

Resolutions for AGM 2022

Tabled from the 2021 AGM

2021 - 5 ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Retired Teachers Organization, in teachers' pension discussions with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, take the position that those members who retired on or prior to July 31, 2006 have their pension rights protected without loss of those rights.

Edith Arbour, RTO Member

Brief:

In December 2020 the NSTU and government agreed to appoint a panel of three independent pension experts to study the Nova Scotia Teachers Pension Plan and determine a range of actions that would help the pension plan achieve fully funded status within a reasonable period of time.

As one of the many teachers who decided to take early retirement at the end of the 2005-2006 school year, in order to receive the Consumer Price Index minus 1% (CPI minus 1) benefit, I am seeking the Retired Teachers Organization to "grandfather" this benefit during consultations with the NSTU during the panel's deliberations.

Teachers believe pensions are deferred income, because compromises were made during negotiations during their teaching career. This provision could also be deemed a contractual benefit that was promised to members who retired on or prior to July 31, 2006 and therefore should not be changed or altered.

A promise made is a promise kept.

- 2022 – 1** ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Executive of the provincial Retired Teachers Organization examine its schedule of meetings with a view to
- a. consolidate and/or eliminate meetings
 - b. determine which meetings could be held using the Zoom (or comparable) platform.

Lunenburg County Branch

Brief:

Climate change is a reality.

Scientific research pinpoints pollution as a leading cause of climate change, including pollution created by vehicular traffic. In order to be good stewards for our planet and coming generations, it behooves the provincial Retired Teachers Organization to limit travel for its members in order to decrease the pollution caused by vehicles, which contributes to global warming. Our mandate is to advance, promote and protect the welfare of our members.

With the technology available today, many meetings could be held by Zoom or other comparable platforms. Documentation can be circulated via emails. Votes can be taken via email.

As such, the provincial RTO Executive should examine the number of meetings scheduled in a year, with a view to eliminating and/ or combining meetings.

2022 – 2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Executive of the provincial Retired Teachers Organization petition the Insurance Trustees, through appropriate channels, to cover the cost of intraocular lenses, pre-surgery eye tests, eye protectors and drops, related to cataract surgery.

Lunenburg County Branch

Brief:

Members over age 65 may end up spending over seven hundred dollars (\$700.) for supplies that are not covered by insurance or by the province. These include:

- Lenses - \$65.00 each
- Pre-surgery tests - \$175.00 per eye
- Eye protectors and drops - \$100.00 each
- Post surgery vision tests - \$50.00

As members age, the possibility of the need for cataract surgery increases. Surgery will provide a better quality of life and better mental wellness as members are able to perform routine tasks and read with clarity.

2022 – 3 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Retired Teachers Organization request the NSTU Insurance Trustees provide the reflexology benefit in the NSTU Group Insurance Plan under Paramedical Services.

Provincial RTO Executive

Brief:

Reflexology is a non-invasive, manual method of stimulating reflexes in the feet, hands or ears, which correspond to every part, gland and organ of the body. This specialized massage provides stimulation to effectively reduce stress and tension in the body. The therapeutic reduction of stress and tension helps improve blood circulation, improve nerve function, facilitate the body to function efficiently, cleanse the body of accumulated toxins, assist the body's own natural healing process, reduce or dissipate pain and assist the recipient to be more centered and thus, feel more connected to life. The cost per session is approximately \$65.00 plus HST and is presently covered under Sunlife, Greenshields and Blue Cross private benefit plans.

2022 - 4 **BE IT RESOLVED** that Operational Procedure V – Affiliations B.Seniors' Advisory Council of Nova Scotia – Group of IX, add the following:

iv. Notwithstanding iii, for exceptional reasons, the Executive may select a sitting member on the Executive to act as the second representative during the second term of the President; and

Renumber iv to v.

Provincial RTO Executive

Brief:

This resolution would allow the Executive to select one of their members to act as the second representative in attending meetings of the Seniors Advisory Council. One of the reasons could be an Executive member's extensive background on national and provincial seniors' issues from previous volunteer opportunities. Another reason could be the Seniors Advisory Council opening up its membership for reasons of equity.

2022 - 5 ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the RTO approve the addition of an Administrative Assistant to the provincial organization structure and that this person shall be added through the implementation of a Service Contract. **Provincial RTO Executive**

Brief:

At the 2021 RTO AGM, held at the end of September, a resolution was passed establishing an AD HOC Committee “to consider the hiring of a part time staff person to carry out duties related to the varied administrative tasks required to properly service the provincial organization and its 23 Branches”. In its deliberations, the AD HOC committee saw substantial merit in the intent of the resolution because of the tremendous growth in duties and responsibilities within the RTO in recent years. The committee then pursued various options that would best address this situation. Among its considerations, the committee reviewed the hiring practices presently in place among other provincial retired teacher organizations and ACER/CART. Additionally, the committee sought professional advice as to what would be the most appropriate and easiest avenue for adding a staff person. As a result, the committee is recommending the addition of an Administrative Assistant to the provincial organization structure and that this person shall be added through the implementation of a Service Contract.

2022 – 6 ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Administrative Assistant be assigned his/her duties and responsibilities by the RTO Executive. **Provincial RTO Executive**

Brief:

The RTO Executive has responsibility for all RTO operations. The Ad hoc committee as established by New Business Resolution 2021-1 has reviewed and updated the following documents under Section 1 of the Operations Manual: Appendix A, Appendix B, 8D and 9E. These documents as updated and as amended, from time to time, will serve as the guide for assigning the duties and responsibilities of the Administrative Assistant.

2022 – 7 ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Administrative Assistant’s Service Contract be reviewed for renewal on an annual basis by the RTO Executive and the amount of compensation shall be determined annually by the RTO Executive.

Provincial RTO Executive

Brief:

It is important that the Individual holding the Administrative Assistant position receive regular and constructive feedback on their performance and be held to account for their work.

This performance review will be conducted by the Executive and will include a review of their skills with consideration to the accurate, efficient and timely completion of assigned tasks, their ability to maintain clear and transparent records, reporting at the appropriate intervals to the Treasurer and Finance Committee and communication with the Treasurer, Finance Committee and Executive on an annual basis. This review will also consider the compensation annually.

2022– 8 ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the following clause be added to the Operational Procedures of the Retired Teachers Organization Operational Procedures III - Fiscal Matters Section A Signing Officers:

"v. Administrative Assistant."

Provincial RTO Executive

Brief:

This addition will allow the newly appointed Administrative Assistant to be a signing officer. As the Administrative Assistant will work from home, many vouchers and invoices come to that person to be processed. If the Administrative Assistant did not have signing authority up to \$750.00, it would require the Administrative Assistant to obtain one or two signatures depending on the amount of the voucher/invoice. This would replicate the same authority/practice now assigned to the Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Coady
Resolutions Committee Chair

March 29, 2022.