



Association nationale  
des retraités fédéraux      National Association  
of Federal Retirees

OUTAOUAIS

## **MINUTES 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

National Association of Federal Retirees – Outaouais Branch  
Via ZOOM, Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

### **Directors:**

Donald Déry, President  
René Caron, Treasurer  
Jacques Lecompte, Secretary  
Pierre Laflamme, Administrator

### **Welcome from the Chair**

Mr. Donald Déry welcomed participants to the first Annual General Meeting of the Branch by videoconference. He confirmed that he would be the Chairperson of the meeting and that Mr. Jacques Lecompte, Secretary of the Branch, would also be the Secretary of the meeting. Since this is the first remote meeting, Mr. Déry invited Ms. Joane Miron from the National Office, who graciously agreed to provide technical assistance for the smooth running of the meeting.

### **Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum**

Ms. Guylaine Ross, Branch Branch Manager, confirmed that 36 members in good standing of the Outaouais Branch were present at the meeting, thus confirming that there was a quorum to officially proceed. Mr. Déry confirmed that, due to the special circumstances of a pandemic situation, the National Office had agreed to reduce the quorum of this meeting to 26 members. Members were also advised that the meeting would be recorded for the minutes.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

Mr. Déry reviewed the Agenda and asked if there were any suggestions for additions. A question on home health care was put forward and it was confirmed that it would be discussed following the presentation of the President's annual report.

The Agenda, proposed by Mr. Jacques Lecompte and seconded by Mr. André Rousseau, was adopted unanimously.

### **Adoption of the Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting of April 11, 2019**

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Mr. Déry asked participants who were present at the 2019 AGM if they had any changes to propose to the minutes - no changes were raised.

The minutes of the 28th AGM 2019, proposed by Mr. Guy Gaumont and seconded by Mr. Robert Leduc were unanimously approved.

## **Finance**

### - Presentation of the 2019 and 2020 Financial Statements

The Treasurer of the BranchBranch, Mr. René Caron, handed the presentation over to Mr. Marc-André Monette representing the accounting firm Monette Fortin Tremblay Inc, , M. Monette explained that a compilation engagement was completed for 2020, compared to a review engagement in previous years, since the BranchBracch was no longer an incorporated entity (Inc). and no longer required to conduct a review engagement. The National Office now completes the review engagement for the entire Association. M. Monette reviewed the 2020 financial statements, explaining the differences between 2019 and 2020 in operating revenues and expenses. He concluded his presentation by opening the floor to questions. No questions were raised.

Mr. René Caron, seconded by Mr. Enos Lombard, moved the adoption of the Financial Statements, which were adopted unanimously.

### - Presentation of 2020 results and 2021 and 2022 budget forecasts

Mr. Caron provided an exhibit of the categories in which the 2020 operating revenues and expenses were concentrated. He also explained the budget projections for 2021 and 2022. He concluded by opening the floor to questions. Ms. Edith Gendron asked why credit card fees are paid by the BranchBranch if the National Office collects the fees centrally. Mr. Caron explained that these fees are charged the same as any other credit card purchase. Ms. Gendron then asked if credit card fees are then shared on a pro-rata basis between the BranchBranch and the National Office. Mr. Caron mentioned that all credit card fees are absorbed by the Branch. Mr. Julien Bourdeau asked if the budget estimates take into account whether the next AGM would be in-person or virtual. Mr. Déry stated that he wanted to be positive and to anticipate that later this year, at worst by next year, in person meetings could resume given that the majority of the population would have been vaccinated, . In addition, Mr. Caron confirmed that the forecasts were based on the results of 2019, pre-Covid, to take into account the possible resumption of in-person activities. Mr. André Rousseau asked if the Section had applied for any government financial assistance. Mr. Caron confirmed that no requests for financial support have been made.

Mr. René Caron moved the adoption of the 2021 budget, seconded by Mr. Enos Lombard. The budget was adopted unanimously.

### - Adoption of changes to reserve funds

Mr. Caron explained the proposed changes to the reserve funds.

Mr. Robert Leduc asked why the participants did not have the possibility to vote "abstain". Mr. Jacques Lambert confirmed that an abstention vote normally goes with the majority. For example, 25 for and 10

against, the abstentions are simply compiled with the majority either in the for or against. If anyone wishes to register an abstention, they must simply abstain from voting.

Mr. René Caron proposed, seconded by Mr. Jacques Lecompte, that a fund of \$40,000 be dedicated to recruitment and retention and that a second fund of \$20,000 be dedicated to the training and recognition of volunteers. The modifications to the reserve funds was adopted unanimously.

- Question period

No further questions were raised.

- Appointment of examiners for 2021

Mr. René Caron, seconded by Mr. Guy Gaumont, moved that the accounting firm Monette Fortin Tremblay Inc. be mandated to perform the notice to readers for the 2021 fiscal year. The proposal was adopted unanimously.

**Branch President's Report**

Mr. Déry reported on the 2019-2024 National Strategic Plan; our advocacy, recruitment and retention activities; the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and; the 2021-2022 priorities. He concluded by thanking the non-Board volunteers and the Branch Directors for their contribution and opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Julien Bourdeau asked if the one-year extension of certain terms rather than all terms on the Board had been put to a vote. If not, what was the decision process (an emergency clause?) and the acceptance by the members concerned? Mr. Déry turned the floor over to Mr. Lambert, who confirmed that all sections of the Association faced the same problem, since it was not possible to meet in-person. Faced with the impossibility for all branches to proceed with a Members' Meeting last April, extensions of mandates were approved, supported by legal opinions from the National Office's legal advisors. The Outaouais Branch attempted to hold its annual membership meeting in October 2020, but unfortunately was unable to obtain quorum. As a result, the terms of all directors have been extended until the present meeting.

Ms. Edith Gendron asked, in the context of the national strategy for 338 Outreach, if, following the federal budget, that there was a position regarding the creation of two classes of seniors, namely those 75 years and older with a \$500 increase and those 60 to 74 years old who do not qualify for this measure. Mr. Lambert confirmed that the issue is currently under review by the Advocacy Department of the National Office, as this information was just outlined in the federal budget. Analysis and consultations will follow. It was also confirmed that a question similar to Ms. Gendron's question has already been addressed to the Minister of Seniors, Ms. Blais.

Mr. Déry mentioned that he had received two questions by e-mail from Ms. Patricia Gareau-Legault and asked our colleagues at the National Office to address them. The first one, "How often does NAFR review the dental plan? Mr. Lambert confirmed that no review of the dental plan has been done since its inception 20 years ago. It appears that successive governments have failed to provide for increases in coverage and costs. A survey of our members was conducted to better understand their dental care

needs and the results of the survey were presented to the National Joint Council Dental Care Board of Management by our pensioner representative, Mr. Ted Young, a director on the National Board of the Association. We continue to press the President of the Treasury Board, his staff, and senior Secretariat staff to update the dental plan to at least reflect the changes achieved through employee arbitration. Retiree dental plans are increasingly rare in Canada, making our plan a rarity and thus making it difficult to compare dental plans. This prompts us to be careful how we proceed, as visibility because of pressure could make our plan a potential target. That said, the plan is a pressing issue for the Association as we work to secure improvements to its coverage.

Ms. Gareau-Legault's second question, "since we don't have Johnson's travel insurance, are there any plans to reimburse members for this insurance?" Mr. Lambert responded that last fall, MEDOC sent out an information package to all its members with all the details of their travel insurance, advising them that they had until March 5 to cancel their policy if they wished, but that no refunds would be issued.

## **Election of Directors**

### **- Report of the Nominating Committee**

Mr. Jacques Lambert, Chairperson of the Nominations and Elections Committee, referred members to Part Six of our By-Laws on Branch Elections. As previously mentioned, in the context of the pandemic in 2020, the National Council decided to extend the term of office of the directors by one year, since the Branch, due to lack of quorum, could not hold its membership meeting in 2020. Consequently, all positions are up for election this year. In order to restore the order of the directors' terms, six positions will be up for election for a two-year term and five for a one-year term. Six nominations were received.

Retiring Directors seeking re-election:

- Donald Déry - one-year term;
- René Caron - one-year term;
- Jacques Lecompte - two-year term.

New nominations received:

- Michelle Page - one year term;
- Andrée Lise Provost - two year term;
- Michael MacNeil - one year term.

Mr. Lambert called for nominations from the floor. No nominations were received from the floor. Consequently, Mr. Lambert declared the nomination period closed.

### **- Elections**

Mr. Lambert continued by asking each of the above mentioned candidates if they accept their nomination. Each of them accepted. Since there were only six candidates for eleven positions, Mr.

Lambert declared the six candidates elected by acclamation, thanking them very much for their commitment to the NARF Outaouais Branch.

Mr. Ghislain Dussault asked if it would be possible, since there were only six candidates for eleven positions, for all new directors to commit to a two-year term. Mr. Lambert explained that since the candidates had chosen the content of their mandate, the question could be revisited next year, thus allowing us to respect the choice of the candidates.

Mr. Robert Paquet asked what happens now, as only six positions have been filled and five remain vacant. Mr. Lambert confirmed that the Section is still looking for volunteers. Interested parties can express their interest to the new Board of Directors.

Mr. Déry continued by inviting the six elected candidates to meet in the virtual room during the presentation of the President of the Association, in order to assign the positions that will be filled by the new directors.

### **Presentation of current issues and those related to the Association's vision for 2030**

Mr. Soulière began his presentation by noting the great challenge facing the new Board of Directors of the Branch, following the resignation of several directors earlier this year. He went on to mention that in a few weeks, the new Executive Director of the Association could be announced, following the departure of Mr. Coakeley. He invited members to familiarize themselves with the federal budget and its possible implications for us. He mentioned that many of the measures announced are part of the recommendations made by the Association, more specifically in the areas of long-term care and aging at home. Hats off to the people involved. He mentioned the Outreach 338 project as being essential to the success we are experiencing. He reiterated the requests for additions to the dental plan made by some members, reminding them that for every dollar increase in benefits, 50 cents comes out of our pockets. The plan must remain cost effective. As for the health care plan, negotiations are underway.

Mr. Soulière is personally involved in these negotiations, not only on behalf of the members, but for all pensioners in Canada. The Association has lost many members due to the pandemic. He is urging members to recruit members to give us the power to make a difference. The Association prides itself on keeping its members well informed on all current issues of interest to seniors and retirees. He concluded by acknowledging the enormous contribution of Ms. Joane Miron, who has become, without expecting it, our unwilling expert with the Zoom application, as well as the hard work of all the Association's employees during this difficult time of pandemic.

Following Mr. Soulière's presentation, Mr. Lambert announced the allocation of positions on the Outaouais Branch's new Board of Directors and thanked the directors for their involvement:

Donald Déry, President

Andrée Lise Provost, vice-president

René Caron, Treasurer

Jacques Lecompte, Secretary

Michael MacNeil, Local Advocacy Officer (ALDI)

Michelle Page, Communications Officer

**Door prizes**

Six door prizes (gift baskets valued at approximately \$60) were drawn among the participants still present at the Assembly. The winners were, Julien Bourdeau, Édith Gendron, Hélène Lecavalier, Robert Leduc, Melita Link, and André Thivierge. Congratulations to the winners.

**Adjournment of the meeting**

The agenda having been completed, Mr. Déry moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Robert Leduc. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

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Chairman of the meeting, Mr. Donald Déry

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the meeting, Mr. J.L. Jacques Lecompte

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Date

**ATTENDEES TO THE 29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
FEDERAL RETIREES – OUTAOUAIS SECTION**

<b>ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL OF THE SECTION</b>		
1	Donald Déry	President
2	Jacques Lecompte	Secretary
3	René Caron	Treasurer
4	Pierre Laflamme	Administrator
4	Guylaine Ross	Program and Services Manager

<b>REGULAR MEMBERS FROM THE OUTAOUAIS SECTION</b>			
5	Adéodat Ross	23	Louise L. Burke
6	André Rousseau	24	Lucie Cardinal
7	André Thivierge	25	Melita Link
8	Andrée Lise Provost	26	Michael MacNeil
9	Anne-Marie Dion	27	Michel Caron
10	Céline Jette	28	Michelle Page
11	Christine Dumoulin	29	Monique Beaudoin
12	Daniel Dion	30	Murielle Allain
13	Édith Gendron	31	Murielle Lajoie
14	Enos Lombard	32	Nicole Tremblay
15	Ghislain Dussault	33	Pierre Bégin
16	Guy Gaumont	34	Rachelle Charron
17	Hélène Lecavalier	35	Robert Leduc
18	Hélène St-Jacques	36	Robert Paquet
19	Jacques Laflamme	37	Roberta Schwalm
20	Jacques Lefebvre	38	Roland Blondin
21	Jocelyn Cousineau	39	Serge Pelletier
22	Julien Bourdeau	40	Sylvie Turcotte

<b>INVITED PARTIES</b>		
	Jean-Guy Soulière	President, Federal Retirees
	Jacques Lambert	National director, Québec district
	James Nicholson	National director, Québec district
	Marc-André Monette	Accounting firm, Monette Fortin Tremblay Inc.
	Joane Miron	Special assistant and Zoom technical assistant