



President's Message

One of my duties as your President is to report to the Board of Directors and the AGM on the activities of the organization between meetings. We have just held our 2023 Board of Directors' Meeting and I believe my report to the Board may be of some interest to you. This is a brief description of some of our activities since the AGM in May.

President's Report to the NBSRT Board of Directors
October 17, 2023

f) Be an NBSRT Representative to the *Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART)*, the *Eastern Canadian Retired Teacher Organizations (ECRTO)* and *NBSRT/SERFNB Liaison* meetings; and shall provide a written report to the Board of Directors. (NBSRT Constitution)

As stated in our Constitution it is my duty to provide a written report to this Board, it is also my honour. I have been proud to serve this organization over the last three years and am experiencing conflicting emotions as I report to my last regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. I will highlight some of our activities since my AGM report and I will also mention some of our plans.

Activities:

AGM – We had a very successful AGM '23 on May 9th and 10th hosted by Central Branch. The meeting went smoothly, and reactions were very positive, but it is important to mention the innovative approach taken to arrival day on the 9th. The Wellness Committee held its face-to-face meeting in the morning of the 9th and then organized a number of activities for AGM participants that complimented the activities organized by the local committee. Non-AGM participants were invited to take part along with AGM delegates and the activities were well attended and well appreciated. I would love to see a similar format followed for future AGMs.

NBTA Retiring Teachers' Luncheon – Wow! 3 cohorts of retirees honoured in one sitting and everyone I talked to felt special. We had our "Ambassadors" present from almost every Branch and registered 30 new members.

Executive

The Executive has met three times since the AGM and has dealt with a wide variety of issues/concerns/housekeeping matters. Some of the topics dealt with included:

1. **The Coalition of Senior Citizens and Nursing Home Residents Rights**- we are supporting the coalition and June continues to attend on our behalf.
2. **Strategic Plan** – is on every agenda to make sure we are concentrating our efforts on our priorities.

3. **Public Statements by NBSRT** – We have had a small number of questions about NBSRT making public statements on education policies like French Second Language programs, special needs programs, Policy 713 or on statements attributed to politicians. We have taken the position that we support teachers and NBTA and defer to NBTA to take public positions on education policy. We do not have the resources or staff to properly research topics and prepare public positions on them.
4. **Kilometrage Rate for Electric or Hybrid Cars** – decision to treat them the same as all vehicles.
5. **100th Birthday Certificate of Appreciation** – Please know a certificate honoring a member on their hundredth birthday is available from NBSRT if you want to use it.
6. **Dues Increase** – for discussion. (The Board decided to recommend to the AGM that we postpone discussion of a dues increase for one more year.)
7. **History of NBSRT** – using all of our minutes, a volunteer will put together a history of our organization since its inception.
8. **Ad Hoc Committee on Policies and Procedures** – has been struck and holds first meeting on Monday Oct.16th.
9. **Website Upgrade** – We are going to upgrade our website and are seeking proposals.
10. **New Webmaster Needed** - Dale MacRae, who has overseen the website for many years will retire from his position in the next two years, so we are looking for a member to take over from him. Dale assures us he will stay long enough to help the new person. Please let us know if you are interested or know someone who might be.
11. **Membership Tasks from AGM** – Rather than strike another ad hoc committee the Executive decided to give the Membership Committee the task of responding to two issues raised at the AGM. Specifically, should we continue the dues rebate after this year and what steps can be suggested to better include members from outlying areas.
12. **Wellness Grants** – We expect to receive the money from NBTF Group Insurance Trustees to continue this program and encourage Branches to apply.
13. **NBSRT Election** – June is looking for candidates please consider running.

Branches – Just a comment on my absolute respect and appreciation for what Branches are doing for y/our members. The first day of school activities keep growing, you are recruiting continuously, and you are providing members with so many opportunities – well done. I also want to mention so many of you making extraordinary efforts to reach out to our older members.

Committees – Not many committees have met this year, but I know you all have plans to meet in the near future and I want to express my appreciation for your work.

Vestcor – Just a brief comment on two Vestcor initiatives:

1. **AIM** – the annual information meeting was held on Oct. 11 with over 180 participating. It seemed to go well. At least I haven't heard the same number of issues that we dealt with last year. The recording will be available at the Vestcor website, and you are still invited to ask questions or make comments.
2. **NBSRT Flyer** – For the fourth year Vestcor has facilitated printing and distribution of our membership flyer. This has become standard practice with Vestcor contacting us at the end of the summer and giving us a deadline for submission.

Other – Just a note to say thanks for all you're doing for our members.

I trust this gives you some idea of what your organization is doing, and I encourage you to continue to take an active part in Branch activities.

Take care and Stay well

Bob