

Resolutions for AGM 2021

Note :

Resolution 2021- 5 There has been a limited and agreed upon change in wording to further clarify the intent of the resolution and the brief. This has been done since it was originally printed in the Winter issue of the newsletter. The revision is included here.

Resolution 2021-11 was not included in the Winter issue of the RTO Newsletter as it was brought forward at the March Executive meeting following the printing deadline for the newsletter.

- 2021 – 1** ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the provincial RTO provide funding to those Branches which publish newsletters for their membership, in the amount of \$100. per issue , to a maximum of \$400. per year. **Lunenburg County Branch**

Brief:

RTO Branches are not normally fundraising entities, so the funds that are available to them to meet the needs of their memberships are limited.

One avenue for keeping members up to date and connected with the RTO is through a Branch newsletter.

Most, if not all, Branches would have a number of members who do not have internet access and cannot receive a digital copy of the newsletter.

Therefore, it would be in the best interest of the RTO if the provincial body added a line item to the budget to provide funding for Branches to print and mail copies of their newsletters to their members.

- 2021 - 2** ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the provincial RTO Executive petition the Insurance Trustees, through appropriate channels, to increase the amount of coverage for eyeglasses and frames, as well as for hearing aids. **Lunenburg County Branch**

Brief:

Many retired teachers depend upon their eye glasses and hearing aids in order to remain involved with the world in general and with their family and friends in particular. Not being able to see or hear limits a person's social life and enjoyment of reading, television and day to day activities, such as reading a recipe.

Replacing eye glasses and hearing aids in order to keep pace with declining vision and hearing is imperative to the emotional and mental, as well as physical, well being of RTO members.

Many RTO members are receiving pensions that will not increase, and have not increased since their retirement, while they are having to keep pace with higher taxes, home repairs, other medical costs and the general cost of living.

It is important that the RTO work strenuously to protect the physical and mental health of its members by lessening the burden of paying for eyeglasses and hearing aids.

2021 - 3 ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the RTO Provincial Executive petition the Insurance Trustees, through the appropriate channels, to cover the cost of the vaccine for Shingles.
Lunenburg County Branch

Brief:

Shingles can be a debilitating affliction for any person, but especially so for seniors whose physical health may already be compromised and who could experience stress and pain that would compromise their mental well being.

Since Shingles is preventable, it is incumbent upon our Insurance Trustees to protect our vulnerable population by funding the vaccine to prevent this scourge. Quality of life is an important component of the work of the RTO locally and provincially, and to that end, working towards funding for this vaccine is imperative.

2021 - 4 ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the RTO Provincial Executive petition the Insurance Trustees, through appropriate channels, to provide funding for the services of licensed nutritionists and dietitians.
Lunenburg County Branch

Brief:

As Canadians and seniors, in particular, become more sedentary and experience more health issues, the services of a nutritionist becomes of paramount importance. Many seniors have difficulty maintaining a healthy diet when fast food is so readily available and preparing a meal, especially for one person, is a chore. Diet can have adverse effects on some medical conditions and mental health, leading to a poor quality of life.

Licensed nutritionists and dieticians can provide support and guidance for those with medical and mental health conditions, or who may lack energy for basic living activities.

Therefore, the services of a nutritionist or dietician should be available, and affordable, for retirees.

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.

2021- 6 ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the NSTU Insurance Trustees seek an increase in coverage for Prescription Eyeglasses, Eye Laser Surgery and Contact Lenses. **Halifax County Branch**
Brief:

The Halifax County Branch RTO surveyed members about group insurance needs and found overwhelming concerns around two coverage issues associated with expenses relating to vision. One of their concerns relates to the increasing expense of eye wear needs (glasses and contacts).

We heard from many members that the cost of eye glasses and contacts continue to increase to become unaffordable for families. These are essential for safety and healthy living and members need to be paying less for these necessities.

2021 - 7 ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that the NSTU Insurance Trustees provide the Retinal (Eye) Scan as a Group Insurance Extended Health Benefit. **Halifax County Branch**
Brief:

The Halifax County Branch RTO surveyed members about group insurance needs and found overwhelming concerns around two coverage issues associated with expenses relating to vision. One of the coverage issues related to the coverage /cost of Retinal Scans.

Retinal imaging allows optometrists to see leaks, tears, detachments and signs of eye diseases (glaucoma, detached retina, macular degeneration...) and other medical conditions (diabetes, high blood pressure...) that may have gone undiagnosed or that they couldn't see before. The test itself is painless and the results are easy for doctors to interpret and to store for future comparisons. The retina OCT exam is recommended for everyone from age 40 onward. The exam is part of a thorough health check and can foster better health and vision for all which could result in cost savings in lost work days and sickness and health costs. The cost of this exam is presently not covered and should be.

2021 - 8 ***BE IT RESOLVED*** that any annual Provincial RTO budget surplus greater than \$40,000.00 be divided with 25% remaining with the Provincial RTO and 75% being rebated to the 23 Branches on a per member basis,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these funds must be accounted for in the Annual Branch Report to the Provincial Executive. **Yarmouth Argyle Branch**
Brief:

During the past two years (2019 and 2020) the Provincial RTO has had huge surpluses. The Provincial RTO now has reserves (GICs) of \$375,000.00. These reserves are more than one year's Annual Budget (2020 budget \$322,172.00). RTO member dues make up the vast majority of the revenues of the Provincial RTO. The surpluses should be shared with the 23 Branches to allow them to offer a wider range of luncheons/dinners, social events, physical activities and other opportunities to their members as well as increasing their presence/profile within their communities.

This resolution allows the Provincial RTO to maintain its strong financial footing and also allows Branches to increase their capabilities to provide better services and wider opportunities to their members.

- 2021 - 9** **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Retired Teachers Organization request that the NSTU and the Seniors Advisory Council advocate to the provincial government for high speed internet connectivity throughout Nova Scotia. **Annapolis Branch**

Brief:

In March 2020, the Nova Scotia Department of Education in response to the Covid19 pandemic closed schools, and directed students and teachers to an on-line learning model. This brought to light the inequity of internet connectivity across the province, with many unserved or underserved rural areas. Approximately 30% of rural Nova Scotians do not have adequate in-home access to high speed internet. Many currently active teachers, retired teachers and students live in these inadequately serviced rural areas. The necessity of high quality, equitable internet connectivity throughout the province is valued by and important for young and old, working and retired Nova Scotians. The RTO together with the NSTU and the Seniors Advisory Council should advocate for such service.

- 2021 - 10** **BE IT RESOLVED** that ARTICLE V- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, B. Election of Executive Committee Members, add the following:
iv. Notwithstanding iii., the position of Treasurer shall be a two (2) year term and no one shall hold the same position for more than three (3) consecutive two (2) year terms.

Provincial RTO Executive

Brief:

The members of the Executive of the Retired Teachers' Organization currently can hold an elected position for a term of two (2) years with the option of reoffering for a second two (2) year term. This allows for the leadership roles in the organization to be refreshed and more members to participate in various roles. All of these positions provide an opportunity for members to learn about the organization and the responsibilities each position entails. However, the position of Treasurer requires a very specific skill set and knowledge of the financial workings of the organization. This resolution would give the option to the incumbent candidate to re-offer for a third term if they so desire and are successfully re-elected.

- 2021 -11** **BE IT RESOLVED** that the current words of ARTICLE VI – GENERAL PROVISIONS clause F of the RTO CONSTITUTION: “ The Retired Teachers’ Legacy Foundation, as established by the RTO Executive in 1994, shall support sick and/or challenged children of the Province of Nova Scotia” be deleted and replaced with the words:

“The Retired Teachers’ Legacy Foundation, as established by the RTO Executive in 1994, shall benefit children younger than the age of 21 years in the Province of Nova Scotia by supporting organizations or societies for an educational, medical, social or similar purpose.

Provincial RTO Executive

Brief:

The proposed change in wording updates the current wording which has a limiting intent. The new wording would allow for greater flexibility in the support given to organizations or societies which work with children under the age of 21 in the Province of Nova Scotia. It has been the desire of retired teachers that the Legacy Foundation move in this direction.

Eileen Coady, Resolutions Committee Chair

May 14, 2021