



ECRTO (East Coast Retired Teacher Organizations) UPDATE

February 2023

Since their October in person meeting the ECRTO had one zoom meeting hosted by NBSRT. Members are the associations from the 4 Atlantic Provinces plus QPARSE – the Quebec Provincial Association of Retired School Educators.

In preparing for the meeting the members were asked to consider reporting on 4 items. The discussion was, as always, both thought provoking and informative. Once again the commitment and dedication of volunteers working on behalf of their retired colleagues was fully evident.

1. **Membership Initiatives** included sharing of a strategic plan, a draw for a free membership to active teachers, focusing on younger members/potential members to develop future leaders, collecting signed membership applications at pre-retirement seminars/workshops and holding them until the individual retires
2. **Things most pleased about** were receiving the full COLA (one association has had none for several years), hosting the ECRTO in person meeting was motivational, transitioning to a new Executive Director (Only one Association has one.), setting up an award for exemplary service and restructuring committees to more clearly define responsibilities and balance workload, and increased branch requests for grants.
3. **Things looked forward to prior to March ECRTO Meeting** increasing the use of social media, featuring members who have made a difference, identifying those interested in becoming more politically active and building on that, formalizing the ability to speak for active teachers when they are unable to speak for themselves, receiving and reporting accurately to members the results of a pension review.
4. **Anticipated challenges** include funding due to rebates to branches during Covid and offering free memberships, generating interest in becoming more politically active, increased concern about aging at home and supports to do so, and increased requests to provide liability insurance when renting venues for activities.

An additional topic was **Cessation Planning**. The topic arose when one association realized that, according to its constitution, it could not function if one branch did not have an active local executive. While circumstances have changed, at least for now, it became evident there was much to consider – the process needed to disband, distribution of funds, payment of bills, notification of those impacted, both individual members of the association and other organizations and government bodies (ie Pension) with which they were involved.

Next Meeting: March 13th by zoom