

Other areas of Membership Representation

NSTU PENSION COMMITTEE—the NSTU Pension Committee is responsible for studying pension resolutions and keeping the Provincial Executive informed of trends and changes affecting teachers' pensions.

SENIORS SECRETARIAT/GROUP OF NINE—the Group of IX Seniors' Organizations of Nova Scotia is the voice of Nova Scotia seniors providing advice to the Ministers of all departments of government. The Group of IX has access to the Government of Canada through its affiliation with the Congress of National Seniors' Organizations.

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS (ACER/CART)—The Canadian Association of Retired Teachers is a national organization of retired teachers' associations throughout Canada. ACER/CART studies and monitors issues such as pensions, finances, taxation and health to enable it to lobby government on these issues.

COMMUNITY TRANSIT - NOVA SCOTIA—is a provincial non-profit organization supporting the growth and development of transit services in communities across the province. This organization believes an individual's access to transportation is an essential connection to daily living, community development, and quality of life.

RTO Legacy Foundation

The RTO Legacy Foundation is a registered charity for tax purposes. It was created to honour the life and work of Nova Scotia Teachers. Through the use of "In Memory" cards, the Foundation accepts donations. The interest earned annually is awarded to assist institutions that provide medical or educational training for sick or challenged children on a not-for-profit basis.

RTO EXECUTIVE OFFICES

PRESIDENT
PAST PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
TREASURER
MEMBER-AT-LARGE [CAPE BRETON-VICTORIA]
MEMBER-AT-LARGE [STRAIT]
MEMBER-AT-LARGE [CHIGNECTO-CENTRAL]
MEMBER-AT-LARGE [HALIFAX METRO]
MEMBER-AT-LARGE [VALLEY]
MEMBER-AT-LARGE [SOUTH SHORE]
MEMBER-AT-LARGE [SOUTH WEST SHORE]
PENSION COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE
SECRETARY [MEMBER-AT-LARGE]

RTO BRANCHES

AER-BAIE SAINTE-MARIE [CLARE]
ANNAPOLIS
ANTIGONISH /GUYSBOROUGH
COLCHESTER-EAST HANTS
CUMBERLAND
DARTMOUTH
DIGBY
GLACE BAY & AREA
HALIFAX CITY
HALIFAX COUNTY
HALIFAX CPX
INVERNESS
KINGS
LUNENBURG
NEW WATERFORD
NORTHSIDE-VICTORIA
PICTOU
QUEENS
RICHMOND
SHELburnE
SYDNEY & AREA
WEST HANTS
YARMOUTH/ARGYLE

Frequently Called Numbers

NSTU Building 902-477-5621
1-800-565-6788
Teachers Plus Credit Union 902-477-5664
1-800-565-3103
NS Pension Corporation 902-424-5070
1-800-774-5070
Johnson Inc. Insurance 902-453-1010
1-800-453-9543
Seniors Secretariat 1-800-670-0065

Visit the RTO website at
rto.nstu.ca
for the RTO newsletter
and additional information!

This brochure is sponsored by:



TEACHERS PLUS

NOVA SCOTIA RETIRED TEACHERS ORGANIZATION

rto.nstu.ca

WHO WE ARE ...



WHAT WE DO ...

UPDATED SUMMER 2014

History of NSRTA

In 1956, a group of retired teachers sought to establish an association of retired teachers across Nova Scotia.

They looked to a group of retired female educators entitled Halifax CPX for their inspiration.

This organization would sow the seeds for the Retired Teachers Association which was formed on May 25, 1966. In June 2005 the Retired Teachers Association was renamed the Retired Teachers Organization of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

The RTO continues to work for the betterment of retired teachers throughout Nova Scotia growing from the original 25 members to about 7,000 members (2014).



MISSION STATEMENT

The RTO is the official body representing the retired teachers of Nova Scotia and will advance, promote and protect the welfare of its members.

REASONS FOR JOINING THE RTO

When you become an RTO member you are adding your voice and support to a strong lobby and advocacy organization that is able to command respect because of its large membership and dedicated people.

Personal benefits of being an RTO member are:

- Maintain social contacts with retired teachers at the local Branch level
- Access to useful information from Branch Presidents at local Branch meetings
- The opportunity to express your opinions, influence decision-making and stay informed
- Access to discount promotions with your RTO membership card
- The opportunity to assist your fellow members by offering to serve on RTO and NSTU committees and as trustees

When you become a RTO member you will improve the bargaining strength and effectiveness of the RTO executive as they work on your behalf to:

- Protect and enhance your insurance and pension benefits
- Maintain open communication with the NSTU through regular Liaison Committee meetings with the NSTU
- Work (collaborate) with like-minded provincial and national organizations such as the Group of IX, ACER/CART and Community Transit - Nova Scotia on important seniors' issues
- Meet annually to receive insurance information updates and provide feedback to the NSTU Insurance Trustees

MEMBERSHIP

ACTIVE MEMBER: To qualify as an active member of the Organization, a person must pay the annual fee and meet one of the following criteria:

- i) be in receipt of a pension pursuant to the Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension Act;
- ii) been in the Faculty and Professional Support bargaining units of the Nova Scotia Community College and be in receipt of a pension pursuant to the Public Service Superannuation Plan;
- iii) been employed as a teacher pursuant to the Teachers' Provincial Agreement and be in receipt of a pension pursuant to the Public Service Superannuation Plan.

AFFILIATE: A retired teacher shall be eligible if in receipt of a pension from outside Nova Scotia.

ASSOCIATE:

- (a) A teacher shall be eligible subject to the approval of the RTO Executive.
- (b) Be a surviving spouse/partner of a retired teacher.

Relationship to NSTU

The RTO has a working relationship with the NSTU that makes possible the following:

- meeting space (as available)
- clerical support services as offered by the NSTU*
- printing/postal support as offered by the NSTU*
- assignment of a Liaison Officer
- upon request, copies of *The Teacher* subject to availability
- membership in the Teachers Plus Credit Union
- membership in the NSTU Group Insurance Plan in accordance with the provisions of the plan
- access to the NSTU Members-only content and NSTU webmail
- access to NSTU staff

**cost assessed annually*

Role of the RTO Provincially/Nationally

- I) Acts as a watchdog on all issues that may impact on retired teachers;
- II) Exercises leadership in constitutional changes;
- III) Represents the views of retired teachers during bargaining, i.e. health, pensions, etc;
- IV) Directs input into discussions affecting retired teachers;
- V) Meets tri-annually with the NSTU President, Executive Director and Asst. Executive Director;
- VI) Meets annually with Insurance Trustees;
- VII) Conducts tri-annual Branch Presidents' meetings;
- VIII) Administers the Retired Teachers' Legacy Foundation Fund;
- IX) Represents Nova Scotia as a member of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER/CART).

The RTO at the Branch Level

- I) Provides visitation by RTO Executive members to branches as requested;
- II) Provides persons to speak on RTO issues;
- III) Encourages liaison between branch RTOs and NSTU Locals;
- IV) Presents local concerns to provincial meetings.

The RTO on a personal level provides:

- I) *The Retired Teacher* newsletter;
- II) For active participation at the RTO AGM;
- III) Direct access to NSTU staff;
- IV) Special rates/discounts at specified locations/businesses;
- V) Access to the RTO website at rto.nstu.ca and the opportunity to establish a free web account with the NSTU;
- VI) Upon request, NSTU Member Diary subject to availability.

Committees of RTO

RESEARCH/REVIEW COMMITTEE—to provide in depth analysis and research in areas identified by the Executive, as well review and evaluate the effectiveness of the RTO.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE—to produce the RTO newsletter and provide RTO information on the RTO website (rto.nstu.ca).

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE—to promote membership in the RTO.

PENSIONS AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE—with a mandate to study and respond to: pension and benefit concerns; representation on the NSTU Pension Committee; and other related pension and benefit issues.

FINANCE COMMITTEE—with a mandate to exercise control over RTO finances, monitors all RTO expenditures, provides recommendations to the RTO Executive on financial matters and prepares the annual RTO budget for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

LIAISON COMMITTEE—consisting of the RTO President, Vice-President and Past President meets regularly with the NSTU President, Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director.

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