

Resolutions For RTO AGM 2024

The following resolutions were tabled at the 2023 Annual General Meeting until the 2024 Annual General Meeting:

2023-1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Branch Grants be increased by one thousand dollars (\$1,000) 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 the costs of maintaining buildings increase. 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 deplete 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

Motion to table to AGM 2024

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.

Motion to table to AGM 2024

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 have access to software that allows for a PDF form to be translated.

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

Motion to refer the resolution to the RTO Executive and report back to AGM 2024

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

Motion to refer the resolution to the RTO Finance and report back to AGM 2024

The following NEW resolutions have been submitted for presentation to AGM 2024:

2024-1 Lunenburg County Branch

BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial RTO Executive provide an explanation to all RTO members, for the amounts of monies that have been put into GICs and/or term deposits.

Brief:

Dues are paid by the RTO members in good faith, meaning that they believe they will be used to support the Provincial activities necessary for the well-being of RTO members, or donated to worthy causes. Although some accountants may advise groups to maintain a minimum of a year's expenses in their account, that is not necessary for the RTO which has a guaranteed income every month from the collection of dues. Members would like to know how holding monies in GIC term deposits provides a benefit for them.

2024-2 Lunenburg County Branch

BE IT RESOLVED that the editor of the Provincial Newsletter be given the authority to look at ways to shorten the newsletter and thus reduce the printing costs for newsletters that are mailed to members.

Brief:

The printing of the newsletter is extremely costly and will, quite possibly, continue to increase in cost. There may be items that can be combined or shortened to decrease the number of pages in each edition. For example, the BIP reports and Branch updates are two separate items which often contain the same information and could easily be combined into a smaller report than the current two reports.

2024-3 Cumberland Branch

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 to provide, free of charge to seniors over the age of 60, the vaccine to protect them against RSV (respiratory syncytial virus).

Brief:

RSV is a common, highly contagious respiratory virus that affects the lungs and respiratory airways of seniors. The virus typically surges in the late fall and lasts until spring and in order to reduce the spread, proper access to an approved vaccination, paired with public awareness about the virus, may help. Seniors bear the brunt of this virus, with hospitalization, and represent over 80 percent of the deaths that happen every year from this virus. Health Canada has approved the first vaccine for RSV for adults aged 60 and over. The vaccine Arexvy has been clinically shown

to be 82.6 percent effective at preventing lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV and 94.6 percent effective for seniors with underlying medical conditions. It currently has a cost of over \$300, which hinders many seniors on fixed incomes from being able to afford the vaccine as a means to protect themselves from the viruses. The provision of a no-cost RSV vaccine would assist aging Nova Scotians to remain healthy and safe in their own homes and within supportive communities, and permit these residents to age in place.

2024-4 Kings Branch

BE IT RESOLVED that the Retired Teachers Organization modify its Branch funding formula for 2025 onward to better address the increased costs borne by Branches with larger memberships.

Brief:

The current two-stage blended formula for initial Branch funding works relatively well. It provides a base amount (\$1,200 in 2023; \$1,400 in 2024) which takes into consideration the fixed costs encountered by Branches for operation and some activities/events. For example, a bus trip for 15 people typically costs the same as a bus trip for 35. Branches currently receive the remainder of their initial funding through the second stage of the funding formula. For 2023 and 2024, this is roughly an additional \$1 per member in excess of 100 members.

Certain events that are sponsored or cost-shared by Branches cost significantly more when the number of participants increases. For example, if the Branch is covering \$5 of a \$25 dinner or providing snacks for members attending a pub night, the cost to the Branch is directly proportional to the number of people engaged. At present, a Branch with 100 members receives \$1,200 while a Branch with double the membership (200) receives \$1,300, only 8% in additional funding.

We recommend that grant amounts for 2025 be based on \$3 rather than \$1 per additional member:

Membership	2024 Grant	Proposed 2025 Grant
1-100	\$1400	\$1400
101-200	\$1500	\$1700
201-300	\$1600	\$2000
301-400	\$1700	\$2300
401-500	\$1800	\$2600
501-600	\$1900	\$2900
601-700	\$2000	\$3200
701-800	\$2100	\$3500
801-900	\$2200	\$3800

2024-5 Kings Branch

BE IT RESOLVED that the Retired Teachers Organization approach the Nova Scotia Teachers Union to investigate the seamless transfer of NSTU membership to RTO membership – with teacher consent – upon retirement.

Brief:

We are seeing more and more new retirees who are not submitting their RTO application forms, for a variety of reasons. There have also been transcribing issues – including mistakes in data entry or trouble reading poor handwriting – resulting in emails bouncing back from members. Reducing paperwork and the time required to process new members could be achieved at the same time that Johnson’s data is updated upon the retirement of a teacher.

2024-6 Kings Branch

BE IT RESOLVED that the Finance Committee of the Retired Teachers Organization include at least one non-Executive member.

Brief:

The Treasurer is one of the most important and demanding positions in our organization. It would be prudent to provide the opportunity for further member engagement and expose additional members (who may be well-qualified and interested in pursuing this vital RTO role) to the workings of the Finance Committee.

2024-7 Kings Branch

BE IT RESOLVED that the Retired Teachers Organization – by way of letters, meetings, or a press release – make it known to the Province and the Pension Board that we are in full support of ALL retired Nova Scotia teachers having indexed teacher pensions.

Brief:

Not since the 1980s have we seen skyrocketing inflation in Nova Scotia like we have experienced in the past year or so. The hundreds of teachers who have retired since the loss of indexed pensions have seen their purchasing power significantly eroded in recent history. Every year that those pensions are frozen exacerbates the situation and will result in additional hardships for many RTO members.

2024-8 Richmond Branch

BE IT RESOLVED that the RTO renew its commitment, through the NSTU, to have Nova Scotia Health provide, at no cost, the “shingles vaccination” to all Nova Scotians who are 60 years old and older.

Brief:

Whereas people can get shingles when the virus that causes chickenpox is reactivated in their body, as the “varicella-zoster virus” doesn’t leave the body even after a person has recovered from chickenpox; and Whereas any person who has had chickenpox can get shingles, most people who do so are older than 50 or have a weakened immune system. For example, a person might be susceptible if they have cancer, take medicines that weaken their immune system, if they are younger than 50; and Whereas those who do suffer from shingles require medical attention from a system that is already over-taxed, not to mention the negative impact on our economy when people suffering from shingles are unable to work; and Whereas the Public Health Agency of Canada affirms that the best protection from shingles is vaccination and recommends that the “shingles” vaccine be administered to people 60 and older.

2024-9 Richmond Branch

BE IT RESOLVED that the RTO make representation to the NSTU to request that Nova Scotia Health lower the age of eligibility for the free high-dosage influenza vaccination.

Brief:

Whereas Nova Scotia Health affirms that our immune system changes with age, a fact which can make it harder for the body to fight off infections; and Whereas anyone with chronic conditions (like heart disease, asthma and diabetes) can have his/her immune system compromised, thus making it harder to fight off infections regardless of age; and Whereas those who provide services in closed or relatively closed settings such as medical facilities and school settings are at high risk for contracting the flu and/or spreading it to others; and Whereas many retired teachers under the age of 65 do substitute in our public school system at times.

2024-10 Richmond Branch

BE IT RESOLVED that the RTO make representation to the NSTU and the Insurance Trustees to affect and increase the amounts allotted to members for Eye Care.

Brief:

Whereas the cost of eye care has escalated for years with no indications this trend will be reversed or even stabilized; and Whereas the relatively low amount of compensation for eye care granted members has fallen further back in this age of ever-increasing costs.

2024-11 Sydney and Area

BE IT RESOLVED that the age limit of 75 be expanded to 90 years so that more elderly members will have access to benefits.

Brief:

People are living longer so more teachers pass the now-accepted deadlines and therefore miss out on benefits which are actually needed as the aging process unfolds.

2024-12 Dartmouth Branch

BE IT RESOLVED that the NS Retired Teachers Organization (NSRTO) provide an honorarium to the Provincial President of the organization on a yearly basis, in recognition of services provided which go above and beyond regular meetings with members and the Executive. This is an honorarium amount to be determined, not a salary.

Brief:

NSRTO has become a valued and respected organization due to the leadership that is provided on a regular basis to all members. While the President is paid travel expenses, meals, and lodging to attend meetings, there is no consideration for time, energy, and disruption of home life with phone calls, and additional meetings with the NSTU, Johnson, and other affiliates of the organization. Everyone has a pension, but serving as President takes heart, energy, and time from family. On a regular basis, the President is at the beck and call of members, whether it is answering members' phone or email inquiries, travelling to additional meetings not listed in the RTO calendar, planning for meetings, booking rooms for meetings, etcetera. We provide the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster an honorarium and it is due time to provide one for the President.