

Resolutions Report

The following 11 Resolutions have been submitted for AGM 2023.

2023-1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Branch Grants be increased by one thousand dollars (\$1000) per Branch, regardless of size, starting with the 2023 fiscal year.

Lunenburg County Branch

Brief:

Due to the rising costs of food and services, many Branches are underwriting the costs of meals at meetings and social events. In addition, many venues charge hall rental fees which are increasing as costs of maintaining buildings increases. These costs cannot be passed on to the members, many of whom are receiving pensions based on a low license or reduced years of service.

Many Branches also provide entertainment and/or door prizes as an encouragement for members to attend events and to bring a measure of joy to their members.

All of these increased costs borne by the Branches quickly depletes their Branch grants and may curtail their ability to provide activities for their members.

Therefore, Branches need an increase in revenue from their members 'dues, in order to continue to provide for their membership.

2023-2

BE IT RESOLVED that all finance and executive meetings be held by ZOOM or a similar platform, except when held in conjunction with the Presidents 'Meeting or the AGM.

Lunenburg County

Branch

Brief:

Climate change has shown to be a very real issue for Nova Scotia, as evidenced by the horrific damage caused by Fiona. Many factors have contributed to climate change, but most notably pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

The Retired Teachers Organization must continue to reduce its carbon footprint and to lead by example. Otherwise, the legacy we leave our former students will not be one of which we can be proud.

Therefore, a drastic reduction in in-person meetings must occur.

2023-3

BE IT RESOLVED that the grant given to those Branches which publish a newsletter be doubled from the current one hundred dollars (\$100) to two hundred dollars (\$200) per issue.

Lunenburg County Branch

Brief:

Many RTO members do not have access to internet services, or have no need for such services and their attendant expense, so those Branches which publish a newsletter must send a print copy to these members.

The costs of printing a newsletter have nearly doubled. The cost of printing one issue of the Lunenburg County newsletter was \$122. This, added to the cost of stamps and envelopes (\$50.60) has eaten up almost half of the budget for newsletters. This could well make it a financial drain for Branches to continue mailing a print copy to members.

Those members without internet access are often the most isolated and most in need of information.

Therefore, an increase in the grant to Branches is required in order for the Branch to continue to provide this service.

2023-4

BE IT RESOLVED that beginning with the 2023 fiscal year that any surplus of the Provincial RTO Budget be shared with the RTO Branches: the surplus to be shared on a 25% to 75% split, 25% going to the Provincial RTO and 75% going to the RTO Branches on a per member formula. Yarmouth-Argyle Branch

Brief:

Whereas of November, 2022 the Provincial RTO had \$490,000 in GIC investments; Whereas those investments are being renewed at much greater interest rates; and Whereas the cost of Branch activities has increased significantly due to higher costs.

2023-5

BE IT RESOLVED that the RTO, through its affiliation with the Seniors 'Advisory Council of Nova Scotia, request the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness provide the quadrivalent high-dose flu vaccine free of charge to all seniors over the age 65 through the publicly funded influenza immunization program. Cumberland Branch

Brief:

For the past four years the Department of Health and Wellness has provided the quadrivalent high-dose flu vaccine free of charge to Nova Scotians age 65 and older living in nursing homes, residential care facilities, and in hospital awaiting a bed in one of these facilities.

Some pharmacies in the province offer the quadrivalent high-dose flu vaccine to older adults willing to purchase the vaccine at a cost of \$80, in addition to a dispensing and an injection fee.

This practice is discriminatory and raises an equity issue for those Nova Scotians on low or fixed incomes and are unable to afford the cost.

Both the National Advisory Committee on Immunization in Canada and the Centre for Disease Control in the United States recommended that seniors over the age of 65 should receive the

quadrivalent high-dose flu vaccination yearly. The quadrivalent high-dose flu vaccine contains four times more antigen than the regular flu vaccine and therefore, provides superior protection against illness and hospitalization.

The provision of no cost quadrivalent high-dose flu vaccine would assist older Nova Scotians to remain healthy and safe in their own homes, within supportive communities, and permit these residents to Age-In-Place.

2023-6

BE IT RESOLVED that the RTO provide forms on its website that can be filled out and submitted digitally without using special apps. Kings Branch

Brief:

At present, forms on our website must be printed, filled in by hand and either scanned to be submitted electronically or mailed. These include membership updates and BIP grants.

This is more than an inconvenience. Members change their information often. They may simply not bother to update their information when they have to print and mail a form. It also leads to mistakes, particularly with email addresses and phone numbers that have been written by hand. This adds to the inaccuracy of our membership database and the inability for us to reach some members.

BIP grant applications and reports must be scanned to be returned in a digital format unless the members submitting the report has access to software that allows for a PDF form to be translated.

Placing a legal signature, if required, can be dealt with digitally.

2023-7

BE IT RESOLVED that wherever possible, expenses for Committee members be paid by e-transfer. Kings Branch

Brief:

We are in an age where physical cheques have become a nuisance. They must be written, signed, put in an envelope, taken to a post office and mailed (at a cost). The recipient must wait several days or even a week or two to take them to the bank to make the deposit. There is the risk of cheques becoming lost in the mail or lost by the recipient.

Many organizations have switched to using e-transfer to pay invoices. E-transfers should speed up the process of remuneration for expenses and eliminate the cost of purchasing cheques and stamps.

2023-8

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive of the RTO look into the addition of an “In Memoriam” section of the RTO Newsletter and make recommendation to the Editor of the Newsletter if feasible. Kings Branch

Brief:

Currently, the RTO Newsletter does not have a page that lets members know that a colleague has passed away. At this time, it is considered the responsibility of each Branch to inform their members.

Members often developed province-wide networks when they taught and/or were working within the NSTU. Reporting deaths within a Branch may not reach all those who knew a member. Publishing a memorial list of those deceased would help members learn of a colleague’s passing in a timely fashion.

Many organizations and institutions do publish such information within their newsletters. For example, the *Acadia Bulletin* publishes a list entitled “Acadia Remembers”. St. Mary’s *Maroon and White* includes a page entitled “In Memoriam”. St. FX publishes a list of deceased alumni in their *Alumni News*.

Most institutions that do publish lists include some sort of statement that recognizes the inevitability of errors and omissions, allowing members to submit additions to be published in the next issue. The RTO list could be based on information received from Johnson and/or from members who submit names.

2023-9

BE IT RESOLVED that the Branch Initiative Program be dissolved and that each Branch’s grant be increased by two thousand dollars (\$2000). Lunenburg County Branch

Brief:

The Retired Teachers Organization is made up of professional individuals who, for thirty-five years (for the most part), have managed their classrooms and/or their schools. They have organized trips, teams, class outings, milk money, lunch money, book fair money, and team dues, while managing NSTU budgets, school budgets, and classroom budgets.

Retired teachers have experience managing organizations and finances. They have demonstrated their competence.

Yet, in their retirement years, they are reduced to basically begging to have small amounts of their organization dues returned to their local Branch to create activities that give them a social outlet, teach them new skills, lessen their loneliness, provide nutritional meals, and enrich their mental and emotional health - and in some cases, their physical health. In 2022, the Lunenburg County Branch received back 21.6 % of the dues paid by members, in the form of a Branch grant and BIP grants.

Retired teachers are perfectly capable of managing their dues. They should not have to please a patriarchy/matriarchy in hopes of regaining a small portion of those dues.

The Retired Teachers Organization exists to serve its members. Disbanding the BIP program and increasing Branch grants will allow Branches to better serve their members in a direct and timely manner.

Additionally, managing the BIP program requires an extraordinary amount of time on the part of the provincial Treasurer. Eliminating this program will lessen the burden on the Treasurer and, perhaps, make the position more attractive to members who might be willing to take on the position of Treasurer.

2023-10

BE IT RESOLVED that the RTO make representation to the NSTU and the Insurance Trustees to affect an increase in the amounts allotted to members for eye care.

Richmond Branch

Brief:

Several years have passed since we have experienced any increase in the amount of benefits for eye care. During that time the cost of eye care has continued to escalate. It is time to review this benefit with a view to increasing amounts allocated.

2023-11

BE IT RESOLVED that the RTO renew their commitment through the NSTU and Insurance Trustees to provide members with the Shingles Vaccine, at no cost to the individual member.

Richmond Branch

Brief:

Several years ago, the Richmond Branch put forward a resolution to provide members with these important benefits. We, at this time, would like to renew this policy and renew the process of getting this benefit for members.

This benefit is seen as both an opportunity of alleviating suffering, as well as, a means of reducing demands on the already over-extended health care system.

Respectfully submitted,
Ambrose White - Chair of Resolutions