



THE BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE RETIRED TEACHERS ORGANIZATION (RTO)

rto.nstu.ca

Benefits of a member of the RTO include the following:

1. The RTO has 23 branches throughout Nova Scotia. These branches typically meet four times a year. A major advantage many of our members appreciate is the social contact gained at these meetings. The meetings usually include a meal, a short business meeting and/or a presentation. Many topics are covered in the presentations; examples are: insurance plans, pension information, seniors' Pharmacare, RTO Travel club, musical groups, audiologists, opticians as well as many others. Branches may also hold various social wellness events throughout the year. Some of which are funded by yearly BIP grants which are now available to all branches for additional activities.
2. The RTO has a "Deals and Discounts" package in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU). These are updated on a regular basis. As well, several branches have negotiated additional benefits such as a furnace fuel discount with Ultramar. All RTO members are eligible to access the services of Merit Travel, 5552 Kaye Street, Halifax, in person or by phone, 902.482.8000, toll free 1.866.341.1777 to book travel adventures for individuals, groups, hosted group tours and cruises. Branch travel by bus or other means can also be accommodated. Explore their website at merittravel.com.
3. The RTO produces a newsletter three times a year. Typical items in the newsletter are: pension updates, executive highlights, message from the President, committee reports, insurance updates, branch activities, feature teacher article and social activities such as the RTO Golf Tournament, Curling Tournament and Bowling Tournament. Some branches produce a branch newsletter, maintain a branch website and have Facebook contact with their members.
4. The RTO is a member of the Seniors Advisory Council of Nova Scotia. The member organizations (nine groups) represent a significant number of seniors in Nova Scotia. The Advisory Council advocates for affordable health and social programs so that seniors can live in dignity. Examples of current Advisory Council advocacy activities are: the maintenance of seniors' Pharmacare, improving residential and continuing care and providing affordable transportation.
5. The RTO is a member of ACER/CART (Canadian Association of Retired Teachers). ACER/CART represents 13 retired teacher organizations from across Canada with a total membership of 160,485 retired teachers. This organization develops policy and advocates in several areas including the following: health care, pensions, and the elimination of elder abuse, a National Pharmacare Program with national drug formulary and reducing poverty among the elderly.
6. The RTO established the Retired Teachers Legacy Foundation in 1994. It honours the life and work of former teachers of Nova Scotia. The funds generated by the Foundation are used exclusively to benefit children younger than the age of 21. Funds may benefit institutes which are defined as a Society or organization funded for an educational, medical, social or similar program in the Province of Nova Scotia.
7. There is a retired teacher on the Nova Scotia Teachers Pension Plan Trustee Inc. The RTO is also represented on the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) Pension Committee. As well, the RTO has input to the NSTU Insurance Trustee on behalf of its members.

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