



SUMMER NEWS FLYER

August, 2006

Member of ACER-CART

FIRST HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

Memo from the President

Greetings to all Members of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador! I hope you are all enjoying the great weather we have been having so far this summer.

This year it is necessary, once again, to send out a Summer News Flyer in order to get some important information out to our Members at least thirty days before the Biennial General Meeting of October 4/06

Vacation schedules at the NLTA Print Plant during July and August prevent us from having our regular Newsletter printed there in time to allow our Notices of Motion to Amend the RTANL Constitution and By-Laws and the RTF Constitution to reach Members within the time frame stipulated in the Constitution. Consequently, we are printing the RTANL Constitution and By-Laws with the proposed wording changes/amendments in this Flyer so that you may have ample time to give the material careful consideration before the BGM.

At our Ninth BGM and Reunion, Honorary Membership in the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador will be conferred upon Mr. Edward Hancock (current Executive Director of NLTA) and Mr. Wayne Noseworthy (former Executive Director of NLTA and a former President of the NLTA).

These two individuals have not only "contributed to the teaching profession in Newfoundland and Labrador", but have also "added significantly to the support of the RTANL". They are indeed worthy of being the first to receive Honorary Membership in our Association.

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT DR. BILL EATON HAS AGREED TO BE THE GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR BANQUET ON OCT. 4 TH -- ONE MORE REASON YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THE NINTH REUNION!

Re the Proposed Changes/Amendments on the following pages :

Because some of our Members may not have a copy of the RTANL Constitution and By-Laws, it is contained in total in this Flyer, along with the proposed changes in **bold print** with explanations put within brackets and printed in *[italics]*.

The amendments to the RTF Constitution affect only Article IV, items 1&2; therefore, only that part of the RTF Constitution is printed in this Flyer for consideration.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING THIS NEWSFLYER TO THE BGM !!

MORE ABOUT THE BGM & REUNION

We have invited Premier Danny Williams to address the opening session of our BGM on the morning of Oct. 4th, but to date we have not received a response. However, the Premier's West Coast Executive Assistant has assured your President that we will get a reply "as soon as possible".

NLTA President Kevin Foley will attend the Banquet to bring greetings from the NLTA, and CTF President Winston Carter (Immediate Past President of the NLTA) will be there to bring greetings from the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

See you all in St. John's in October!

NOTICE of MOTION to AMEND the CONSTITUTION of the RTANL

Article I : Name

The name of the organization shall be the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (RTANL).

Article II : Objectives

- A. To maintain and increase professional and social contacts;
- B. To maintain a liaison with the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association (NLTA);
- C. To speak for retired teachers on matters that affect them by virtue of the fact that they are retirees in society;
- D. To improve the financial status of teachers retired under the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Pension Act;
- E. To keep informed on developments in education and to support public education; *[Added to reflect policy]*
- F. To encourage our members to be concerned about *[Changed from "with"]* and become involved with social issues. *[Deleted redundant "which affect our society"]*

Article III : Membership

A. Active

Any person who retires pursuant to the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Pension Act shall be eligible for Active Membership in the RTANL .

B. Associate

The following persons are eligible for Associate Membership in the RTANL :

1. a retired teacher in receipt of a teachers' pension from outside Newfoundland and Labrador;
2. a retired teacher's spouse receiving a pension pursuant to the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Pension Act;
3. for the interim period, a retired teacher on deferred pension who will be eligible to receive a teachers' pension from age fifty-five years onward;
4. a former teacher or substitute teacher who has ceased teaching and who has to his/her credit the equivalent of five (5) or more years of teaching service. *[Singular "teacher" used in all items under B. for consistency]*

C. Honorary

Honorary Membership in the RTANL may be conferred upon persons who have contributed service to the teaching profession in Newfoundland and Labrador and who have added significantly to the support of the RTANL .

Article IV : Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities of Membership *[Added "of Membership" for clarity]*

The rights, privileges, and responsibilities of membership shall be extended as follows :

- A. to Active Members, the full rights, privileges, and responsibilities of membership;
- B. to Associate Members, the full rights, privileges, and responsibilities of membership, except those of voting and holding office in the RTANL . *[Changed for agreement in number : two rights]*

Article V : Membership Fees

- A. Membership fees for Active and Associate Members shall be established by resolution at a general meeting of the Association . *[Addition for clarity]*
- B. Fees shall be divided fifty-fifty (50-50) between the Provincial Executive and the Divisions , the fifty per cent (50%) that goes to the Divisions being shared on a per capita basis .
- C. The percentage of a Division's funds to be given to a Regional shall be decided by the Division Executive in consultation with the Executive of the Regional , and shall be subject to review every year.
(Proposed Amendments to RTANL Constitution continued on next page)

Article VI : Membership Year

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

Article VII : Structure

A. The RTANL shall be composed of a Provincial Executive plus a number of Divisions, each Division having the authority to set up a Regional where deemed necessary, provided that twenty-five (25) or more interested **Active Members of the Association** in a distant area indicate that they wish to form a Regional.
[Replaced "retired teachers", because only Active Members of the Association have the right to vote]

B. The number of Divisions shall be determined according to the following criteria:

1. There shall be a minimum of three (3) Divisions, namely : Central, Eastern, and Western .
2. Where a **majority of the Active Members** of an established Regional so desire, the Regional may , with the approval of the Provincial Executive, become a Division in its own right. *[Added required words]*

Article VIII : Provincial Executive

A. The Provincial Executive shall consist of : President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Secretary , Treasurer, and four (4) **Members-at-Large** , provided that there are not more than three (3) Members of the Executive from any one Division and that the total Executive Membership shall not exceed nine (9).
[Change reflects accurate designation]

B. The Members of the Provincial Executive, with the exception of the Immediate Past President , shall be elected At the Biennial General Meeting of the Association for a term of two (2) years .

C. Election of the Provincial Executive shall be by secret ballot .

D. Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Provincial Executive, through any cause , the Executive shall name an **Active Member** of the Association to fill the vacancy until the next BGM, provided that the appointment adheres to Item A. of this Article . *[Addition because only Active Members may hold office in RTANL]*

Article IX : Committees

The Provincial Executive shall appoint from time to time such **Standing and Ad Hoc** Committees as may be deemed necessary to carry out the work of the Association . *[Even Standing Committees may change]*

Article X : Meetings *[Additions to give clarity re meeting types , etc.]*

A. Provincial Executive Meetings

1. The Provincial Executive shall meet at least three (3) times a year .
2. Provincial Executive Meetings may be held via Teleconferences when deemed necessary.

B. General Meetings of the Association

1. Biennial General Meeting

The Provincial Executive shall, in every even-numbered year, hold a Biennial General Meeting (BGM) of the Membership in October or any such time as determined by the Executive. *[Addition for clarity]*

2. Special Meetings

The Provincial Executive is empowered to call a Special Meeting of the Association as deemed necessary.
(Proposed Amendments to RTANL Constitution concluded on next page)

Article XI : Liaison

A. With NLTA

- 1. The RTANL shall maintain an ongoing liaison with NLTA as a means of communication between the two Associations. *[Replaced "both" to correct grammar]*
- 2. Upon invitation from NLTA Executive, the President of RTANL, or designate, shall represent RTANL at the NLTA BGM. *[Omit current Article 12: Representation at the Biennial General Meeting and/or Executive Meetings of the NLTA, and place current Articles 10.&12. together, as 1. & 2. of Article XLA.]*

B. With Other Organizations *[New item re Liaison to reflect our Objectives]*

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

Article XII : Amendments

This Constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Active Members present and voting at the RTANL BGM, and only after a one (1) - month Notice of Motion to Amend has been sent to each Active Member of the Association. *[Changed rather awkward wording]*

ELECTION of RTANL PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE and RTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reminder to Active Members:

If you wish to offer yourself for a position on the RTANL Provincial Executive or on the RTF Board of Directors, or if you wish to nominate another Active Member for a position, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee listed below:

COLIN MORRIS (Chairperson)
(709-256-7437)

LILY CRITCH
(709-639-7212)

PATRICK PITTMAN
(709-538-3719)

Elections take place at the BGM on the morning of October 4, 2006.

HAVEN'T REGISTERED FOR THE REUNION YET AND CAN'T FIND YOUR REGISTRATION FORM ?
CALL TREASURER **CLAYTON RICE (753-3920)** FOR INFORMATION , NOW ! WE WANT TO
SEE YOU AT OUR NINTH REUNION . YOU'LL ENJOY SEEING OLD FRIENDS AND MAKING
NEW ONES.

REMEMBER !! The **THEME** for the Ninth Reunion is : **"LIFE IS GOOD ! LET'S LIVE IT !"**

Let's all do just that in St. John's from October 3 to 5, 2006 !

****** DEADLINE for "EARLY BIRD" Registration DRAW : AUGUST 15 th ! ******

NOTICE of MOTION to AMEND the BY-LAWS of the RTANL

Article I: Quorum

A. At the Biennial General Meeting and at Special or Emergency Meetings, a majority of the Provincial Executive and at least fifty (50) Active Members of the Association shall constitute a quorum.

[Additions because not all Special Meetings are Emergency Meetings and only Active Members have the right to vote.]

B. At Provincial Executive Meetings, a majority of the Executive Members shall constitute a quorum.

Article II: Meetings

A. Provincial Executive Meetings

1. The Provincial Executive shall meet at least three (3) times a year.

2. The place and date of meetings shall be determined by the Executive in session, except when the President deems it necessary to call a Special or Emergency Meeting of the Executive. *[Added "of the Executive" for clarity]*

3. Confirmation of each Executive Meeting shall be given by the President not less than two (2) weeks before the date of the meeting except in the case of an Emergency meeting, when three (3) days shall be deemed sufficient notice.

[Changed to "Confirmation" because time of regular meeting is decided "in session"]

B. Biennial General Meetings

1. The meeting place and date of the Biennial General Meeting (BGM) shall be decided by the Provincial Executive at the first meeting of its term of office, and communicated to the membership in the first Newsletter of that term.

[Specifics added]

2. The business of the BGM includes, but is not limited to:

(a) election of the Provincial Executive for the next two-year term;

(b) presentation of Executive Biennial Report, Treasurer's Report, Audited Financial Statement, and Committee Reports;

(c) consideration of reports, and adoption where required;

(d) consideration of major issues that are of concern to the membership;

(e) consideration of resolutions presented by the Provincial Executive, by Divisions, or by individual Active Members. *[Scattered items brought together & re-worded as needed; what must occur at BGM clarified]*

C. Special Meetings

1. A Special Meeting of the Association may be called by the Provincial Executive when deemed necessary.

[Worded to reflect the authority stated in the Constitution]

2. A Special Meeting of the Association shall be called upon the petition of at least fifty (50) Active Members.

[Throughout the Constitution & By-Laws "Active" inserted because only Active Members have the right to vote]

3. Any such petition shall state clearly the purpose of the meeting. *[Changed for clarity]*

4. Upon receipt of a valid petition, the President shall issue a thirty (30)-day notice of the date and place of such meeting.

5. At any Special Meeting, only the business for which the Special Meeting has been called may be transacted.

D. Rules of Order for Meetings

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern this Association at the BGM., at Provincial Executive Meetings, and in all other cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and By - Laws of the RTANL. *[Addition to reflect practice of RTANL since formation]*

E. Voting

1. Voting on motions/resolutions shall be by a show of hands, but a secret ballot shall be taken when requested by five (5) Active Members. *[Words inserted for clarity]*

(Proposed Amendments to By-Laws continued on next page)

2. **A simple majority is required for a motion/resolution to be carried, except in the case of an Amendment to the Constitution or By-Laws, when a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting shall be required. [Clarified]**
3. **The Chairperson, like any other Active Member, may vote only once on a question.**
4. **In the case of a tie vote, the motion/resolution shall be deemed to have been lost.**

Article III: Election of Provincial Executive

- A. At least six months prior to the BGM, the Provincial Executive shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three (3) Active Members to prepare a slate of officers for presentation at the BGM. [Reworded for clarity]**
- B. Further nominations may be submitted from the floor of the BGM.**
- C. At the BGM, the Immediate Past President, or another Active Member appointed by the President, shall conduct the election of the Executive. [Changed because only Active Members are eligible]**
- D. Election of the Executive shall be by secret ballot.**
- E. Voting shall be by Active Members only.**
- F. A candidate who is unsuccessful in being elected for one position shall be permitted to let his/her name stand for any other position(s) of his/her choosing. [This "drop-down" provision recommended in Robert's Rules of Order]**

Article IV. Banking

- A. The RTANL shall do its financial business with a bank or a credit union to be selected by the Provincial Executive.**
- B. The type of accounts shall be those deemed necessary by the Provincial Executive.**
- C. The fiscal year shall run from September 1st to August 31st of the next calendar year**
- D. The first signing officer shall be the Treasurer, and the second signing officer shall be the President, or the Secretary, or another Executive Member appointed by the Executive. [Clarified & recommend "Executive" do appointing]**

Article V. Auditors

- A. The Auditors shall be appointed by the Provincial Executive not later than the month of June preceding the BGM. [Current B. deleted because a "given" procedure & unnecessary to state in By-Laws]**
- B. The audited financial statement for the two preceding years shall be presented at the BGM [Deletion of "for discussion" because all items presented at BGM are open for discussion]**
- C. A copy of the Audited Financial Statement shall be sent to each Division President within the three (3) months following the BGM, and printed in the next RTANL Newsletter. [Proper channel is through "Division President"]**

Article VI. Biennial Report

- A. The Provincial Executive's Biennial Report shall be presented at the BGM. [Deleted redundant "on the activities of the previous two years"]**
- B. A copy of the Biennial Report shall be printed in the first RTANL Newsletter following the BGM. [Practice]**

Article VII. Duties of Officers [Additions to spell out duties clearly]

A. President

1. **shall call all meetings of the RTANL and of the Provincial Executive;**
2. **shall preside over all RTANL and Provincial Executive meetings;**
3. **shall prepare an agenda for all RTANL and Provincial Executive meetings;**
4. **shall certify by his/her signature all acts, orders, and proceedings of meetings, and in particular shall sign all previously approved reports to be laid before the BGM;**

(Proposed Amendments to By-Laws continued on next page)

5. shall be the **official** spokesperson of the RTANL; *[Added for clarity]*
6. shall, as the Chief Executive Officer of the RTANL, be in charge of all correspondence and other documents;
7. shall be an **ex-officio member of all RTANL committees**; *[Standard practice]*
8. shall designate some other **Executive Member** to represent the **President** when he/she is unable to be present at some **meeting or function** where such presence is deemed necessary;
[Replaced misleading "person" and changed awkward wording.]
9. shall assume such other duties as the **Provincial Executive** may from time to time deem necessary. *[Standard]*

B. Vice – President

1. shall assist the **President** as required;
2. shall, in the absence of the **President**, or because of the **President's** inability to act from any cause, discharge the duties of the **President**;
3. shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the **Provincial Executive** or by the **President**.

C. Secretary

1. shall attend all meetings of the RTANL and of the **Provincial Executive**, and shall keep correct minutes of such meetings;
 2. shall, as soon as possible after each **Executive meeting**, send to each **Executive Member** a copy of the **Minutes** and any **Action Sheet** arising therefrom; *[Reflects current practice]*
 3. shall keep on file a copy of the **Minutes** adopted at each **Provincial Executive meeting**;
 4. shall keep on file a record of the membership of all committees;
 5. shall keep on file a copy of each report submitted at **Provincial Executive meetings**;
 6. shall prepare, keep on file, and provide for each **BGM**, minutes of the previous **BGM**;
 7. shall perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the **Provincial Executive**.
- [Nos. 3 to 7 reflect standard practice.]*

D Treasurer

1. shall keep satisfactory records of the financial affairs of the RTANL;
2. shall present a detailed account of the receipts and expenditures to the **Provincial Executive** at each **Executive Meeting**, and to the membership at each **BGM**; *[Reflects standard practice]*
3. shall keep custody of the bank book and other financial statements from the bank or credit union pertinent to the finances of the RTANL; *[Change to improve wording]*
4. shall sign, with the **President** or **Secretary** or any other **Signing Officer** designated by the **Provincial Executive**, all cheques and other negotiable instruments *[Changed to coincide with Article IV.D.]*
5. shall, within one week of their receipt, if possible, deposit all funds of the RTANL to the bank or credit union prescribed by the **Provincial Executive**; *[More reasonable expectation]*
6. shall receive **Membership Applications** and arrange for payroll deductions where appropriate;
7. shall send **Membership Cards** to new **Members**;
8. shall update **RTANL Membership List** and report membership status at each **Provincial Executive meeting**;
9. shall Chair the **Finance Committee**. *[Nos. 6 to 9 reflect current practice.]*

Article VIII. Responsibilities of All Executive Members *[Proposed New Article to clarify expectations]*

All Members of the RTANL Provincial Executive

- A. shall become familiar with the **RTANL Constitution and By-Laws**, and other material in the **RTANL Policy Handbook**;
- B. shall attend all **Provincial Executive meetings** and all meetings of the **RTANL**;
- C. shall serve on committees as appointed by the **President** or elected by the **Provincial Executive**;
- D. shall perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the **Provincial Executive**.

(Proposed Amendments to By-Laws continued on next page)

Article IX. Vacancies on the Provincial Executive [Proposed new Article — reflects standard practice]

- A. Notwithstanding any vacancy in their number, the remaining Executive Members may carry on Executive business as usual , as long as there is a quorum of the elected members on the Executive.
- B. Any vacancy occurring on the Executive shall be filled as soon as possible, according to the provisions in Article VIIIA. of the Constitution.
- C. The office of any Executive Member shall be deemed vacated if , without reason acceptable to the Executive, that Executive Member has been absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Provincial Executive.

Article X. Amendments to By-Laws

These By-Laws may be amended only by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Active Members present and voting at the RTANL BGM , and only after a one (1) - month Notice of Motion to Amend has been sent to each Active Member of the Association . [Article re-worded to read same as Amendments Article in the Constitution]

RECOMMENDATION: The Provincial Executive of the RTANL RECOMMENDS ACCEPTANCE of the Amendments to the RTANL Constitution and By-Laws, as well as the re-wording and re-arranging of items for clarification, proposed by the Constitution Committee of Executive set up to examine our Constitution and By-Laws, and to propose improvements where necessary.

SPECIAL THANKS: We extend special thanks to Mr. Edward Hancock ,Executive Director of NLTA ,for giving so generously of his time and for sharing his expert advice to help with the completion of this task!

NOTICE of MOTION to AMEND the CONSTITUTION of the RTF

The Board of Directors of the Retired Teachers' Foundation proposes the following Amendments to Article IV of the RTF Constitution:

Article IV : Objectives

- 1. To operate exclusively as a charitable organization for **incapacitated children.**
- 2. (a) the promotion and advancement of the education, mental health, physical health, and well-being of **incapacitated children;**
[Additions are intended to reflect the original and ongoing intent of the Foundation's Objectives.]

RECOMMENDATION: The Provincial Executive of the Retired Teachers' Association RECOMMENDS ACCEPTANCE of the Amendments proposed by the Foundation's Board of Directors.
