

Station Break / Pause-indicatif

CBC Pensioners National Association
Maritimes Newsletter

Association nationale des retraité.e.s de Radio-
Canada, Bulletin de la région des Maritimes

Spring / le printemps / 2015

PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN



John McKay

Over 15 years ago a number of former CBC employees (retirees) formed this Association. The main aim was an organization where we could meet socially and discuss our relationship with the CBC. It was health care, specifically Atlantic Blue Cross, which drew us together.

Over time, it became apparent that the organization would have to expand to include many other facets. However, the aim was still to maintain the social aspect.

We try to act as a conduit for all our members to deal with pension problems and CBC communications as well as to enjoy the relationships with our former colleagues.

I'd like to review some of the roles that our members play or can play on your behalf. As you know we are comprised of Chapters with Halifax as the regional hub.

Our chapters have capable people available to answer questions or offer advice.

In Cape Breton it is Bill Doyle; PEI has Ian Petrie and Moncton, Don Langis. If you have questions or need assistance, any one of these people can help. For bigger issues, they will send you to our Ottawa office which is open Tuesday to Thursday and is a phone call or email away.

Here are the main contact points with the contact information. Maybe you want to copy this information and keep it in a safe place.

Mailing: P.O. Box 8570, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H9

Toll free: Canada & the United States: 1-877-361-9242

Fax: 613-724-5951

E-mail: Dianne St-Germain: dst.germain@on.aibn.com

Suzie Bougie: cbcpensioners@on.aibn.com

For Pension and insurance-related questions contact the CBC Pension Administration Centre (PAC): 1-888-604-9258 – Canada and US

+1 514-673-7669 – International

One other important number to have is The CBC Pension Payroll Department at 1-888-604-9258 (option 1). Use this if you are missing things such as tax information.

RAPPORT DU PRÉSIDENT RÉGIONAL

D'anciens employés de Radio-Canada (des retraités) se sont réunis, il y a plus d'une quinzaine d'années, pour créer cette association. L'objectif principal était de rencontrer et d'avoir un forum pour discuter de nos rapports avec Radio-Canada. Les soins de santé, plus particulièrement ceux offerts par la Croix-Blanche Atlantique, était le point rassembleur. Avec le temps, il est devenu évident que l'organisation aurait à prendre de l'expansion afin de traiter d'autres questions. Les rencontres sont toutefois demeurées la raison d'être de l'association.

Nous visons à être une voix pour tous nos membres sur les questions relatives au régime de retraite et les communications avec la Société tout en maintenant nos liens avec nos anciens collègues.

Je profite de l'occasion pour revoir quelques-uns des rôles que nos membres jouent ou peuvent jouer pour vous. Vous n'ignorez sans doute pas que l'organisation est constituée de sections dont le centre régional est situé à Halifax.

Nous retrouvons dans nos sections des personnes capables de répondre à vos questions ou à vous conseiller.

Au Cap-Breton, c'est Bill Doyle; à l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, Ian Petrie; et à Moncton, Donald Langis. Si vous avez des questions ou si vous avez besoin d'aide, une de ces personnes peut vous aider. Pour les questions difficiles, ils vont vous référer à Ottawa dont les bureaux sont ouverts du mardi au jeudi. Ils peuvent également être joints par téléphone ou courriel.

Voici les principaux contacts avec leurs coordonnées. Vous voudrez sans doute conserver ces informations dans un lieu sûr.

Courrier traditionnel: CP 8570, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3H9
Appel sans frais au Canada et aux États-Unis : 1-877-361-9242

Télécopieur : 613-724-5951

Courriels : Suzie Bougie: cbcpensioners@on.aibn.com

Dianne St-Germain: dst.germain@on.aibn.com

Pour les questions relatives au régime de retraite et aux assurances, s'adresser au Centre d'administration des pensions de CBC/Radio-Canada (CAP) : 1-888-604-9258 – Canada et É.-U. – et +1 514-673-7669 International

Un autre numéro important à retenir est celui du Service de la paie des retraités de Radio-Canada au 1-888-604-9258 (Option 1). Utiliser ce numéro s'il vous manque, par exemple, des renseignements sur les impôts.

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We have started a new undertaking on the National level. You may already know that if a pensioner re-marries or is married after he/she begins receiving a pension that the spouse or second spouse is not eligible to receive pension benefits. This rule is not unique to our plan but is the pension law.

Rick Inglis from British Columbia has put together a committee to attempt to have the law changed. It requires a federal legislative change and involves many if not all other plans. At this juncture Rick has many other large groups involved. The number of people represented is now well over 5.5 million.

The end result will be to lobby the federal government during the pending election to have the law changed.

There is a web page devoted to the idea and we suggest, if you have access, to review the page. Also please tell your former colleagues and friends to get them involved and informed.

SURVIVING SPOUSES AND FAIRNESS COALITION

<http://pensionfairness-sspf.ca/index.php>

<http://equitedespensions-cepcs.ca/accueil.php>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

National:

May 12. It's annual general meeting season again around the region and also at the national level.

There will be what we call a Triennial in Ottawa in May this year, a big meeting with delegates from all over the country getting together to elect a national executive and plan strategy the next three years. Our regional president, John McKay will lead our delegation, which includes Don Langis from Moncton and Bill Doyle from Sydney. Geoff Turnbull will also be going as an alternate.

Regional:

May 6. In Halifax. Nominations are being accepted for seven open positions on the regional board. We will be voting for president, vice president, and three members at large. John McKay and Don Tremaine have agreed to re-offer for another term. Put your name on the ballot if you want to help out. It means an extra meeting every month, but you get to work with some pretty pleasant and capable people. Send nominations to David Carr at the addresses below.

There will be a free lunch at noon on May 6th before our regional AGM, and members and their partners are urged to attend. We need to plan for numbers, so please phone David Carr at 902-457-1837 if you and/or your partner are coming. You can also mail David at CBC Pensioners, 413050 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8 or email him at davidscribe@aol.com. He needs the information by 27 April.

Sydney and Charlottetown will also be holding AGMs.

Nous avons entrepris une nouvelle initiative dont vous êtes peut-être déjà au courant. C'est qu'un retraité ne peut pas transférer sa pension à son époux ou à son épouse s'il s'est marié ou remarié après avoir pris sa retraite. Cette situation n'est pas unique à notre régime mais fait partie de la loi fédérale sur les pensions.

Rick Inglis de la Colombie-britannique a mis sur pied un comité dans le but est de faire changer cette loi. Pour ce faire, un changement doit être apporté à la loi fédérale et cela touche plusieurs sinon tous les autres régimes. À l'heure actuelle, Rick a réunis plusieurs groupes importants. Plus de 5,5 millions de personnes sont représentées dans cette démarche.

En bout de ligne, il sera nécessaire de faire pression sur le gouvernement fédéral pendant la prochaine campagne électorale afin de l'inciter à changer cette loi.

Il y a une page web dédiée au projet et nous vous suggérons de la visiter si vous y avez accès. Faites part de cette situation à vos anciens collègues de travail et à vos amis afin de les informer et d'obtenir leur appui dans cette démarche.

COALITION ÉQUITÉ DES PENSIONS AUX CONJOINTS SURVIVANTS

<http://pensionfairness-sspf.ca/index.php>

<http://equitedespensions-cepcs.ca/accueil.php>

ASSEMBLÉES GÉNÉRALES ANNUELLES

Assemblée nationale:

Le 12-13 mai. La saison des assemblées générales annuelles est de retour dans toute la région ainsi qu'au niveau national.

De plus, il y aura à Ottawa, en mai, ce que nous décrivons comme une assemblée triennale. Celle-ci réunira des délégués de tous les coins du pays pour élire un conseil d'administration national et planifier une stratégie pour les trois prochaines années. Notre président régional, John McKay, dirigera notre délégation qui comprend Donald Langis de Moncton et Bill Doyle de Sydney. Geoff Turnbull s'y rendra également en tant que substitut.

Assemblée régionale:

Le 6 mai à Halifax. Les mises en candidatures sont présentement ouvertes pour combler sept postes sur le bureau régional. Nous élimons un président, un vice-président et trois conseillers. John McKay et Don Tremaine acceptent de solliciter un autre mandat. Inscrivez votre nom sur le bulletin de vote si vous désirez offrir vos services. Cela représente une réunion supplémentaire tous les mois, mais vous avez à travailler avec des gens agréables et compétents. Faites parvenir vos candidatures à David Carr à l'adresse ci-dessous. Un lunch gratuit sera servi avant le début de notre assemblée annuelle générale du 6 mai à laquelle nous encourageons la présence de tous les membres ainsi que de leurs partenaires. Afin de prévoir le nombre de participants, prière de faire connaître votre présence à David Carr au 902-457-1837 si vous et votre partenaire prévoient y participer. Vous pouvez également joindre David par la poste à CBC Pensioners, 413050 Barkton Lane, Halifax, N.-É. B3M 4H8 ou par courriel à davidscribe@aol.com. Il a besoin de cette information au plus tard le 27 avril.

Sydney et Charlottetown tiendront également des AGA.

Une trentaine de membres ont participé, fin janvier, à notre déjeuner-causerie portant sur l'impôt sur le revenu des particuliers.

Fiscaliste chez H & R Block, M. Doug Northrup, a d'abord expliqué les nouveautés à prévoir dans la préparation du retour d'impôt pour l'année 2014, ce qui a suscité de nombreuses questions.

Après avoir résumé la fonction et les exigences de sa profession, il s'est attardé pendant quelques minutes sur le traitement des rapports d'impôts que Revenu Canada reçoit des contribuables.

Sur ce point, il a précisé que l'agence se limite à une vérification de l'exactitude des données contenues dans le retour d'impôt et non à identifier, par exemple, les déductions omises pour quelque raison par le contribuable.

Parlant de sa profession, il a expliqué que le fiscaliste consacre une grande partie de son temps à prendre connaissance et à étudier l'impact des changements que les gouvernements apportent annuellement aux lois sur la fiscalité.

Les nouveaux locaux – La date du déménagement approche. En mars, les membres du personnel ont visité ces nouveaux locaux. Des équipes s'y installeront dès la fin des travaux d'aménagement afin d'entreprendre leur formation qui devrait se poursuivre jusqu'à la fin de l'été. L'ouverture officielle des locaux fera partie du lancement de la nouvelle saison. Les retraités seraient invités à visiter les nouveaux locaux en juin.

Les compressions budgétaires – La plus récente ronde de compressions entraînera l'abolition de 10 postes en technique et en informatique à Moncton tandis qu'un onzième poste, celui du vidéojournaliste à Chéticamp, en Nouvelle-Écosse, sera transféré à Halifax où il deviendra un poste de journaliste web à Halifax.

Souper de Noël – Le souper annuel de Noël a attiré une soixantaine de personnes.

Assemblée annuelle – L'assemblée annuelle qui devait avoir lieu le 12 mai doit être reportée à une date ultérieure puisqu'elle a lieu en même temps que la réunion annuelle de l'association à Ottawa. Nous vous communiquerons bientôt une nouvelle date.

Souper au homard - Une date sera bientôt arrêtée pour cette dernière activité de la présente année.



Une soixantaine de personnes ont participé au souper de Noël.
Some 60 persons attended the Christmas party.

Below: Le nouvel emplacement est situé dans l'édifice du Atlantic Superstore, rue Main. Il prend une partie de l'espace occupé autrefois par le magasin Zellers.

The new facility is located in that part of the Atlantic Superstore building, formerly occupied by the Zellers store on Main St.



Personal income tax was the topic for the January luncheon at which some 30 members attended.

Tax consultant Doug Northrup with H & R Block briefly explained the changes in the 2014 returns before answering a number of questions.

After having outlined the role and demands of his profession, the guest speaker took a few minutes to explain how Revenue Canada treats personal income tax returns.

On this, he explained that the agency's function is to determine if the information supplied by the taxpayer is in order and not to identify, for example, which deductions the taxpayer omitted for whatever reason.

On his profession, he explained that a tax consultant invests a great deal of time researching the tax changes governments have made and in understanding their impact.

The New Location – The moving date is approaching. During March, staff members had the opportunity to visit the new location. Once the building is handed over to the Corporation, staff will move in to begin their training periods which will go on throughout Summer. It is expected that the official opening will coincide with the launch of the Fall season. Retirees should be able to visit the building in June.

Budget Cutbacks - A new round of budget cuts will see 10 positions abolished in Moncton in the technical and information sectors. The videojournalist position in Chéticamp, N.S., is being transferred to Halifax where it will become a web reporter position.

Christmas Supper - Some 60 persons attended the annual Christmas supper.

Annual Meeting - The annual meeting was scheduled for May 12th, but have to be be rescheduled to a later date since it coincides with the national association's meeting in Ottawa.

Lobster Supper – A date will be set shortly for our last activity of the year.

Charlottetown

Petrie

PEI REPORT

Ian

Survival has been the main activity of CBC pensioners on PEI. Historic amounts of snow, worries about ice jams and snow loads on homes, and Olympic-class snow shoveling have ruled the day.

Whenever Spring arrives, there are plans for a get together. There have been four recent retirements, and a couple more to come. This doesn't sound like a lot compared to Halifax, but Charlottetown is a relatively young, small station, and it's only been in the last five years that the technicians and reporters who got the station up and running have started to retire.

There is one disappointment and worry that comes with the recent retirements. Many had hoped that these would count for the necessary layoffs at the station from the latest cutbacks, but the latest word is that not only will the positions be lost due to retirement, there will be further cuts as well. I continue to urge retirees to become involved in local and national efforts to keep CBC relevant. We benefitted from the "good" years both professionally and financially. We need to do our part to make sure that others have the same opportunity, and that Canadians get the journalistic service they deserve.

Sydney

CAPE BRETON REPORT

Bill Doyle

The Cape Breton chapter of the CBCPA held its annual Christmas party on November 27, and as usual enjoyed a nearly full turnout. A feature of the event was an out-take reel that retired television technician and news reporter Frank King assembled of people and events from CBC Cape Breton during the 1970s and 1980s.

Two former staffers, Robert Richards and Vaughan Desjardins have passed on.

Robert Richards was an announcer in Sydney during the 1960s. He ended his CBC career in Fredericton. Robert died at Riverview, New Brunswick, on February 14 at age 72.

Vaughan Desjardins was the first host and producer of Information Morning in Sydney. He began hosting the show with Brian Sutcliffe in 1972, and became producer the following year. Vaughan introduced journalistic rigor to the programme and tirelessly lobbied to upgrade facilities for the presentation of the show, particularly the improvement of phone lines which previously had been rarely used for broadcast interviews. Vaughan retired from the CBC as current affairs executive producer in Calgary. He died there on March 1, shortly after he was diagnosed with cancer. He was 72.

On a happier note, retired radio technician Walter Pretty has been successfully fitted with a prosthesis for his left leg. Last year, it was amputated above the knee because of complications from radiation treatments for cancer he had about 30 years ago. Walter undergoes physical therapy in Halifax for the next month and looks forward to attending our upcoming annual general meeting.

Our numbers continue to decline. In the past year, two of our members left Cape Breton to live near adult children who have moved from the area. There are now 27 of us, composed of 24 retirees and 3 retiree's survivors. We do not expect any additions to our chapter any time soon. The pool of 14 employees at CBC Cape Breton to draw potential members from is very small.

The CBC is eliminating 11 positions in Nova Scotia. One of them will be at CBC Cape Breton. However, 12 people will be hired as part of the new CBC digital media strategy. The job descriptions for these new "web" positions have not been fully defined and so employees facing unemployment have to endure an anxious waiting period to find out if they will qualify for them. Ironically, CBC Cape Breton may lose a position but not a person. Last year, CBC Cape Breton lost a reporter and a maintenance technician. There is no maintenance technician or manager at CBC Cape Breton. The current affairs executive producer is responsible for the location.

The Cape Breton chapter of the CBCPA holds its AGM at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, at the Westmount Legion.

Halifax

NOVA SCOTIA REPORT

Geoff Turnbull

Our Christmas Dinner in December was the most successful in recent years. It's always a hoot to mingle and talk with so many old familiar faces (yes, we're all getting a little older.) The Legion staff served turkey and the trimmings to 165 members and partners. David Carr was chief organizer, while Bert Skinner and Claire Brownell made sure there were plenty of door prizes.

In January, Don Tremaine described his guided tour of CBC's new facilities on Chebucto Road. Bell Road and Sackville Street are now, sadly, just memories of another era.

The March meeting succumbed to Jack Frost. What a winter it's been!

Bill MacKenzie has volunteered to round up candidates for our election of officers in May. We will be voting for a president, vice president and five board members. John McKay and Don Tremaine have agreed to re-offer one more time, and several other people have put their names forward, people like Olga Milosevich, Barb Service and Lorne Izzard. If you are interested in serving, please get in touch with us.

MARITIME REGIONAL WEBSITE

David McClafferty

Our new national site is maintained by a professional webmaster and handles some of the functions of our regional website. The plan is to maintain the Maritime Website in a simplified form as an archive. The URL remains the same: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/culture/cbcpensioners/> The national URL is: <http://www.cbcpensioners.ca/>

TREASURER'S REPORT - CBC Pensioners' National Association (Maritimes)

David Carr

Financially, we have had a really good year. Despite a budgeted projection of a small deficit, we ended our fiscal year on 31 March, 2015, with a bank balance of \$11,720.25, showing a surplus of \$233.67.

The full Statement of revenue and expenditure will go to our auditor in April and then along with a proposed budget, be presented for membership approval at our Annual General Meeting on May 6, 2015.

If any member would like more information and/or a copy of the full report, please contact me at 902-457-1837 or by mail at 413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8 or e-mail at financialwonk@aol.com.

REJOINDRE NOTRE RÉGION PAR COURRIER, COURRIEL ET INTERNET

Courrier: Assoc. Retraités SRC (Maritimes), 413 - 50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8
Courriel: cbcpam@gmail.com
Site Internet : Maritimes: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/culture/cbcpensioners/>
Page internet: section Moncton : <http://cbcpamc.yolasite.com/>
Page internet: section Charlottetown: <http://cbcpacc.yolasite.com/>
Page internet: section Sydney: <http://cbcpasc.yolasite.com/>
Page internet: section Halifax : <http://cbcpam.yolasite.com/>
Lien Internet (photos) – Maritimes: lien dans <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/culture/cbcpensioners/>
Great West Life (GWL): www.greatwestlife.com Télérer au: 1 877 340-9082
Centre d'administration des pensions (CAP) Télérer au: 1 888 604 9258

HOW TO CONNECT WITH OUR REGION BY MAIL, E-MAIL, AND INTERNET

Postal: CBC Pensioners' Assoc. (Maritimes), 413 - 50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8
E-Mail: cbcpam@gmail.com
Internet : Maritimes: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/culture/cbcpensioners/>
Website: Moncton Chapter: <http://cbcpamc.yolasite.com/>
Website: Charlottetown Chapter: <http://cbcpacc.yolasite.com/>
Website: Sydney Chapter: <http://cbcpasc.yolasite.com/>
Website: Halifax Chapter: <http://cbcpam.yolasite.com/>
Internet (photos) – Maritimes: link from <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/culture/cbcpensioners/>
Great West Life (GWL): www.greatwestlife.com Telephone: 1 877 340-9082
Pensioners Administration Center (PAC) Telephone: 1 888 604 9258

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This is the seventh issue of the CBCPAM regional newsletter. We welcome comments, suggestions for future items, and contributions.

Mary Wilcox marywilcox@eastlink.ca

Postal: CBC Pensioners' Assoc. (Maritimes),
413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8

Voici la 7e édition du Bulletin régional des Maritimes.

Nous aimerions lire vos commentaires, vos suggestions d'articles futurs et vos contributions.

Mary Wilcox marywilcox@eastlink.ca

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The Winter that Was ... Prince Edward Island 2015



Photos: cbc.ca

