated	\$ 2,000
Johnson Inc.	\$ 800
Enjoy Tours	\$ 1,800
TOTAL	\$ 20,919

EXPENSES

Audit	\$ 200
AGM Expenses	\$ 1,000
Legal/Bank Fees	\$ 50
Supplies and Postage	\$ 600
Grants	\$ 17,500
to Endowment Fund	\$ 1,000
TOTAL	\$ 20,850
NET SURPLUS	\$ -69

Note: Every fee paying member of the BCRTA is a member until June 30th, 2017, unless s/he “opts out”. As of July 1st, 2017, the BCRTA’s \$1 per member contribution will cease, there will be a \$2 per member R.R. Smith membership fee, and those not wishing to pay this fee may “opt out” of R.R. Smith membership.

BRITISH COLUMBIA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

71ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2016 AT 9:30 AM

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order and Welcome

2. One minute's silence for deceased members

3. Adoption of the agenda

4. Adoption of the 2015 AGM Minutes

5. Business Arising from the 2015 Minutes (AGM 2015 referrals at agenda #9. b)

6. Elections (to proceed throughout the meeting)

a) Explanation of Voting Procedures

- See "Selected Election Rules" in Summary of Reports p. 5

b) Appointment of election scrutineers

MOTION: That the following be appointed election scrutineers:

c) Elections – Candidates' statements – Summary of Reports pp. 31-39

- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Directors for inside the Lower Mainland
- Directors for outside the Lower Mainland
- ACER-CART Representative
- BCRTA delegates to the BCTF AGM

7. President's Report (questions and comments) – Summary of Reports pp. 10-11

8. Branch Reports (questions and comments) – See Branch Reports booklet

9. BCRTA Finances – Summary of Reports pp. 12

a) Finance Committee Report – p. 13

b) AGM 2015 referrals report – p. 14

c) Financial Statements

MOTION: THAT the 2016 audited financial statements be adopted.

d) Auditor appointment

MOTION: THAT the BCRTA retain KPMG as its auditor for the 2016-2017 year, and send out a request for proposals during the Spring of 2017 re the auditor appointment for the 2017-2018 year.

e) Dinner expense claims

MOTION: THAT the BCRTA's dinner expense reimbursement be \$30.00.

f) Draft budget – pp. 15-17

MOTION: THAT the draft 2016-17 budget be adopted as proposed/ amended.

g) Membership fee

MOTION: THAT the BCRTA membership fee for 2017-2018 be \$38.00

h) Special Fund Bylaws (require ≥75% affirmative vote)

i. Rename “Reserve Fund”

MOTION: THAT Bylaw 6.3 Special Funds be amended by replacing the word “Reserve” with the word “Contingency”.

Rationale: The Finance Committee believes that “Contingency Fund” is a better descriptor. The Board has agreed to propose each year a list of categories of the kinds of contingencies that may arise, and to allocate reasonable upper limits to each of the categories based in part on past experience. See the Finance Committee Report. Legal advice is that we need a contingency fund, but that the amount held in it needs to be justifiable.

ii. Delete “Employee Retirement Fund”

MOTION: THAT Bylaw 6.3 Special Funds be amended by deleting the words “Employee Retirement”, and that Procedure 3.6 Employee Retirement Fund also be deleted.

Rationale: Our employee contracts no longer provide employee retirement benefits other than the Municipal Pension Plan.

10. Board of Directors’ Recommendations – Summary of Reports p. 18

11. Branch Resolutions – Summary of Reports p. 18

12. Committee Reports (questions and comments) – pp. 19-30

ACER-CART	Gerry Tiede
Advocacy	Regina Day
Communications	Sterling Campbell
Excellence in Public Education	Charan Gill
Health& Housing	Grace Wilson
Heritage	Barb Mikulec
Membership	Steve Bailey
Pensions & Benefits	Gerry Tiede
Postscript	Sheila Gair
Personnel	Bob Taverner
Retirement Seminars	Al Cornes
Social Concerns	Gail Montgomery

13. Introduction of new Officers and Directors

14. Incoming President’s remarks

15. New Business

16. Adjournment

REPORT FROM BCRTA PRESIDENT BOB TAVERNER

A busy enough year, this 2015-2016 year:

I visited a number of BCRTA branches: Central Okanagan, Kootenay-Columbia, Peace River South, Peace River North, Cariboo Chilcotin, Quesnel, and – of course – my own Nanaimo-Ladysmith branch; and the Metro West and South Island Zone meetings. Thanks to all for your kind and welcoming hospitality.

We funded Patricia Clough and Regina Day, as well as ACER-CART President JoAnn Lauber, to attend the conference of the National Pensioners' Federation in Ottawa. Besides promoting the International Day of Older Persons, delegates met with MPs of all parties to promote a National Seniors and Health Care Strategy.

We've assisted and cooperated with other provincial and national organizations seeking various kinds of Health Care reform throughout Canada – and you can read about these in the committee reports in the following pages.

We sent two directors to represent the BCRTA at the BC Teachers' Council on February 26th, 2016, to participate in a review of the existing Professional Standards mandated under the Teachers Act.

We met with ICBC officials, and obtained a ruling that BCRTA and branch officers attending their usual organizing and planning meetings are actually engaged in "pleasure" activities, not "business" (those meetings are fun, right?!) – providing they are not being paid for their work (other than expenses for mileage or the like). These officers are thus still eligible for the seniors' pleasure only vehicle insurance rate.

We sent letters:

> to the Premier, copied to the Leader of the Opposition, urging the BC Government to enter into meaningful consultation with those working directly with refugees to determine the greatest areas of need;

> to Prime Minister Trudeau, congratulating him

upon his election (he's an erstwhile BC teacher), and thanking him for his letter answering our campaign questions which we published in Postscript;

> to the BC Seniors' Advocate, Isobel Mackenzie, drawing attention to the discrepancies and inequities surrounding the charges by medical doctors for completing the required forms for renewal licences for drivers who are 80 years of age and older;

> to the Provincial Government, to the attention of Barbara Emerson, Manager OIC administration Office/Ministry of Justice, to request that June 1, 2016 be proclaimed as Intergenerational Day;

> to the Vancouver School Board in support of retaining the Little Yellow Schoolhouse on the site of General Gordon School in Vancouver;

> to federal Health Minister Jane Philpott conveying the BCRTA's appreciation for her efforts to have a new Health Accord with the provinces and territories signed by the end of 2016; and in a second letter, urging her to lead Canada in the establishment of a national pharmaceutical plan;

> to BC Seniors' Advocate Isobel Mackenzie thanking her for the work she is doing on behalf of seniors in this province;

> to Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, expressing our thanks to her, as her term comes to an end, for her work as a strong advocate for BC's children and youth;

> to the Premier thanking her and her government for creating the position of Representative for Children and Youth, and recommending that the position be continued; and

> to chairs of school boards that currently do not have a 'heritage policy' on file, encouraging them to develop a heritage policy that would preserve public education history.

> to the Premier, expressing our concerns about possible "pay-for-plasma" clinics in BC

We distributed the document *Myths Surrounding the Funding of Public Education in British Columbia* to other organizations that have an interest in public education, including the BCTF, the BCPVPA, the BCRPVPA, the BCSTA, and the BCSSA; and we placed ads in community newspapers across BC, drawing attention to the discrepancy in funding between public and private schools.

I attended the AGM of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) in Ottawa, and we presented them with a ceremonial gavel inscribed with “Congratulations on the occasion of ACER-CART’s 25th Anniversary”.

We’ve contributed \$10,000 to the BC Council of Senior Citizens’ Organizations (COSCO) as a co-sponsor of their “Aging Well” conference in the fall; and we agreed to contribute \$2,000 to co-host with COSCO the National Pensioners’ Federation (NPF) Conference to be held in Richmond following the COSCO conference.

We’re preparing a booklet for pre-BC-election distribution, similar to the one we put together for last year’s federal election, outlining a number of seniors’ issues and suggesting questions for election candidates; and we’ll be offering grants of up to \$1,200 per branch to assist in the holding of all candidate forums prior to the BC election in May 2017.

And we’ve spent a good deal of time and energy following up on advice from our auditors, a non-profit organizations specialist lawyer, and a professional book-keeper, all to help us put BCRTA’s financial house in better order.

At the risk of overdoing the explanations in this booklet, and in Postscript and elsewhere, let me reiterate:

The BCRTA was originally registered as a non-profit society, not a charity.

For that reason, the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation was created, and was registered as a charity so that it could do what the BCRTA could

not do – and still cannot do under current taxation rules – receive and make charitable donations.

The various motions made at AGMs over the years, to have the BCRTA give donations to RR Smith, should have been ruled out of order, as being contrary to the NPO tax rules under which the BCRTA operates. But back at those AGMs, who knew?

It has been suggested that the BCRTA change its registration status, so that it could receive and make donations, but if we did, why would we then need the RR Smith Foundation?

The situation we are facing is the result of misunderstandings. Now we have to go through what, for some, is the painful process of correcting the errors, and clarifying everyone’s understanding of what our two organizations are. And what are they?

> The BCRTA is registered as a non-profit organization, whose main function at the provincial level is as an information and advocacy vehicle for its members, while at the local level the main function (for most branches) is social.

> The RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation’s main function is to receive charitable donations and to disburse them to what the Foundation’s Board believes to be individuals worthy of receiving financial assistance with their education, and/or to other organizations doing similar charitable works.

As my term as BCRTA President draws to its close, I can say that overall it has been a great pleasure, certainly a privilege (how many of us get to be the president and chair-of-the board of a 15,000-member organization?), in spite of the complications and difficulties that have occasionally arisen. Thank you to all who have worked with me, and who have supported me when I needed it, particularly my fellow directors. And special thanks to our wonderful office staff, Kristi Josephson and Laurie Boyd, who both work so hard, and so cheerfully, to keep the BCRTA functioning smoothly throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted
Bob Taverner, President

FINANCE RULES FOR THE BCRTA AND ITS BRANCHES

Summary of legal advice to the BCRTA

1. The BCRTA may not be involved in any form of fundraising.

The BCRTA is registered as a tax exempt, non-profit organization (NPO). Involvement in fundraising would imperil that tax exempt status. Dues may be collected to cover operations consistent with the organization's Constitutionally stated purposes (see Handbook at www.bcrta.ca.) There may be no 50/50 draws, no silent auctions, etc. (However, the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation may conduct its fund raising activities during BCRTA events.)

2. The BCRTA may not receive or make donations of a “charitable” nature.

The BCRTA is not a registered charity. It may therefore not make donations to the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation. It was because the BCRTA is not a registered charity – unable to grant scholarships, bursaries, or funds to other charitable organizations – that the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation was created. It is a registered charity.

3. Branches may not engage in fundraising (50/50 draws, raffles, etc.), or the direct granting of scholarships and/or bursaries.

Because branches are part of the BCRTA, a non-profit organization, they may not engage in fundraising. (Some branches have set up separate organizations registered as foundations or trusts. These may obtain licences to fundraise through 50/50 draws, raffles, etc.)

However, branch members may, as individuals, make donations, and these donations can be collected by “someone”, and the someone can forward them to a “conduit” organization, with instructions on scholarship recipient selection criteria, etc. The funds collected in this way must be kept separate from the branch's accounts and book-keeping.

A conduit organization could be a school district scholarship committee, if one exists. Or it could be the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation, which is willing and able to administer locally targeted scholarships from locally raised funds.

If the “someone” collecting the donations provides a detailed list of donors, and the amounts of their donations, the conduit organization may be able to issue tax receipts.

4. Branches may not donate funds raised via membership dues towards scholarships or bursaries.

If a branch appears to have money surplus to its operating needs, enough to give away as scholarships or bursaries, that can be interpreted as “intentionally making a profit”, and could cause trouble for both the branch and the BCRTA. Branch funds can only be used to further the branch's purposes, basically the purposes laid out in the BCRTA Constitution (see Handbook at www.bcrta.ca.) Branch luncheons, picnics, coffee klatches, etc., and the meetings and/or programs that accompany them, can be complementary to branch purposes, so long as they are not used as profit making activities.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

After the BCRTA received audit and legal advice, the Board approved Finance Committee objectives for 2015-2016 aimed at addressing various important financial issues and clarifying our reporting procedures.

The Committee agreed to provide a branch treasurers' training workshop during the 2016 Annual Conference, addressing rules arising from the BCRTA's status as a non-profit organization. Neither the BCRTA nor its branches are registered charities, and therefore may NOT engage in fund raising or charitable giving. Workshop materials will provide advice on how BCRTA members may, as individuals, continue contributing towards scholarships and bursaries, without contravening Income Tax or Gaming legislation or regulations.

The Board accepted the Committee's advice to recommend to the AGM amended wording for BCRTA's Special Fund rules, and subsequently to add the following to BCRTA Procedures:

The purpose of the Contingency Fund is to meet expenditures that were not, and could not reasonably have been foreseen when the annual operating budget was approved.

Such unforeseen expenditures may include:

(a) Relocation contingency – unexpected changes in the Association's address or location costs, involving property and/or equipment purchase, rental or other expenses in excess of those normally provided for in the Association's annual Operating and Capital budgets;

(b) Legal defence contingency – unforeseen member-support legal costs;

(c) Budget overruns/new activities – the funding of budget overruns and/or projects or activities undertaken in response to unexpected events or situations;

(d) New affiliations: fees/dues – the payment of the first annual membership fee or dues upon becoming affiliated with a like-minded organization partway through the BCRTA year;

(e) Unbudgetted co-sponsored events – the BCRTA share of the costs of non-recurring work-shops, seminars and/or conferences being co-sponsored with like-minded organizations; and

(f) Employee severance payments – severance payments upon employee resignation or dismissal required by the Employment Standards Act, and as specified in employee contracts.

With help from our new Office Administrator Kristi Josephson and book-keeping expert Maggie Geiser, the Committee also developed clearer and more detailed financial reporting procedures.

The Committee succeeded in obtaining a favorable ruling from ICBC regarding directors' and committee members' access to seniors' vehicle insurance rates when attending to BCRTA business. Work is continuing on clarifying what kinds of accident/life/liability insurance might be desirable for BCRTA directors and branch officers.

The Board agreed with the Committee's advice, to recommend to the AGM that we send out a Request for Proposals in the spring of 2017, seeking the most suitable auditor for the BCRTA going forward into 2017-2018, and beyond.

My thanks to Committee Members Tom Brunker (Treasurer), Elaine Anderson, Patricia Clough, JoAnn Lauber, Barb Mikulec and Gerry Tiede, and to President Bob Taverner.

Respectfully submitted,
Stefan Cieslik, Chair

AGM 2015 REFERRALS TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. BCRTA Life Membership

THAT Section 1.6.1 under Life Membership in the BCRTA Bylaws be reviewed and that the age for Life Members be reinstated to 85.

Steven/Karpuk moved an amendment:
and THAT Life Membership fees be taken from the Reserve Fund.

Spence/Campbell moved:
THAT the motion be referred to the Finance Committee for action.
The referral motion CARRIED.

Finance Committee Report

The Committee considered the motions, and now reports that:

- a) our legal advice is that paying members' fees from the Reserve Fund is contrary to Canada Income Tax Act rules for NPOs, and the amendment is therefore out-of-order; and
- b) since reducing the age of eligibility for Life Membership to 85 would severely impact some branch budgets, the reinstatement motion should be decided by the 2016 AGM. This can be achieved by moving, "THAT the referred motion regarding the age of eligibility for life membership be placed again upon the floor."

2. BCRTA funding of the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation

THAT the BCRTA Board allocate a part of the interest revenue from the BCRTA Reserve Fund to the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation to increase our ability to help students and schools.

McWhirter/Williams moved:
THAT the motion be referred to the Finance Committee for action.

The referral motion CARRIED.

Finance Committee Report

The Committee reports that our legal advice is that for the BCRTA to pay any kind of charitable donation, including any donation to the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation, is contrary to Canada Income Tax Act legislation and regulations. The motion is therefore out-of-order.

2. Public vs Private School Funding

THAT the BCRTA inform the public, through an information campaign, that the BC Government allocated \$30 million to private school budgets while cutting \$29.2 million from public school budgets.

The BCRTA publicized this issue through postings on Facebook and Twitter, through an item on the BCRTA website, and in ads in all BC Black Press community newspapers.

DRAFT BUDGET & NOTES

Notes to Draft Budget

7-12 Johnson Inc. remits amounts for the administration tasks the BCRTA performs in connection with these insurance plans.

44. Health & Housing Committee will be creating and distributing material leading up to 2017 Election

Abbreviations used in budget:

55. ACER-CART Canadian Association of Retired Teachers

59. CCPA – Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

61. COSCO – Council of Senior Citizens Organization

64. NPF – National Pensioners Federation

67. TPPAC – Teachers' Pension Plan Advisory Committee

80. Wages – unexpected cost of a 3rd employee during retirement of Office Administrator

83. Legal – costs are expected to remain high due to by-law changes to comply with new Societies Act

85. Office Supplies – costs have increased due to success of Retirement Workshops; materials are produced in-house

86. Postage – Mailing costs increased in January of 2016

BCRTA Reserve Fund

The following amounts were charged against the Reserve Fund during 2015-2016, either to cover unexpected increases in budgeted item costs, or to fund expenditure items not foreseen at budget preparation time in 2015.

Public Forum on Health Care	\$7,823.89
Communications Survey	\$16,078.13
Membership Budget increase (Member cards)	\$7000.00
Labour Heritage grant	\$5000.00
Media Campaign (Private School Funding)	\$2111.75
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	\$1000.00
Canadian Health Coalition	\$1000.00
Teachers' Pension Plan Consultation	\$3599.56
ACER-CART translation assistance	\$360.00
TOTAL	\$43,973.33

	ITEM	BUDGET 2015/16		CURRENT	PROPOSED 2016/17 BUDGET
1	REVENUES				
2	A Balance forward (Surplus for 2016)			\$46,372.00	\$12,880.92
	B INCOME				
3	Provincial Fees	\$576,030.00	\$0.00	\$582,553.00	\$580,000.00
4	Prov. Fees Prepaid			\$0.00	\$0.00
5	Grant - BCP & VPA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	Grant - BCTF	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	Johnson -Travel Insurance Medoc	\$93,737.00		\$88,609.43	\$90,000.00
8	Johnson - Life Insurance			\$662.35	\$650.00
9	Johnson - Long Term Care	2353 (Life & LTC)		\$1,249.00	\$1,200.00
10	Johnson - EHC/Travel Insurance			\$14,402.98	\$14,000.00
11	Johnson - Home. Ins	\$10,000.00		\$10,800.00	\$9,000.00
12	Johnson - Pet Insurance				
13	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$100.00		\$744.79	\$0.00
14	Provincial Pins revenue			\$0.00	\$100.00
15	TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$679,867.00		\$699,021.55	\$694,950.00
	C INVESTMENT REVENUE				
16	Interest Earned - Operating Account			\$97.76	\$95.00
17	Income Earned National Bank			\$11,161.98	\$10,000.00
18	Interest Earned Operating			\$74.64	
19	Interest Earned - Reserve Account			\$1,286.64	
20	TOTAL INVESTMENT REVENUE			\$12,621.02	\$10,095.00
21	TOTAL REVENUE			\$711,642.57	\$705,045.00
	EXPENSES				
	MEETING EXPENSES				
22	AGM/Conference Accommodation		\$39,193.55		\$42,000.00
23	AGM/Conference - Meals		\$40,922.87		\$47,500.00
24	AGM/Conference Meeting Travel		\$31,053.74		\$32,000.00
25	AGM/Conference Other Expenses		\$23,755.47		\$26,000.00
26	AGM/Conference Total Expense			\$134,925.63	
27	COSCO Conference 2016		\$0.00		
28	Directors/Accommodation/Meals	\$37,000.00	\$47,581.78		\$42,000.00
29	Directors' Branch Travel	\$8,000.00			\$8,000.00
30	Directors' Travel	\$21,000.00	\$27,207.90		\$27,000.00
31	Director' Other Expenses	\$2,500.00	\$572.16		\$2,000.00
32	Presidents' Travel				
33	Directors Expenses Total			\$75,361.84	
34	Communications Committee	\$8,000.00	\$4,951.94		\$6,000.00
35	Golden Star Awards	\$11,100.00	\$10,763.74		\$13,000.00
36	Retirement Workshops	\$7,500.00	\$9,076.68		\$10,550.00
37	Finance Committee	\$3,000.00	\$2,690.83		\$3,000.00
38	Heritage Committee	\$6,000.00	\$6,941.99		\$6,000.00
39	Pensions/Benefits Committee	\$7,000.00	\$3,850.83		\$11,500.00
40	Social Concerns Committee	\$9,400.00	\$9,490.52		\$9,500.00
41	Postscript Committee	\$3,600.00	\$2,967.44		\$3,600.00
42	Membership Committee	\$10,000.00	\$11,891.86		\$11,500.00
43	Excellence In Education	\$6,400.00	\$6,461.61		\$7,100.00
44	Health & Housing Committee	\$2,500.00	\$2,534.15		\$6,100.00
45	Heritage Special Project	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
46	Advocacy	\$4,250.00	\$1,517.49		\$1,500.00
47	Issue Action Grants				\$10,000.00
48	Ad Hoc Committee	\$4,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
49	Personnel Committee	\$3,000.00	\$1,820.02		\$2,000.00
	Committee Expenses Total			\$79,959.10	
50	BCTF AGM	\$4,000.00		\$2,578.87	\$3,000.00
51	Zone Meetings	\$6,000.00		\$6,401.44	\$6,400.00
52	BCRTA Representation	\$7,000.00		\$6,825.79	\$3,500.00
53	TOTAL MEETING EXPENSES			\$306,052.67	\$345,750.00

	ITEM	BUDGET 2015/16		CURRENT	PROPOSED 2016/17 BUDGET
54	AFFILIATE FEES				
55	ACER-CART - Fee	\$5,250.00	\$5,447.75		\$5,500.00
56	ACER-CART Translation	\$500.00	\$180.00		\$500.00
57	ACER-CART - Travel	\$4,000.00	\$1,943.73		\$4,000.00
58	ACER-CART - TOTAL			\$7,571.48	
59	CCPA - Fee	\$500.00		\$314.20	\$500.00
60	First Call - Fee	\$400.00		\$0.00	\$1,000.00
61	COSCO - Fee	\$500.00	\$500.00		\$500.00
62	COSCO Delegates' Travel	\$1,200.00	\$1,295.48		\$1,200.00
63	COSCO - TOTAL			\$1,795.48	
64	NPF - Fee	\$350.00	\$0.00		\$350.00
65	NPF Delegates' expenses	\$6,500.00	\$5,551.34		\$2,500.00
66	NPF - TOTAL			\$5,551.34	
67	TPPAC	\$4,500.00		\$2,209.32	\$3,000.00
68	BC Health Coalition - Fee				\$200.00
69	Canadian Health Coalition - Fee				\$500.00
70	TOTAL AFFILIATE FEES	\$23,700.00		\$17,441.82	\$19,750.00
71	EMPLOYEE EXPENSES				
72	Wages & Salaries	\$131,000.00		\$146,961.43	\$135,000.00
73	CPP Expense	\$5,000.00		\$6,004.05	\$6,000.00
74	EI Expense	\$2,600.00		\$3,295.35	\$2,520.00
75	EHB & Dental Benefit	\$9,600.00		\$11,002.80	\$9,960.00
76	MSP Benefit	\$3,000.00		\$3,955.00	\$2,535.00
77	Municipal Pension Benefit	\$9,050.00		\$16,006.25	\$12,000.00
78	Life Insurance Benefit	\$2,400.00		\$1,350.80	\$2,000.00
79	WorksafeBC	\$150.00		\$125.27	\$150.00
80	TOTAL EMPLOYEE EXPENSES	\$164,300.00		\$188,700.95	\$170,165.00
	GENERAL & ADMIN EXPENSES				
82	Accounting & Audit	\$6,200.00		\$5,395.07	\$6,200.00
83	Legal	\$100.00		\$6,034.62	\$6,000.00
84	Bank Charges	\$100.00		\$885.04	\$100.00
85	Office Supplies	\$14,100.00		\$18,956.54	\$18,000.00
86	Postage & Courier	\$10,000.00		\$16,592.51	\$13,000.00
87	Telephone & Internet	\$2,700.00		\$3,075.86	\$3,000.00
88	Computer Software & Services	\$4,000.00		\$4,101.11	\$5,000.00
89	Equipment Maintenance & Upgrades	\$0.00		\$236.08	\$500.00
90	Staff Professional Development	\$2,000.00		\$3,044.55	\$5,000.00
91	Staff Travel	\$100.00		\$220.27	\$200.00
92	Service Recognition	\$2,000.00		\$2,491.76	\$2,500.00
93	President's Discretionary Fund	\$1,500.00		\$661.51	\$1,500.00
94	Directors/Staff liability insurance	\$3,195.00		\$3,195.00	\$3,195.00
95	Dir/Staff/Com travel insurance	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
96	Membership Recruitment Grants	\$3,800.00		\$2,610.00	\$3,800.00
97	Branch Formation	\$500.00		\$0.00	\$500.00
98	Liaison Priorities	\$3,000.00		\$231.69	\$1,500.00
99	RR Smith Disbursements (donations)	\$14,172.00		\$14,172.00	\$14,108.00
100	Postscript Production	\$60,000.00	\$67,713.84		\$68,000.00
101	Postscript Mailing	\$40,000.00	\$35,948.76		\$30,000.00
102	Postscript Total			\$103,662.60	
103	GENERAL & ADMIN TOTAL EXPENSES			\$186,566.21	\$183,103.00
104	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$674,717.00		\$698,761.65	\$718,768.00
105	NET INCOME			\$12,880.92	-\$13,723.00
106	SPECIAL FUNDS REPORT				
107	Reserve Fund Expenditures				
108	COSCO Conference				\$35,112.00
109	COSCO Co-hosting NPF AGM				\$2,000.00
110	Seniors Issue Awareness Booklet				\$10,000.00
115	SPECIAL FUNDS TOTAL EXPENDITURES				\$47,112.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' RECOMMENDATIONS

Regular Resolutions – require simple majority

1. Candidate Promotional Materials

THAT the words shown in bold italics below be added to Rules of Order part 8.3:

Distribution of Printed Materials

Distribution of printed materials (other than those included in the Registration Materials package) such as information supplementary to that contained in the package, or documents that Members of Branches may wish to distribute, shall be permitted if approved by the President or a Committee Chair. An adverse decision may be appealed to the Meeting. ***Promotional materials prepared by or on behalf of one or more candidates are not permitted.***

RATIONALE: The Directors believe that the distribution of candidate brochures and/or promotional items would add an unnecessary aspect of campaigning to BCRTA election procedures.

2. Honorary membership

THAT Prime Minister Justin Trudeau be granted an honorary membership in the BCRTA.

RATIONALE: A majority of Directors believe that Mr. Trudeau should be honoured by the BCRTA by virtue of his being a former BC teacher, having now attained the nation's highest office.

BRANCH RESOLUTIONS

From the Cariboo-Chilcotin RTA:

The CCRTA recommends to the BCRTA AGM:
THAT provincial directors be elected geographically as follows: 4 from the Lower Mainland; 1 from Vancouver Island; 3 from the remaining geographic areas of the province as determined by the BCRTA.

RATIONALE:

Although the current system of electing rural directors purports to ensure that all areas of the province are represented on the BCRTA Board of Directors, it would seem that that is not necessarily what happens. By electing four directors from the Greater Vancouver and Fraser Valley regions, and four directors from regions of the province outside of the Greater Vancouver and Fraser Valley regions, it is not inconceivable that all of

the Board could be composed of directors who live in the lower mainland and Vancouver Island. This motion would ensure that the non-Vancouver/ Vancouver Island branches would have some representation on the board, while also guaranteeing that the areas where the majority of retired teachers live maintain a majority influence.

Current member distribution,
as at December 31st, 2015:

AREA	BRANCHES	MEMBERS
Lower Mainland	15	6,665
Vancouver Island	9	2,676
Rest of province	24	3,439

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS (ACER-CART) SEPTEMBER 2016 REPORT

We are all members of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers/Association Canadienne des Enseignantes et des Enseignants Retraités.

An ACER-CART fee of thirty-five cents a year provides each of us with an advocacy voice on the national scene and assures us of the collegiality of about 138,000 individual retired teachers in 13 Member associations across the land as well as the support of thousands of active colleagues.

1. JoAnn Lauber completed her two-year term as President of ACER-CART at the June AGM. I am pleased to report that the effectiveness and influence of ACER-CART has increased under her leadership.

2. We celebrated the 25th anniversary of ACER/CART. We can proudly report on BCRTA's contribution over the years. The founding President was a BCRTA member and we have been well represented by sharing some of BC's finest in the role of President: Clair Wark, Bruce Watson, Pat Brady and JoAnn Lauber.

3. The AGM adopted a new Strategic Plan, which gives focus to the goals and activities. The goals of the organization in responding to the needs and concerns of members are embedded in Political Advocacy: The promotion of optimal health outcomes for retired teachers and other seniors, communication and collaboration among members and the defence of pensions and income security.

4. ACER-CART has increased its strength in effective lobbying by collaborating with like-minded groups. One example was the anniversary of the demise of the 2004 Canada Health Accord. Retired teachers, the Federation of Retired Union Members, the Hospital Employees Union, UNIFOR, the BC Federation of Labour, Members of the BC Legislature, the surgical staff of Vancouver General Hospital in their scrubs and masks and concerned citizens joined in a single-minded demonstration to protest the coming reductions to health-care funding and the effects that will be felt by all Canadians.

5. ACER-CART collaborated with 50 like-minded associations in joining the Seniors Vote Coalition which wrote all Ministers of Finance and Opposition Critics to voice our concerns about pension reform, healthcare reform, a national housing strategy and income inequality. Continued advocacy efforts will be made in the new

name, Seniors Voice/ Voix des aînés.

6. ACER-CART is supporting actively the work of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), particularly "Choosing Wisely Canada" and the Alliance for a National Seniors' Strategy. "Choosing Wisely" promotes meaningful discussion between doctor and patient about the advisability of medical procedures, while the "Alliance" outlines specific plans to persuade the government elected in October 2015 to initiate the implementation of a national seniors care strategy.

7. ACER-CART produced a very useful pre-election brochure called "A Vision for Canada" that identifies the major issues affecting our members across the country. This non-partisan but politically strategic statement articulates clearly for national policies that will build the strong social and economic fabric necessary to enhance the well being of all Canadians. It is available on-line and is useful when members talk to candidates in coming elections as it highlights our position on Health Care, a National Seniors Care Plan, Universal Pharmacare and Pension reform.

8. JoAnn presented a research study on the need for more Geriatricians in Canada. In 2012 Canada, with a population of 32 million had only 233 geriatric specialists. This critical shortage is especially worrisome because the elderly population will make up 25% of the total population in a couple of decades. ACER-CART, with other organizations has begun to raise this concern with federal and provincial governments.

9. BC shared BCRTA's Seniors' Issues, our election preparedness pamphlet, with other provincial and territorial retired teachers associations, who received it enthusiastically. We gave permission for them to use it and many did. The first question I received after it was presented was, "May we translate it into French?"

ACER-CART values the support of provincial organizations and individual members. As we collectively and individually contact MPs, MLAs, media outlets and our network of personal friends and acquaintances to advocate for our issues, we can make a difference for the future of our country's citizens.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Tiede, ACER-CART Representative

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

Regina Day (Chair) Stefan Cieslik (2nd Vice President BCRTA), Bob Taverner (President BCRTA), Patricia Clough (1st Vice President), Grace Wilson, JoAnn Lauber Cliff Boldt

The Advocacy Committee set the following objectives for the 2015/2016 year:

a) Function as an advisory committee to the Board, its committees, and branches when advocacy projects are being considered or undertaken:

The Health and Housing Committee has prepared a pre-election booklet for the May 2017 provincial election. Advocacy provided the committee with suggestions and took motions to the Board that would ensure its distribution.

b) Assist other BCRTA committee as they prepare for the BCRTA's involvement in the 2017 provincial election.

The Advocacy Committee dealt with issues of membership concern to to be included in the pre-election booklet.

c) Ensure that BCRTA-prepared information for the 2017 provincial election is made available to BCRTA members and other interested individuals and groups.

Advocacy is ensuring that the pre election booklet will be distributed to our membership and also to kindred organizations. It will also be posted on the BCRTA website.

d) The Advocacy Committee supports BCRTA involvement with other local organizations and attendance at conferences and other events related to BCRTA goals and objectives.

The Advocacy Committee on behalf of the BCRTA has initiated a joint advocacy project with the BC Health Coalition. The Advocacy Committee sent 3 members to attend the Canadian Health Coalition's Lobby on the Hill in Ottawa. Individuals from across Canada met MPs to lobby for (*) a new National Health Accord which would be signed by the federal government and all the provinces and territories. (*) the establishment of a national drug policy and (*) a national seniors' plan.

Two members of the Advocacy Committee participated in the Round Table discussion which resulted in "A Declaration Concerning a National Health Care Strategy for Seniors". The round table discussion involved both national and provincial organizations that are advocates for enhanced and appropriate health care for seniors.

e) The Advocacy Committee will seek cooperation and support from and work with kindred provincial and national organizations.

The BCRTA interacts with ACER-CART, BC Health Coalition, BC Forum, Canadian Health Coalition, CCPA, COSCO First Call, NPF, Seniors' Voice/Voix Des Aines.

f) The Advocacy Committee will identify appropriate people in government to be approached on issues affecting our membership.

The BCRTA president has written to provincial and federal ministers and opposition leaders and the BC Seniors' Advocate on issues brought forward by the Board and its committees:

IE: the National Pharmaceutical Plan , the discrepancy in doctors' fees for the drivers' tests, Blue Cross, buying of plasma, transportation concerns in rural areas especially cancer treatments, renegotiation of the National Health Accord.

BCRTA officers have lobbied and received clarification regarding ICBC Insurance Plan regarding coverage for 65+ drivers when doing volunteer work for BCRTA. The information was distributed to branches and members.

g) The Advocacy Committee will prepare for meetings with MLAs in advance of the 2017 election around issues related to public education and seniors' issues:

The BCRTA will provide branches with funding for the 2017 pre-election all-candidates forums. Branches can apply for grants up to \$1200.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee continues to advance the public persona of BCRTA by working to refine external and internal communications through different strategies. One strategy has been to work closely with the Membership and Excellence in Public Education Committees to develop different publicity methods to enhance this goal. Another strategy was designed by our former chair, Cliff Boldt, along with Nancy Spooner Consultants, to survey our membership. The results were encouraging, supporting our efforts to serve our membership more effectively.

Before I continue, I need to pay a debt of gratitude to our former Office Administrator, Patricia Laursen, for her support. As she has retired we wish her well in retirement.

I also wish to stress how important Kristi Josephson, our present Office Administrator, and Laurie Boyd, Administrative Assistant, are to our continuing success as a committee. I also wish to especially thank fellow director, Gail Montgomery, whose sage advice and support allowed me to concentrate on my role as Chair. As she is taking time out and away from BCRTA duties we wish her well and hope to see her return in the future.

One of our most important roles is to support our members concerns during this difficult time in public education. To that end we were pleased to act on a motion adopted by the 2015 AGM, pointing out the inequity between public and independent school funding. We were able, despite a limited budget, to

blanket the province with print ads as well as letters to the editor and messages on Facebook and Twitter. We continue to get questions from other interested groups asking for advice on how to conduct their campaigns, and we are happy to oblige as these generally support our initiatives. The committee is continuing to examine other ways to communicate, investigating electronic media for example, while budgeting realistically.

I wish to take the unusual step of encouraging members to apply for appointment to the Communications Committee. While some of our members have media experience, we are looking for interested members who support the aims of the BCRTA, communicating effectively with our members as well as the public. The committee currently lacks gender equity and representation from some areas outside the Lower Mainland. We will have up to four vacancies to fill. Hopefully we can start to address this inequality this next year.

My thanks to Communications Committee members George Main, Don Caskey, Floyd Smith, Gail Montgomery, and Ken Kuhn, who fulfills a special role as editor of Liaison Priorities editor. Thanks also to Shelia Gair, editor of Postscript, for her contributions during the year.

Respectfully submitted
Sterling Campbell, Chair

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

This current year has again been a busy one for the Committee. Our Committee objectives for the 2015-2016 were to:

1. Coordinate the administration and adjudication of the (intergeneration) Golden Star Award Program on behalf of the BCRTA. The Golden Star Awards are made to public school programs that feature the interaction between students and seniors, in the belief that such programs connect the generations and add to the learning, understanding and appreciation of the skills and experiences of both groups

The Committee met and is pleased to announce the 4 Golden Star Awards for 2016 are:

HJ Cambie Secondary School, Richmond, BC. Contact: Paula Curtis, "Health Science 12/Pinegrove Place Project"

Lake City Secondary, Columneetza Campus, Williams Lake, BC. Contact: Randy Morgan, "Community Leadership Program"

Salmon Arm Secondary School, Salmon Arm, BC. Contact: Brent Chudiak, "Seniors to Seniors Project"

Shannon Lake Elementary School, West Kelowna, BC. Contact: Sharon Foster, "Adopt a Grandparent Program"

The Legion Gold Star Award for 2016 is:

Sullivan Heights Secondary School, Surrey, BC. Contact: Marc Pelech, "Youth Vision Project"

Presentations of the trophies and the cheques have been made to all five recipients. Pictures and articles for all 5 winners will be published throughout the coming year in "Postscript". A summary of each program will be posted on the BCRTA website and in "Liaison Priorities"

The increase of all awards to \$1500.00 was appreciated by all the recipients .

2. Continue writing articles that celebrate the excellence of the contributions made to the BCRTA and/or ACER-CART by living past presidents of the organization.

This year, no articles were written as we are current with articles on living past presidents.

3. Continue to attend monthly meetings of First Call and to support their initiatives as appropriate.

Steve Bailey as our representative to First Call has kept us informed of issues and has been the author of motions/letters of support. First Call is very happy to have the BCRTA as an active partner.

4. Investigate the funding of private schools in BC in the context of supporting the public school system of BC.

The document, "Myths Surrounding the Funding of Public Education in British Columbia" has been completed and widely circulated to BCRTA members in Postscript and Liaison Priorities, and copies have been to others who share our interests in the funding of Public Education in BC (BCTF, BCPVPA, BCSTTA, BCSSA).

The Committee has also contributed to the BCRTA 2017 election brochure, with information on the underfunding of public education and questions for candidates.

The Committee was also able to have the BC School Trustees Association proclaim, in perpetuity, June 1st as "Intergenerational Day" in BC. Many Branches joined with their Trustees to celebrate the programs and projects involving public school students and seniors in their communities.

As Chair of the Committee, I will miss the contributions of retiring committee members, Gail Montgomery and Lynne Rodier.

Respectively submitted: Steve Bailey, Charan Gill (chair), Caroline Malm, Alf McLean, Gail Montgomery, Lynne Rodier and Louisa Sanchez.

HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Board approved the following goals for 2015/16 for the Health and Housing Committee:

1. To monitor the progress of the Federal Liberal Government with regard to its campaign commitments.
2. To identify health and housing issues pertinent to seniors and to begin gathering material for the 2017 provincial election.
3. To continue advocating for seniors with municipal, provincial and federal governments.
4. To develop a BCRTA policy statement regarding housing for BCRTA members and other seniors.

Committee members are monitoring the following campaign commitments made by the Federal Liberals:

1. Lower yearly TFSA contribution limit from \$10000 back to \$5500
2. Increase yearly GIS benefits for single low income seniors by nearly \$1000
3. Introduce a Seniors' Price Index to ensure fair COLA increases to OAS and GIS benefits
4. Restore Canada Post's door-to-door home mail delivery service
5. Invest \$20 billion in infrastructure, including seniors' residences, rent-geared-to-income housing and refurbishment of existing homes and facilities
6. Base eligibility for compassionate care benefits for caregivers on serious illness rather than on terminal diagnosis. Allow six months of compassionate care benefits to be claimed in blocks over the course of a year-long period
7. Eliminate the \$1000 Labour Market Impact Assessment Fee for hiring foreign care givers
8. Negotiate a new Health Accord with provinces to lower prescription drug costs and improve access to drugs
9. Negotiate a new Health Accord with premiers that includes long-term home care funding
10. Invest \$3 billion to expand and improve health care services for people receiving home care

Health and Housing Committee members along with Pension and Benefits, Social Concerns, and Excellence in Education Committee members have identified and researched topics of interest and concern to seniors that will be included in a non-partisan pre-provincial election booklet. The format of the booklet is similar to the 2015 pre-federal election booklet. It identifies issues and provides facts, followed by questions for ease of use when meeting with a candidate from any party. The purpose of the booklet is to educate members about issues facing seniors and to determine the positions of various candidates on these issues. The booklets will be distributed to branches and organizations that have expressed an interest. Branches are encouraged to use the material in all candidate forums and in individual meetings with candidates.

First-vice president, Patricia Clough and committee members JoAnn Lauber and Regina Day represented the BCRTA in Ottawa where they were part of a larger group advocating for the renegotiation of the Health Accord, a Seniors Health Care Plan and a National Pharmaceutical Strategy. The Health and Housing Committee was also represented at SFU's annual John K. Friesen Conference, which focused on seniors' housing, and at a CCPA sponsored conference and release of the research, "Promising Practices in Long Term Care".

On Health and Housing's recommendation a BCRTA letter was sent to the Federal Health Minister, Jane Philpott, communicating BCRTA's appreciation of her efforts to have a new Health Accord with the provinces and territories signed by the end of 2016. On their recommendation a second letter was sent to Ms. Philpott, urging her to lead Canada in the establishment of a national pharmaceutical plan. BCRTA president, Bob Taverner, signed the letters.

The committee continues to work on a housing policy statement for the BCRTA.

Health and Housing Committee Members for 2015/16 were:

Grace Wilson, Chair	Janice Androsoff
Cliff Boldt	Stefan Cieslik
Regina Day	Tom Hastie
JoAnn Lauber	Caroline Malm

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Heritage committee members: Elaine Anderson, Janice Androsoff, Don Caskey, Lynne Farquharson, Charan Gill, Diane McNay, Karen MacDonald, Barb Mikulec-chair

The goals for 2015/16 for the Heritage Committee were approved by the Board:

1. To continue to promote the availability of updated BCRTA Heritage Project Funding Grants Criteria and Application forms from the BCRTA website
2. To continue to administer and adjudicate heritage grants on behalf of the BCRTA
3. To encourage recipients of heritage grant monies to write an article about their project for PostScript
4. To visit a heritage site
5. To promote the availability of the Education Heritage Resource Collection.

Actions: The committee prepared and manned a heritage table display at the BCRTA AGM.

Committee members adjudicated applications from Cowichan Valley RTA for signage for previously existing schools, Surrey RTA for the heritage webpage, Abbotsford RTA for funds to archive heritage materials, also Prince George RTA for their 'Historical Memories' project, Volume IV. The committee arranged for reports to be placed in the PostScript and Liaison Priorities about Heritage grants.

Currently, the Heritage committee members are monitoring the fate of the Little Yellow Schoolhouse on the grounds of General Gordon School in Vancouver. Negotiations are underway with the Vancouver School Board to retain the Heritage building with proposals to re-purpose the building as a museum/ cultural centre or pre-school. At over one hundred years old, the building has significant heritage value, and could be a valuable resource for community and/or heritage groups.

Ken Novakowski gave an informative talk about the work of the BC Labour Heritage Centre's Projects and Partnerships. The Committee successfully requested the Board of the BCRTA to fund plaques to commemorate events in five communities which highlight the road for collective bargaining rights

in BC. The BCRTA contribution will be recognized through press releases announcing the plaques, will be included in the printed program for the unveiling of each plaque and will be mentioned in the unveiling ceremony for each plaque. In 1919, Victoria teachers went on strike over salaries, which was the first teacher strike in Canada. In 1921, New Westminster teachers went on strike because their Board failed to implement an arbitration award granted through the process of arbitration. In 1939, Langley teachers secured the right that would require School Boards to participate in binding arbitration to settle salary disputes with teachers.

In 1974, Surrey teachers took action on class size reductions working conditions which had not been part of bargaining previously. In 1981, Terrace teachers engaged in a six day strike to have aspects of their working conditions and personnel practises included in an agreement with their Board. These achievements mark significant steps for BC teachers in their struggle to obtain full collective bargaining rights. Barb Mikulec attended the BC Labour Heritage celebration of their work, including a premiere screening of the 'Matthew Bowcott Story, Day of Mourning' schools project video.

The committee had a speaker Janet Morley from Heritage Fairs BC. She explained schools are involved with 12 Regional Fairs and a Provincial Fair. Following this presentation, Barb Mikulec adjudicated heritage fair students projects in Vancouver, selecting students for the Regional Heritage Fair. The BC Provincial Heritage Fair winners will be presented in July and the Heritage Committee will be represented at this event.

Another speaker was Derek Grant from the Vancouver Heritage Committee of the Vancouver School Board, sharing information about the heritage boxes placed in each school to retain materials significant to its school. Funding for these 108 boxes came from a heritage grant. Picture scanning of archival photographs is done regularly. School Liaison district wide meetings are held with administrators and staff members to explain the need to preserve heritage, working under a memorandum of Agreement setting out the duties and responsibilities in Vancouver.

The committee visited the General Currie Heritage Centre in Richmond to learn about their successes

in retaining heritage artifacts from each school. We received a report about the re-opening of the Skipsey Heritage Collection in Nanaimo, covering the mid-island region from 1968-1980, thanks to Carolyn Prellwitz.

Members are urging districts to make heritage policies for their district. A number of policies have already been collected. We collected heritage articles printed in the

Surrey, Prince George and Vancouver RTA newsletters.

The Heritage resource materials library on the bookshelves in the BCRTA office was updated. A Heritage article was submitted to Teacher magazine for publication. Many thanks to the committee members in 2015-16 for all their efforts, Barb Mikulec, Chair

LIAISON PRIORITIES

The ***Liaison Priorities*** newsletter is a communications initiative started in the early Fall of 2013 and the “pilot” newsletter was printed in November 2013. Since that first issue there have been sixteen issues published and sent out. ***Liaison Priorities*** improves communications to BCRTA members as the newsletter (1) can be produced in a short timeline, (2) has a minimal cost to produce, (3) shares information from BCRTA Board meetings, committee meetings, and messages from the President, and (4) can focus on emergent issues facing BCRTA members and seniors.

The newsletter is a “liaison” of the “priorities” that the BCRTA Board wants to share with the branches—and also is an opportunity for the branches to share their thoughts with the Board and other branches. A few of the ***Liaison Priorities*** issues have been four pages but most have been eight pages long and included current topics such as health care concerns, Federal election topics, national seniors’ strategy, BC Child Poverty Report Card, Medicare, universal Pharmacare, myths surrounding the funding of public education, & BCRTA Branch news. As our e-mail list of BCRTA members has grown, and thusly the need for printed copies reduced, the expense to print and mail ***Liaison Priorities*** is very low and with

very little need for staff support as Ken Kuhn does all the editing and formatting. The positive feedback from the newsletter has been overwhelming and seems to fill a communications need of the BCRTA.

The advantages of receiving the newsletter by e-mail include express delivery as soon as the newsletter is completed; live hyperlinks to Internet sites and articles as well as links to e-mails included in the newsletter; and a beautiful colourful newsletter that can either be read on-line or printed out at your home for reading. The benefits to the BCRTA include saving our BCRTA organization expense for postage, paper, envelopes, labour to fold and label the newsletter—and is much kinder to our environment. Thank you to members who have made this e-mail delivery choice.

I hope that ***Liaison Priorities*** has, in fact, done the job of being a “liaison” and will continue to suit the needs of the BCRTA Board, the branches, and the BCRTA members. I encourage you to provide your personal feedback by sending me an e-mail at kenkuhn@shaw.ca.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Kuhn, Liaison Priorities Editor

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee continues to update and streamline the Branch Membership Enhancement Guide. Each branch should have one hard copy and the Guide is available on line at the BCRTA website. Many thanks to Laurie Boyd in the BCRTA office for streamlining the organization of the guide and for her great 'polishing' of the document as a whole.

Our Members' Advantage Program continues to grow. Responses to some of the newer services like discounts at Park 'N Fly and First Memorial / Dignity planning services have been gratifying. COSTCO has initiated a discount for newly joining BCRTA members who take out a COSTCO membership. The committee works at each meeting to add to our Advantage Offerings across a broad range of goods and services and encourages Branches to seek out discount opportunities in their own areas.

Our new BCRTA membership cards have been distributed. These raise the profile of BCRTA membership and provide increased credibility to businesses that are part of our Members' Advantage Program and to potential community advantage partners.

As on-line communication of various kinds becomes more significant in our daily lives, the Membership Committee continues to work with the Communications Committee to insure that our membership keeps informed on the wide spectrum of issues and concerns we have as retired educators. Branches are urged to keep their 'space' on the BCRTA website updated. The Communications Committee is engaged in a re-design of the website which we hope will result in increased use by our members. As well, our established print publications, PostScript and Liaison Priorities, keep our members informed about our Members' Advantage Program and other membership activities.

One of those important membership activities is BCRTA branch attendance at local Teachers Pension Plan seminar presentations. Many thanks to our branches who faithfully attend these events, acting as hosts in support of the seminar presenter, and giving our BCRTA promotional material with invitations for potential retirees to join our association. This effort results in a significant addition to BCRTA membership each year, along with branch efforts to contact retiring teachers in their area and attend local retirement functions with information on BCRTA membership. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

During the coming year, the Membership Committee, in partnership with the Excellence in Public Education Committee and the Communications Committee will develop material focussing on a promotion of the Golden Star Awards and of the advantages of BCRTA membership. Working with the Communications Committee, we are creating a new comprehensive professionally produced booklet to describe and promote all aspects of BCRTA membership and activity.

The committee is also exploring the concept of 'Virtual Membership' in terms of enhanced service to BCRTA members who are not members of one or more BCRTA branches. There are approximately 2800 BCRTA members who do not belong to a branch. We are studying the demographics in order to better understand this situation.

Submitted by the Membership Committee: Elaine Anderson, Sterling Campbell, George Main, Diane McNay, Lynne Rodier, Patricia Wright, Steve Bailey (Chair)

PENSIONS & BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Committee members: Stefan Cieslik, Patricia Clough, Al Cornes, Dale Lauber, Arnie Lambert, Grace Wilson, Gerry Tiede (Chair)

Main Activities of the committee:

1. The largest activity of the committee this year was the successful implementation of the new Johnson's EHC with Travel plan. Well over 600 members have already joined the plan and we are hearing good reports of the coverage and the excellent service provided. The unique design of this plan has lowered the premium costs and provided better coverage for some of our members. The main reasons for choosing this plan is that it covers any number of trips outside BC with each trip having a maximum length of 62 days and this plan does not have a 90-day stability clause.

2. The Medoc plan continues to meet the travel insurance needs of the bulk of our members. During this past year Medoc has proven its value to our members because it paid out eight claims of over \$50,000 each.

3. A significant amount of time is spent dealing with insurance issues raised by our members. Occasionally claims are denied which puts financial strain on our members. The two most frequent reasons that Medoc claims are denied:

a. A member's medical condition changes during the 90-day period before the trip begins. If your medical condition changes, even for the better, you should contact Medoc immediately and use the trip cancellation benefits provided by the plan. Then, when your condition is stable, you can rebook your trip.

b. A member completes the Medical Options Questionnaire incorrectly and selects the Optimum or Preferred rates. When a medical incident happens, the insurance company researches your medical file; if they find a discrepancy in your answers on

the questionnaire, your insurance is void and your claim won't be paid. Remember that all members qualify for the Standard rate without completing the questionnaire.

4. Pension and Benefit information was provided to members through:

a. Regular articles in Postscript

b. Committee members presented information to members at 12 local or zone meetings.

5. Patricia Clough and Gerry Tiede attended all meetings of the Teachers' Pension Plan Advisory Committee and the BCTF Pensions Committee to provide input on behalf of our members and to stay up to date with potential changes that may affect us.

6. The committee constantly monitors the health of our pension plan. The 2014 actuarial report showed that our plan was in a surplus position for the first time ever. This is especially good news for the retired members as 2% of the government's contribution to the Basic Account will be transferred to the Inflation Adjustment Account (IAA) beginning in 2016. This increases the total contributions to the IAA by almost 50% which significantly improves the Plan's ability to pay full cost of living adjustments into the future.

Johnson's Insurance Quick Facts – March, 2016

- Home insurance policies in force – 1,080
- Home insurance policies with an Air Miles number – 688
- MEDOC policies in force – 8536 + 650 BCTF policies
- Guaranteed Life insurance policies in force – 20
- Term Life insurance policies in force – 10
- Long-Term Care policies in force – 56
- Johnson's Plan (EHC with Travel) – 619
- Dental Care policies in force – 102

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

During the summer of 2015 we hired Laurie Boyd, under a probationary contract, to fill the position of Administrative Assistant for the period August 24th to December 31st, 2015. With her retirement as Office Administrator imminent, Patricia Laursen took her remaining weeks of vacation during the final weeks of 2015. We then negotiated a short term contract with Kristi Josephson, appointing her to the position of Acting Office Administrator for the period November 1st until December 31st, 2015.

Following several weeks of more than satisfactory service from our two employees, we successfully negotiated contracts with them both for the period January 1st to December 31st, 2016, with Kristi confirmed as Office Administrator, and Laurie as Administrative Assistant.

Most BCRTA Directors and several Past Presidents gathered at the Rogue Kitchen and Wetbar on West Broadway on December 6th, 2015, to thank Patricia Laursen for her seventeen years of excellent service to the BCRTA, and to wish her all the best in retirement.

Acting upon advice from the auditor, we recommended

to the Finance Committee that it consider the advisability of hiring a book-keeping expert to assist our office staff with mastering and updating the BCRTA's book-keeping and record keeping systems generally. The Finance Committee agreed with the idea and recommended it to the Board, which adopted it in turn. The contract of engagement proposed by book-keeping consultant Maggie Geiser was then agreed to.

Kristi and Laurie have served the Association exceptionally well over the past year, sometimes going well beyond the call of duty. We thank them for this service to the Board of Directors and to our Members, and we especially thank them for the cheerful way in which they carry out their tasks, and the cooperative spirit in which they work together.

Thanks also to my fellow Personnel Committee members Patricia Clough, Stefan Cieslik, Cliff Boldt and Tom Brunker.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Taverner, Chair,
and BCRTA President

POSTSCRIPT COMMITTEE

I was on my deck, immersed in a good detective novel when Kristi called. The Summary of Reports was just about done, except for the fact that there was no Postscript report. I've dug out the booklet from last year, where every committee chair lists its membership and their good works and successes throughout the year. They had meetings and talked up issues relevant to seniors and retired teachers. They met with politicians and local government officials and put wrongs to right where possible. They took part in zone meetings and invited the BCRTA executive and Johnson representatives to talk to members throughout the province, and they worked with the BCTF when requested. Issues that often appeared in the press had them write letters and speak out through the media.

Well I don't really do any of that – but am quite happy

with my lot. The other day I made a discovery that surprised me. I retired in 1996 and joined my own branch Delta, and worked on a newsletter. I found I had 19 years of Delta newsletters stashed away – and must admit my mouth did drop open a bit! Writing in to the Bulletin editor at the BCRTA in the mid-nineties I was critical (It's part of my makeup) of the many errors within its pages and was invited in to help with editing. I worked with Jack Gilmore for several years, was given the title of assistant editor - and one year he just bowed out and handed over. He'd been editor for twenty years.

The job is an appointed one – the President makes the appointment each September. So far, so good! There is just one drawback from my perspective and that is that I am not a director, and although I sit at the table for all board meetings I have no vote. However that

does not prevent me from tossing in my two cents whenever I feel the urge which happens quite often!

My job as I see it, is to encourage our membership to make the best of their retirement through the pages of the Postscript. With pensions and benefits articles we can guide you through some of the finances. With articles from our members we can cover travel opportunities, and there are perks with membership. The magazine offers a classified section for those looking to travel or volunteer. Articles talk about second careers, volunteer work and hobbies that one might take up. We have the obituaries (far too many in the last issue) and the puzzles for those addicted to them and then there are the teachers who write books! Who would have guessed there were so many of you out there!

I have tried through my round table writings to make the reader see that we are ordinary, everyday people

working through a lot of quite tricky scenarios – and the actual minutes are available (just call the office) – but they can be dry. People travel and report back on the workshops they attend, or the meetings in other provinces, or work with the many local groups in which we have a voice. It's a very long day and a very full one, with a myriad of details to work through – and I need the membership to be aware and feel part of the organisation.

I'll thank my partner Kristi for all her good work, and thank all of you who have contributed this year and urge you to keep those articles coming - not forgetting the great photographs as well. Without them we wouldn't have a magazine that I feel is worth reading – and 96% of you agree with me on that as our survey said. Here's to another interesting year.

Sheila Gair, Editor.

RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS COMMITTEE

Thank you to Committee members: Al Cornes, Arnie Lambert, George Main, Lynne Rodier, Floyd Smith, Margaret Sutton, and Gerry Tiede.

Over 530 teachers attended twenty-three workshops that were presented during the year. Workshops were rated highly with over 85% of teachers who responded indicating that our sessions either met or exceeded their expectations.

Thank you to all our presenters who took on the task of implementing revisions to our workshop that focuses on the non-financial aspects of planning a successful retirement.

Presenters will be updated in October on the fine-tuning of our revisions, including updated information on the RTA's extended health care/travel insurance plan.

A new comparative handout on the details of post retirement group benefits (dental, extended health and travel) was prepared and has received been well received.

Local RTA chapters are encouraged to make contact with BCTF local presidents, Professional Development chairs and school district officials to encourage them to book our new workshop in your area. (contact Laurie to book a session)

The Committee is currently working on the design of a new workshop on government and group benefits which is targeted for introduction in January 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
To Al Cornes, Chair

Note: The Retirement Workshop Committee is a sub-committee of the Pension and Benefits Committee.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Members: Margaret Sutton , Lynne Rodier, Patricia Wright, Karen MacDonald, Alf McLean, Louisa Sanchez, Lynne Farquharson

Our first meeting of the new 2015/2016 Social Concerns committee took place in December 2015. The committee had plans to tackle several issues of concern to seniors. The long list was quickly replaced with a single item which proved equally ambitious; to contribute information to the Chair of the Health and Housing Committee. This committee has taken on the task of developing a pre - election booklet in preparation for the 2017 BC provincial election. The format is to be similar in format to the pre - federal election booklet that was produced for the fall of 2015. The design is to have non- partisan facts and prepared questions that members can use to query all candidates running for election. Thanks to the dedicated research by many people, by committee and other provincial members we were able to complete research and a draft was sent in May. Our topic was: “Access to medical care in the province of BC varies. The disparity in readily available care increases because of transportation issues.”

One committee member, Alf McLean, has done extensive research on the issues associated with retaining a BC driver’s licence after the age of 80. COSCO recently brought up the issue of “DriveAble Testing”. The concern that the BCRTA brought to the attention of the Seniors Advocate and the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles was the varied fees that doctors in our province are charging to complete the reports required. The ‘Doctors of BC’ currently recommend \$193 for the report and it is required every 2 years for a driver 80 years and older.

At our final committee meeting in June 2016, we will provide a complete list of suggested topics for the 2016/2017 Social Concerns committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Montgomery
Social Concerns Committee Chair
BCRTA Director

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT THE 2016 BCRTA AGM

FOR PRESIDENT – 1 year term Patricia Clough

It has been a privilege to work on behalf of active and retired teachers in British Columbia. I hope to continue to serve BCRTA Members.

BACKGROUND:

Local:

- L.R., Bargaining Committee
- 2nd VP, 1st VP, Acting President
- Staff Rep., Pro-D Rep
- Shuswap Childrens' Association - Director and Treasurer
- South Okanagan Soroptimists – Vice President
- Washington State Jayceetes – Charter Local President and State Director
- SDRTA Member at Large

Provincial:

- BCTF Executive Committee (4 years)
- Chair & Deputy Chair of PSA Council of Presidents (5 years)
- PSA President, Editor & Treasurer (30 years)
- Workshops and in service in 39 Districts and Locals in BC
- BCRTA Board of Directors
- Advocacy, Social Concerns and Pensions & Benefits Committees
- Advocacy Committee Chair (3 years)
- Personnel, Finance Committee
- BCRTA - 2nd VP (2 years), 1st VP (2 years), Director (3 years)
- ACER-CART AGM 2014, BCRTA delegate in Ottawa (2015, 2016)
- NPF – Delegate 2014, 2015, 2016
- Organized two (2) BCRTA Conferences
- BCRTA Zone & Branch Meetings
- Pension Training and Experience;
- BCTF Pension Seminars (5 years)
- Public Sector Pension Conference (4 years)
- BC Share Conference (2 years)
- BCTF Pension Advisory Committee (6 years – 2010-2016)
- Teacher Pension Plan Advisory Committee (6 years)
- BCRTA delegate to BCTF AGM – Pension Motions (6 years)

Highlights:

- Honorary Life Member of the BCTF & North Okanagan-Shuswap Teachers' Assoc., Local 83
- Began teaching 53 years ago (Prince George, South Okanagan, North Okanagan-Shuswap)
- Hazel Davy Award 1995 (BC Special Ed Teacher of the year)
- My colleagues, who taught me and taught my children so brilliantly.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT THE 2016 BCRTA AGM

FOR 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT – 1 year term Stefan Cieslik

Almost 50 years teaching K-12 here in BC (Queen Charlottes, Terrace, Shuswap, S. Okanagan) + 1 year Elem. (UK) + 1 term at St. Mary's College (University of London) in 1968), University of Havana, Cuba (2005)

As a representative for active and retired teachers I have enjoyed working as an advocate for members - locally, regionally and at the provincial level.

BACKGROUND:

Provincial Experience:

- BCRTA: Currently, 2nd VP (2 yrs) Finance Committee Chairperson, Member of Pension and Benefits Committee
- 2013-16: Health & Housing, Social Concerns, Advocacy & Personnel Committees
- BCTF Finance Committee Chairperson/Committee Member (1996-2003)
- Organizer of the 2015 and 2016 BCRTA Conferences
- BCRTA Delegate to the National Pensioners' Federation Conference 2015-16

Regional Experience:

- Director Contact for the Nicola / Shuswap / Thompson-Okanagan BCRTA Zone
- Regional Rep for northwest BC with the BC Touring Council (Arts Advocacy)

Local Experience:

- President of South Okanagan Teachers' Union (4 yrs)
- Treasurer, South Okanagan Teachers' Union & other groups (several years)
- Currently, President of the Wine Country RTA (5th term)
- Currently, Palliative Care Volunteer and Volunteer driver for the Canadian Cancer Van Program

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT THE 2016 BCRTA AGM

FOR 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT – 1 year term Gerry Tiede

As Chair of the BCRTA Pensions and Benefits Committee for the past 4 years I have been uniquely positioned to help individuals in our association, improve the health insurance options available to our members and provide useful information to the membership through visits to local associations, presentations at our conference and through articles in Postscript on pension, insurance programs and allowable income tax deductions. I believe we have all benefited from the exceptionally knowledgeable, collaborative and hard working members of both the Pensions and Benefits Committee and the Retirement Workshop Sub-Committee and believe that they are a key ingredient to guarding the welfare and promoting the interests of our members.

I have been able to share our BC successes with other provincial associations through ACER-CART meetings. And through an opportunity to spend time with the Retired Teachers of Ontario association I have seen opportunities where we could expand our service to our members, grow our membership and increase our influence. I would appreciate your support in allowing me to contribute my enthusiasm, experience and knowledge to a future, even better, BC Retired Teachers Association.

BACKGROUND:

- Surrey RTA member
- 35 years as a teacher and principal, working in the Caribou-Chilcotin, Richmond and Surrey.
- Served 2 years as a BCRTA Director and 4 years as the ACER-CART Representative.
- Served as a Trustee of the BC Teachers' Pension Plan for 11 years including 3 years as Chair.
- Board member of the Shareholder Association for Education and Research – (7 years)

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT THE 2016 BCRTA AGM

FOR DIRECTOR **(Inside the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Regions)** **Two – 2 year terms / One – 1 year term** **Barb Mikulec (Vancouver)**

It has been a privilege to serve as a BCRTA Director for six years. I hope to continue to serve members and advocate of your behalf. Thank you for your support.

BACKGROUND:

EXPERIENCE AND CONTRIBUTION:

- BCRTA Heritage Committee -current chair
- BCRTA Finance Committee -5 years
- BCRTA Membership committee -4 years
- BCRTA Health and Housing committee- 2 years
- BCRTA delegate to BCTF AGM
- R. R. Smith Memorial Foundation -Board member
- COSCO -General Vice-President and Housing Committee Chair
- Contributor to: Postscript, COSCO News, NPF newsletter, Vancouver Tabloid
- Canada 'Health Accord' -action Committee
- COSCO 2016 conference- planning committee
- National Pensioners Federation -housing committee
- Metro Vancouver Cross Cultural Senior Network -Board
- BC FORUM -Board
- UBC Faculty of Education -'100 Alumni of Distinction' award -2015
- Community Centre -Board, Finance, Program, Pool and Arena committees
- PEO Philanthropic Organization, Vancouver chapter -past treasurer, current president.

LOCAL EXPERIENCE:

- taught in Vancouver schools for 33 years at the primary and intermediate levels
- staff rep, and served on Vancouver School Board Learning Assistance Committee

I hope to continue to add my enthusiasm and dedication to the Board discussions for a stronger BCRTA, and thank you for your support.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT THE 2016 BCRTA AGM

FOR DIRECTOR **(Inside the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Regions)** **Two – 2 year terms / One – 1 year term** **ARNIE LAMBERT (Vancouver)**

I believe that my extensive committee involvement, work and experience in teaching, union leadership, and Pensions and Benefits, as well as my ongoing committee work with the BCRTA, have prepared me to help serve the interests of members in the position of Director.

BACKGROUND:

Teaching: All of my 25 years of classroom experience was in Summerland, where I taught Kindergarten to Grade 7

BCTF Staff: I worked at the BCTF for over 10 years, in Pensions and Benefits, and as Director of the Income Security Division

BCTF Cttes.: Income Security Ctte. (6 years), Pensions Ctte., (8 years)

Local: Treasurer, LR, Bargaining Ctte., Bargaining Chair, President (both Summerland Teachers' Assoc., and Okanagan Skaha Teachers' Union)

Community: Director, Summerland & District Credit Union (4 years)

BCRTA: Pensions and Benefits Ctte. (4 years), Retirement Workshops Ctte. (4 years)

Vancouver RTA: Member-at-Large

My wife, Bonnie, and I are happily retired in Vancouver. We appreciate what the city has to offer in the way of arts and entertainment, and outdoor activities, and we enjoy sailing, travelling, reading, getting together with friends, and family time with our kids and grandchildren. We also both do volunteer work for a number of organizations.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT THE 2016 BCRTA AGM

FOR DIRECTOR **(Inside the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Regions)** **Two – 2 year terms / One – 1 year term** **Charan Gill (Richmond)**

BACKGROUND:

LOCAL EXPERIENCE:

- School Pro D Chair
- School Staff Rep
- Member at Large - Richmond Teachers' Association
- Chair of Richmond TA Convention
- Member Counselling LSA and PSA

BCTF EXPERIENCE:

- Member BCTF Changing Secondary Schools Project,
- BCTF Rep CAPP/CAPP in a BOX
- Assistant Director PD Division; portfolio included BCTF Beginning Teachers
- Developed BCTF Beginning Teachers' Handbook, organized Beginning Teachers' Conference, supported development of Mentoring Program in Locals
- "BCTF on Campus" for Teacher Education Programs, BCCT liaison

RETIRED TEACHER EXPERIENCE:

- Three month Counselling/Advising position, Dalian Maple Leaf International School, Jinshitan, Dalian, P.R. China (established procedures for students applying for post-secondary institutions in Canada, USA, UK and Australia.)
- Executive Member-at-Large, Richmond Retired Teachers' Association
- Treasurer of Richmond Retired Teachers' Scholarship Trust Fund.

BCRTA EXPERIENCE:

- One year as co-chair and member of Retirement Workshop Committee
- Two years as member of Social Concerns Committee, Heritage Committee
- Four years as member of Excellence in Public Education Committee - Three years as Chair
- Four years as Director within the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Regions

I believe the Board is becoming more process oriented and my skills in asking questions, reframing comments and summarizing discussions have contributed to this positive change. I have enjoyed my first four years on the Board, and would welcome the opportunity to serve again.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT THE 2016 BCRTA AGM

FOR DIRECTOR **(Outside the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Regions)** **Two – 2 year terms** **Grace Wilson (Kootenay Lake West)**

As a teacher and a retired educator I have always been involved as an advocate and representative of my colleagues. I wish to continue this for the next few years.

BACKGROUND:

PROVINCIAL:

- BCTF Executive Committee
- First Vice President (3 years)
- Negotiated Joint Trustee Pensions for Teachers' Pension Plan
- BCRTA
- Served on the following BCRTA Committees:
 - Health and Housing
 - Pensions and Benefits
 - Advocacy
 - Chair of Health and Housing (one year)

LOCAL ASSOCIATION:

- Teacher, Kamloops and Nelson School Districts - 33 years
- President, Nelson District Teachers' Association - six years
- Bargaining Committee - transitioned from local to provincial bargaining
- President during regional district amalgamations

LOCAL BCRTA BRANCH:

- Vice President, West Kootenay Lake RTA

As a member / chair of Health and Housing, I have continued the important work of identifying seniors' issues in preparing for the 2015 Federal and the 2017 provincial elections. I would be honoured to continue to serve the membership of the BCRTA as a Director by keeping the welfare of seniors on the provincial/federal agendas.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTION AT THE 2016 BCRTA AGM

FOR DIRECTOR (Outside the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Regions)

Two – 2 year terms

Lynda Rodier (Cariboo - Chilcotin)

The BCRTA is a vibrant and vital organization which supports its members throughout the province and which advocates, provincially, for retired teachers, in particular, as well as for our aging population. I have been an active member of this organization, particularly during the last four years when I have served on a number of its committees (Membership, Excellence in Public Education, Social Concerns and Retirement Workshop Committee). I believe that the organization plays an important function for retired educators, and that I have the skills, drive and enthusiasm to move the BCRTA forward over the next while as a director representing those retired educators who are “beyond Hope” ie. Those of us living outside the lower mainland.

In my local branch, I have been vice-president, secretary and, presently, co-chair.

The Northern Zone has been ably served by representatives who live in the zone. Those representatives have brought forward concerns of our area and have communicated with the branches effectively. If elected, I will continue that practice of two way communication.

I am seeking election as a director because I believe that the Northern Zone has needs which are unique and a strong voice for these needs is required.

ACER-CART Representative – 2 year term **Steve Bailey (Burnaby)**

Steve Bailey has been a member of the BCRTA Board of Directors since 2011. He is currently Chair of the Membership Committee, a member of the Excellence in Public Education Committee and a past member of the Heritage Committee.

As a Board Member, Steve has served as a Board Liaison to the Kootenay Zone, the Northern Zone and the Metro Fraser Zone. He is a BCRTA representative at the Roundtable of the First Call Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition and a member of the Board of Directors of the RR Smith Charitable Foundation.

Steve is a past president of the Burnaby Branch of the BCRTA and currently serves as branch secretary. Steve is familiar with cross-Canada issues relating to public education and retired educators, having served on the Board of the Canadian Council of Teachers of English (CCTE). The BCRTA is active in a number of national initiatives relating to the well being of retired educators and seniors through our association with ACER-CART as our national voice. He would be honoured to represent the BCRTA at national meetings, keeping other ACER-CART member organizations informed about the operations and activities of the BCRTA.

Steve will continue to focus on reporting to BCRTA meetings on the operations and activities of ACER-CART and its member associations, conveying to those associations any requests from the BCRTA regarding actions that might be undertaken nationally to further the interests of BCRTA members.

2016-2017 BCRTA COMMITTEES APPLICATION FORM

DEADLINE for receipt of Applications: September 24th, 2016

BCRTA committees usually meet 6 times a year during a 2-day period prior to each Board of Directors meeting. Meetings are held in the BCTF Building, at 100-West 6th Avenue, Vancouver. Appointments are made at the post-AGM Board of Directors meeting, and are generally for 2 years, with half of the positions becoming vacant each year. You may normally only serve on a given committee for a maximum of 4 consecutive years. Travel, accommodation and meal expenses are reimbursed.

Members are expected to sit on two committees. For further information see the Handbook on our website (www.bcrt.ca), and look in "Section C-Procedures", parts 6 and 7.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

Branch, if any: _____ Signed: _____

Nominated by two BCRTA members in good standing:

Nominator (please print): _____ Signed: _____

Nominator (please print): _____ Signed: _____

The BCRTA Committees are:

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION HEALTH & HOUSING HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP
COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS SOCIAL CONCERNS
PENSIONS & BENEFITS (A pensions background, e.g in the BCTF or a local, is required.)
[ADVOCACY (directors only)] [FINANCE (directors only)] [PERSONNEL (table officers only)]

Please list in order of preference:

Committee Applying for: #1 _____

Why would you be a good choice for this committee? _____

Committee Applying for: #2 _____

Why would you be a good choice for this committee? _____

Committee Applying for: #3 _____

Why would you be a good choice for this committee? _____

Outline positions held and/or the work you have done in your branch: _____

Note: Applicants will all be informed of the Directors' decisions concerning appointments.
Mail to BCRTA, 100 – 550 W 6th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4P2, or email to kristi@bcrt.ca



BCRTA DELEGATES TO THE 2017 BCTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOMINATION FORM

The BC Teachers' Federation holds its AGM each year during the March spring break. A block of time during the AGM is normally set aside for debating recommendations and resolutions relating to pensions. The BCRTA sends a number of delegates to participate and vote in the "in-committee" consideration of those motions. About half of our delegation consists of BCRTA directors and the other half is made up of BCRTA members, all elected at the BCRTA Annual General Meeting—to be held this year at the Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond on September 24th, 2016.

To be a BCRTA delegate to the BCTF AGM, you must be an active, life or honorary associate member of the BCTF. If you were a BCTF member when you retired, you are almost certainly an honorary associate BCTF member now. If you are unsure, you should contact the BCTF to check. (Google "BCTF" to get phone nos. etc.)

A background of past membership on a BCTF or local association Pensions Committee is a requirement, and experience on BCRTA or Branch executive or other committees would also be helpful. If elected, you will be asked to attend a pre-AGM session to become familiar with the issues. You should be prepared to go to a microphone at the BCTF AGM, to speak for or against a motion if the opportunity presents itself; and to stay until the end of the Pensions section of the BCTF AGM agenda.

Filling in and submitting this form will result in your name being added to the list of candidates on the BCRTA Delegates to the BCTF AGM ballot, used in the elections at our BCRTA AGM, scheduled for September 24th, 2016. Nominees do not have their expenses paid to attend our BCRTA AGM unless they are delegates. You will be notified after the AGM if you are elected. If elected, your expenses will be paid to attend the BCTF AGM.



BCRTA DELEGATES TO THE MARCH 2017 BCTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOMINATION FORM

Must be in the hands of BCRTA staff by 5 p.m. on September 23rd, 2016

Name (please print clearly): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

Branch (if any): _____

Signed: _____

Nominated by 2 BCRTA members:

Nominator (please print): _____ Signed: _____

Nominator (please print): _____ Signed: _____

Outline positions held and/or the work you have done in the BCTF and/or the BCRTA, with emphasis on your Pensions Committee experience:

BCRTA

