



11th Constitutional Convention

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Executive and Federation Reports



Report of the CURC Executive

Growth and Challenge

The two years since the last Convention have been ones of growth of the organization with resulting challenges to its officers. As we look back on the first twenty years of existence of the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada, all of us can be proud of what was accomplished. Those who led the organization in its infancy – Sister Edith Johnston and Brothers Larry Wagg and Dan McNeil built a solid foundation on which your current executive has been building.

Bob McGarry, as CURC Secretary, wrote the appropriate people to follow-up on the resolutions adopted at our last convention. His report of these activities and a précis of policies adopted at earlier conventions were posted on our web site earlier this year. Our website was updated this year. Gerry Jones, who was appointed as Communications Officer in line with the resolution adopted at the last Convention, worked with Union Communications to do this. He played an even more central role in getting CURC onto both Facebook and Twitter. Indeed the entire executive participated in a training session on Facebook which was conducted by Joel Duffy, Communications Director of the OFL. Area Councils in southern Ontario were invited to join us for this session.

Rabble, an on-line news site, offered us the opportunity to have a monthly column which was called Retiree Matters. Gerry Jones again provided excellent coordination for this effort. Many of the Executive have written articles for this column. We welcome other retirees to provide a column based on their personal experiences, either when at work or in retirement.

We have continued to produce one magazine a year and enewsletters during the year. Anyone can sign-up for the enewsletter on-line. Indeed many retirees use the sign-up or on-line petitions as a way to raise requests for information from us.

A big initiative of CURC over the last two years was to develop a two-day pre-retirement course given by retirees. We did this as a way to encourage future retirees to become involved in their own retiree organization and in CURC. The course is based on group discussion so class size is limited to about 20 people. We don't attempt to be a doctor or lawyer or financial planner. Rather we get people to understand the basic issues and where to pursue questions they may have. To develop this course, we looked first at courses that had been developed by unions. We borrowed from some and then we added material that from our own experience we considered important. The initial course was drawn up by a group comprised of Len Hope, Louisette Hinton, Betty Ann Bushell, Diane Wood, Bob Hatfield and Pat Kerwin. Of that group, Bob Hatfield was the leading person to develop the course in both English and French.

The first draft of the course was tested in St. Catharines, Ontario during a weekend in November, 2011. The course then revised. We then set out to train retirees in each region who would be trained to give the course. This was an expensive endeavour for us. We were successful in applying for a New Horizons grant of \$25,000 to defray the costs. At our annual report to CLC affiliates, we explained what we were doing and offering the opportunity to have one of their staff trained in the course. Four unions expressed an interest and their person was included in the Toronto training session. This was followed in 2012 by sessions in Edmonton for the prairies and in Moncton for the Maritimes. In 2013, we held a training session in Vancouver. In 2013, we also held our first course in French in Ottawa.

The course has been highly rated by those who have taken it. Nevertheless, each year we review the comments on the course and make changes in it. We also update some basic facts such as OAS payment for the coming year. Barb Stewart assisted Bob Hatfield and Pat Kerwin in doing the 2013 revisions. Louise Hinton co-instructed the first French course.

It is the expectation that local Area Councils, in cooperation with labour councils, will offer these courses in their community. Usually the two-day course is held on consecutive Saturdays. Spouses are encouraged to attend. CLC has been generous in producing the manuals and unions have provided instruction space at no charge. As a result, the course cost to participants is usually limited to the cost of the lunches on the two days.

The provincial Federations of Union Retirees, each of whom has one person on the CURC Executive, continue to play a vital role in the organization. One of the challenges, retiree organizations face is succession. This was driven home to us several ways in the past 2 years. Al Cerilli stepped down as President of the Manitoba Federation of Union Retirees (MFUR) following our Convention. Al, who had served as MFUR President since its founding in the nineties, was replaced by John Marlow. John served long enough to attend one CURC Executive meeting in 2012 before he died. All of us felt his loss which was recognized in the 2013 CURC magazine. Barb Jones who had participated in MFUR and the pre-retirement course agreed to take on the presidency. Needless to say she faced a big challenge. Doug MacPherson has worked with her to tackle the challenges she faced.

Alberta also had a problem as there had been no renewal in the Executive of the AFUR for years. Pat Kerwin adopted the strategy of establishing Area Councils in both Edmonton and Calgary before trying to revive AFUR. This was done in 2010-11. We were able to use the Edmonton pre-retirement training to gather people from Alberta to hold the re-founding meeting of AFUR on the day after the course. Susan Keeley who had been President of Calgary Area Council was elected President. She in turn organized a successful transition for Calgary presidency.

Cecile Cassista who had revitalized New Brunswick Federation of Union Retirees was elected municipal councillor in Riverview. She then became Deputy Mayor. With these

increasing demands, she stepped down in 2013 as President of NBFUR. Louisette Hinton is working with NBFUR to elect a new president.

Newfoundland and Labrador remains a challenge. Two earlier attempts to get it functioning did not survive in long run. Prior to her untimely death, Nancy Riche had agreed to lead the renewal. We continue to work with Lana Payne, President of Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour, to revive NLFUR. It is hoped that a meeting to do so can be organized around the NLFL Convention in December.

More Area Councils have been established in the last 2 years. Claude Parent of ASRQ established a new one in Quebec City; Doug MacPherson played a key role to establish a new one in Sudbury; Len Hope did likewise in Sarnia. Alberta and Saskatchewan both have active area councils. Nova Scotia hopes to establish its first Area Council in Cape Breton.

The CLC set up a task force, chaired by Paul Moist to look at the role of labour councils. Because of the importance of labour councils to CURC Area Councils, we submitted a brief to committee members and appeared at local hearings.

Area Councils also face the challenges of renewal and expansion. Toronto & York Region Labour Council led an initiative to outreach to all retirees in the Toronto area. Pat Kerwin, Dan McNeil, and Doug MacPherson were among those attending the first such session which attracted about 50 people. Doug has attended subsequent meetings of this group. The Toronto Area Council of CURC was having difficulties renewing its Executive. Michael Lewis kindly volunteered to assist in the effort which has now resulted in a new Executive.

CURC, through its Area Councils, has been front and centre in labour campaigns on pension reforms, and anti-labour bills such as Bill C-377. The Area Councils, often on their own initiative, have participated in local picket lines in lock-outs and strikes as well as demonstrations on health care and other issues. For the battle in the Senate over Bill C-377, CURC wrote all the Senators as requested by the CLC. As a result of labour's efforts, the Senate did amend Bill C-377 so we will be continuing the effort in the fall.

This growth in activities by CURC has led to increasing demands on the time and energy of CURC officers. To deal with this situation, CURC Executive Committee met a day before the CLC Political Action Conference for a strategic review that was conducted by Len Hope. One of the decisions of this review was that Area Councils would report through Federations of Union Retirees rather than directly to Ottawa. This does not stop requests for materials needed locally but rather to set up a good, regular communication with them. To assist this in being established, CURC will provide financial assistance to have some officers of Federations meet the Presidents of the Area Councils in their province in person. This aid is in addition to the annual grant that Federations and Area Councils can apply to organize in their province and community.

It is thanks to the generosity of CLC affiliated unions that we have the financial resources to provide this assistance. We put in considerable effort to make sure unions are aware of what we do and to appeal for their support. CURC Executive members had

booths at IBEW, CUPW, NUPGE and UNIFOR Conventions to do this. We hope to do more in the future.

CURC Executive has also been lobbying at the federal level. The Executive met with the Hon. Ted Menzies , Minister of State (Finance), who was in charge of the pension file. We strongly made the case for improving the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans. We also met with The Leader of the Official Opposition, Hon. Tom Mulcair, the NDP Senior's critic, Lysanne Blanchette-Lamothe, and their pension critic, Irene Mathysen. With them, we raised the issues of pensions, pharmacare and homecare . We presented our signed petitions on CPP improvement – some to Lysanne Blanchette-Lamothe by Louissette Hinton and some to Irene Mathysen by Pat Kerwin.

At the time of the major student demonstrations in Quebec, the Executive met with the National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, Adam Awad. We had a good exchange and offered our assistance, where appropriate.

Julie White sits on the Canadian Health Coalition (CHC) for CURC and reports to the Executive. She and Pat Kerwin played important roles in the conference on Pharmacare put on by the CHC in May. The CURC Executive meeting was timed so that the entire executive could attend this conference.

Louissette Hinton plays a very active role at the CLC Women's Committee representing CURC. Len Hope represents CURC on the Education Committee. Pat Kerwin attends the CLC Canadian Council for CURC and the National Political Action Committee. When he was unable to attend, Bob McGarry went to CLC Canadian Council and Doug MacPherson went to NPAC.

Betty Ann Bushell has done an excellent job of running our finances. The audited financial report is a separate report to this convention. The revised dues structure adopted at the last convention has worked out well with many individuals and couples opting for the three year option. Affiliates have renewed at the revised rates. As a result, we now have more members than ever before.

We also appreciate the assistance that Canadian Benefits and Impact Insurance make to our services. They along with the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association have provided financial support for this Convention. Many people in retirement lose the benefits they negotiated at work. The CURC program offers good and reasonably priced coverage for retirees. People taking the pre-retirement course are being made aware of this service.

BC Forum Report

BC FORUM is directly affiliated to the BC Federation of Labour (BCFL) and Diane Wood, President of BC Forum, sits on its Executive Board. We are proud of the strong role we play in labour campaigns, and our growing ability to influence and participate in public policy debates. We are a voice for solidarity across generations, and a more civil society.

Electoral activities

Like other seniors organizations, BC FORUM advocates on public policy issues that affect our members and their families. Unlike most other seniors groups, however, we are not non-partisan. We recognize that there is only one party that truly understands the needs of workers. We do not pretend to be politically neutral. We have been active, and will continue to be active, in civic, provincial, and federal elections to support candidates who will speak out for working families. We proudly do all we can to help elect the party of labour.

Our election work is closely coordinated with the labour movement. Two members of our Board of Directors – President Diane Wood and Director Gord Larkin – are active representatives on the B.C. Federation of Labour’s Political Action Committee.

We were dismayed by the comprehensive defeat handed to Adrian Dix and the BC NDP, and to working people and seniors throughout our province, in the May 14th provincial election. Either the polls were spectacularly wrong, or NDP supporters simply stayed home. Voter turnout remained abysmal, barely more than the historic low of 51% recorded in 2009. The NDP’s share of the popular vote dropped almost 3%. In the months ahead, the Party and the movement will face hard questions about where we go from here.

During this election period, BC FORUM, its directors, regional representatives, and volunteers undertook several initiatives to communicate with our members and motivate them to take action:

- We published an issue sheet outlining our election priorities. This was widely circulated as part of the BCFL’s communications to all affiliates. We thank the BCFL for covering the cost of printing this information.
- We supported the labour movement’s call for action on employment standards, apprenticeships, and employer intimidation.
- In addition, we called for universal public home support services, action on child poverty, improvement in public pensions, fair taxes, affordable public child care, and a truly independent Seniors’ Advocate.
- We published a special election edition of our news magazine, *The Advocate*, to provide additional background on these issues and others. This edition was widely circulated to our members and beyond.

- We completely redesigned our website to highlight our key election issues – and found that bcforum.ca was “hacked” and taken down by persons unknown on Election Day.
- Starting in September, 2012, we expanded each issue of *The Advocate* from 12 pages to 16, giving us additional space to focus on political issues.
- During the campaign itself, directors, regional representatives and other volunteers personally contacted hundreds of BC FORUM members by telephone to encourage them to vote for change.
- We sent regular e-mail updates to our members to provide information about advance voting and emerging issues, and to encourage them to participate in the campaign.
- With the help of the BCGEU and the BCFL, we sent two BCFL election packages to our members. We thank them for their assistance with mailing, labeling, and postage.
- Throughout, we worked closely with the BCFL and other groups, such as the Council of Senior Citizens’ Organizations (COSCO) to maximize the impact of our message.

At the federal level, we participated in the by-election campaign in Victoria. President Diane Wood sent a personal letter to every member in the constituency. This swing riding was successfully held by New Democrat Murray Rankin, following the resignation of MP Denise Savoie for health reasons.

In every campaign, there are many factors at work in determining the eventual outcome. We can be proud of our contribution to these campaigns.

Executive and Labour Council representation

BC FORUM’s regional representation through delegate status at labour councils continued to grow.

During the period covered by this report, we welcomed nine new labour council delegates: Tom Duncan, Nanaimo and District; Bruce Elphinstone, Sunshine Coast; Doug Gibson, North Okanagan; Terry Green, South Okanagan; Mogens Jorgensen, Kamloops; Lynda Reid, Campbell River, Courtenay and District; Iris Taylor, Nanaimo and District; and Pamela Willingshofer, Fraser Valley.

Several delegates resigned for personal reasons. We thank Doug Hamilton, Brigid Kemp, Betty Liddle, and Liz Woods for their many days and hours of service.

Coordinating our work at the provincial and regional level is a key priority for the Board. Our delegates are extremely active in their labour councils, building BC FORUM’s profile in their communities. Several have acted as local media spokespeople for our

organization, speaking out on issues that affect older and retired workers and our families.

Due to budget constraints, and the high cost of travel and accommodation, we were not able to arrange a face-to-face meeting between board members and regional representatives during the last year. Such meetings have been very useful in the past. We have compensated in several ways. We send representatives frequent e-mail updates on board decisions and current issues. We provide background information as needed to assist delegates in maximizing media opportunities when they arise. We seize the opportunity to meet with delegates when board members are in their area for other events, such as the BCFL political action conference held in Nanaimo in early March. And while we recognize that it's difficult for those who live outside the Lower Mainland to attend, we have extended a standing invitation to regional representatives to attend board meetings as observers.

At the Board level, we have accepted, with regret, the resignations of Ray Andrus and Gerry Edwards, long-time directors who are coping with health issues. Ray and Gerry, who is our immediate past president, are fierce advocates for working people and made a significant contribution to BC FORUM. We miss them both.

We also welcomed several new directors to our board: Maureen Shaw, representing our new affiliate, the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators; Gordie Westrand, International Longshore and Warehouse Union; Fred Girling, United Steelworkers; and Marion Pollack, Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

Liaison with affiliates

Ensuring that every union member has the opportunity to join BC FORUM when she or he retires is essential if we are to build our membership. That's the time when most members join. Getting our message to the right people at the right time is easier said than done. Many unions do not have the ability to track retirements.

To collectively address this issue, and other common interests, we have established a process of regular consultation with affiliated unions. Following a request from Jim Sinclair, Chair of BC FORUM and President of the BCFL, a significant number of affiliates have appointed representatives to liaise with BC FORUM.

Our first meeting, held January 16th, was attended by affiliate liaisons from CUPW, PSAC, HEAT & Frost118, USW, CEU, BWU, COPE378, BCTF, HEU, CEP, TWU, HSA, UBC/ACTRA, and ILWU. We discussed the advantages of joining BC FORUM, including access to Working Enterprises benefits, and steps we could take to reach retiring members. The affiliate liaisons agreed to promote our organization in their newsletters and websites, to help distribute our brochures to members nearing retirement, and to establish communication between their administrative staff and ours. It was a productive meeting. We agreed to meet again on a quarterly basis, and to work to encourage even more affiliates to appoint liaisons. Our next meeting will be held October 9th.

Rosemary Brown Award

Rosemary Brown (1930-2003) was an inspiring Canadian woman who greatly influenced and affected the global agenda towards equality and justice for all.

Rosemary was a distinguished social worker, a politician, an author, a media personality, an academic, a feminist, and a loving mother and grandmother. She was bestowed with 16 honorary Doctorates from Canadian universities and was a member of the Privy Council, the Order of Canada, the Order of BC, and the Order of Jamaica.

Each year, the Rosemary Brown Award for Women honours and recognizes a BC woman or BC-based organization that promotes the values and ideals that Rosemary Brown championed during her lifetime.

BC FORUM nominated Alice West – long serving Board member representing the Public Service Alliance of Canada and former President of BC FORUM and past Executive member of CURC and are proud that Alice has been selected for this year's award. Alice has made an immense contribution to the labour movement and our organization. She is a most deserving winner of this award, and the province-wide recognition it brings to her many achievements.

Pre-retirement planning

Sixteen members of BC FORUM participated in a two and a half day “train-the-trainers” course in March. The event was financed and delivered by CURC through a New Horizons grant obtained by the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada.

This modular course on pre-retirement planning will be delivered by our instructors through labour council weekend schools and affiliated unions. We thank the BCGEU for providing meeting space, the CLC regional office for providing lunches and CURC for providing the instructor, Bob Hatfield and all course materials and manuals.

Outreach

In recent years, BC FORUM has been working hard, with notable success, to increase our visibility within the labour movement.

This work by directors and other volunteers takes many forms.

We presented information on BC FORUM (and Protein for People) at display booths at several conventions: Retired Teachers, BCTF, CUPE-BC, COPE 378, and B.C. Federation of Labour, where President Wood was a speaker at the convention, and several directors attended as delegates. President Wood also addressed the B.C. Government Retired Employees' Association AGM.

Our booth at the Vancouver Labour Day picnic gathered signatures on a petition to protect retirement security, later tabled in the House of Commons. We also maintained a constant presence during every week of the CLC Winter School.

Directors made several presentations on retirement issues to groups including representatives of the BCGEU Pension Plan, the Federation of Post Secondary

Educators' Pension Advisory Committee, the Vancouver branch of the B.C. Government Retired Employees' Association, and union trustees who attended the Share/BCFL course.

We also participated in annual events such as May Day celebrations, the Day of Mourning, and continued to provide support on picket lines, e.g. Rocky Mountaineer.

Speaking out on issues that matter

BC FORUM continued to work with our allies to push for improved pensions, not further reductions as planned by Harper.

Our organization has a long history of working with the Canadian Labour Congress and the B.C. Federation of Labour in the campaign for better pensions. President Diane Wood has spoken out frequently on the issue, including a CURC column Diane and Sister Louisette Hinton wrote which was published by rabble.ca, and later went viral.

We have called for improvements in the Canada Pension Plan, an increase in the GIS, maintaining OAS eligibility at age 65, and a strengthened national public health care system, including universal home support and PharmaCare. We criticized the BC Liberal government's decision to cave in to the demands of big pharmaceutical companies, placing private profit ahead of the interests of patients by eliminating all funding to BC's independent drug watchdog, the Therapeutics Initiative.

We strongly opposed an anti-union private members' bill – Bill C-377, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act* – that has been condemned by Canada's privacy commissioner, the Canadian Bar Association, opposition parties and the labour movement as a significant threat to privacy. In feature articles in *The Advocate* and a special mailing to members we explained how this unfair legislation will create a bureaucratic nightmare and heap new costs on unions. It is one more example of the Harper government's disregard for working people.

And we have spoken out against CETA, the proposed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and Europe

Our members are frequent participants in rallies, protests and solidarity events, and directors often serve on the planning committees for such events. We have raised our voices on important public policy issues that affect our families and communities and will continue to do so.

Our President represents BC FORUM on the Executive Council of the BCFL, and our Secretary attends these key coordinating meetings as an Observer. We also have a member and alternate on the BCFL Women's Rights Committee.

We are a full member of the BC Health Coalition, supporting its important work to improve public health care.

We have joined in partnership with Protein for People, supporting that organization's work to feed the hungry, and are represented on their Board by President Wood.

We actively support the United Way as part of labour's involvement. Board member Gordon Larkin is a member of the Labour Participation Committee.

We endorsed the Integrated Care Advocacy Plan, a proposal by several organizations to improve care for seniors and others. Three board members have been appointed to liaise with this campaign.

In addition, BC FORUM is active in a number of organizations that represent seniors.

We are the provincial federation of the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) and are represented on the Executive Council. Through CURC, we are linked to the CLC's political action initiatives at the national level, the Canadian Health Coalition, and the Council of Canadians. CURC meetings also provide an opportunity for us to meet face to face with MPs – including Opposition Leader Thomas Mulcair and various critics – to present our issues to them first-hand.

We are affiliated to the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO). President Diane Wood serves as a General Vice-President of COSCO, bringing BC FORUM's perspective to the monthly executive meetings. In addition, five board members attend COSCO's monthly delegate meetings. Several representatives attended a major two day conference, organized by COSCO, on "The Joys and Tears of Living Longer."

We are affiliated through CURC to the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens' Federation (NPSCF). Our president attended the three day NPSCF AGM held immediately after the COSCO conference and will attend this year's NPSCF AGM as a CURC delegate.

In addition, BC FORUM met with representatives of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which is doing much needed work to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. We actively support the Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign, an initiative to aid the many women who are raising their grandchildren after losing their own children to this devastating disease.

Communications

We have resumed regular quarterly publication of our news magazine, *The Advocate*. This was made possible due to the generosity of UFCW 1518, which covered the cost of printing two editions and will now cover the cost of four editions. While more and more members are coming onto e-mail, *The Advocate* remains our primary means of getting out the message. Each edition is mailed to all members, as well as all BC MLAs and every MP across Canada. *The Advocate* is also made available to other seniors' organizations and handed out at our booths and seniors' forums.

The number of visitors to our website – www.bcforum.ca – continued to grow. The site was updated frequently to provide the most current information on BC FORUM and labour movement campaigns and events.

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of David Halme of the BCTF, we now have a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BCRetiredUnionMembersForum.

Our membership brochure has been completely redesigned and updated. We thank the BCGEU for their help with printing this vital tool.

From time to time, we send personal e-mails to our members, particularly on emerging political issues and campaigns. Several e-mails were sent during the provincial election period. While not all members have e-mail addresses, the number who do is increasing.

Administration

Hitomi Nasu, a Certified Management Accountant with many years of union experience, provides service to members and administrative support to our active volunteer board. She staffs our office at the BCFL four days a week. (Wednesday is her day off.)

On a contract basis, Soren Bech assists with communications and *The Advocate*, while Michelle Boudreau provides website management and development services to our organization.

Working Together

The work that we do is made possible through the solidarity and support of our members, and the generous contributions made by our allies in the movement.

We particularly extend our thanks to:

- The Board of Working Enterprises for their annual grant that allows us to keep a part-time administrator on staff.
- The BCFL for contributing office and meeting space, advice about information technology, help with mailings and much more. Thanks to the BCFL we now have a new (to us) office desk with four legs that all touch the floor! The BCFL also ensures that information about BC FORUM, including *The Advocate*, is regularly distributed to all affiliates.
- UFCW 1518 for their generous contribution to help ensure *The Advocate* is printed on a regular basis.
- BCGEU for their contributions towards printing, mailings, and travel that allows us to fully participate in CURC's national meetings and convention.
- Heritage Credit Union, the new owners of the home and tenant insurance division of WE Insurance, for their support towards *The Advocate* printing and mailing costs.

We greatly appreciate the in-kind support that we are receiving from the BCFL, BCGEU, COPE, UFCW 1518, USWA, and other affiliates. These contributions help us to stretch scarce dollars and advocate more effectively on behalf of older and retired workers.

We held our Annual General Meeting June 12th and were very pleased to have Brother Pat Kerwin speak at our AGM. Other speakers were from the BC Canadian Centre for

Policy Alternatives and Secretary-Treasurer of the BCFL. We passed several resolutions on Defined Benefit Pension Plans, Protecting Public Postal Service, Post-Retirement Health Care Benefits and Health Council of Canada. We will be sending these resolutions to the CURC Convention along with another resolution on Canada Health and Canada Social Transfers.

Our volunteer board is focused and working hard. Our visibility is higher than ever. Union leaders have provided great encouragement and support. Retired workers, and workers nearing retirement, are more aware of our organization.

Still, we need to do more to increase our membership, and to help former union members remain active and aware participants in promoting labour's agenda. We will work closely with CURC on the CLC National Campaign building towards the next Federal election.

Diane Wood, President

Alberta Federation of Union Retirees (AFUR) Report

AFUR was reformed in 2012 with help from Brother Pat Kerwin. Our meeting was held in conjunction with a “Train-the-Trainer” session on the CURC Pre-Retirement Course. We had 7 retirees trained to facilitate this course.

Since the Calgary and District Labour Council sponsored the Pre-Retirement Course from CURC in November, 2012, we have held 3 more courses – one sponsored by the Edmonton Labour Council and 2 sponsored by CUPE Local 38 (Calgary Municipal Inside Workers). Thanks to Sister Alanna Hargan who approached Local 38, and to the local who put out a notice to their members. They were overwhelmed with over 100 requests for the course. The local will be sponsoring at least one more session in the fall.

The feedback received from the participants on the material was very positive. We believe that the participants found great value in the course material. They appreciated the course was facilitated by retirees. They have had their eyes opened and will go home to put the material to good use in planning for their retirement. All of the participants said that they will be going back to their locals encouraging the locals to have the course put on for them.

The Second Annual General Meeting of AFUR was held on Saturday, April 27, 2013 during the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) convention. Sister Nancy Furlong, retiring Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL, brought greetings. Brother Alex Furlong from the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) brought greetings and conducted elections for our executive which returned all incumbents for a 2 year term - President Susan Keeley (CUPE); Vice-President Reg Basken (CEP); Treasurer Doug Meggison (HSAA); and Secretary Alanna Hargan (CUPE). Three Members-at-Large were also elected – David Hagel (IAM); Beryl Scott (UNA); and Gwen Rutherford (PSAC). AFUR had a booth set up at the convention and was well received by the delegates. We were able to sign up new members and even a couple of renewals. There was a lot of interest in the Pre-Retirement Course.

Our executive had made a decision to have our meetings by conference call in order to reduce our expenses. We actually held our last meeting prior to our AGM by Skype. While these meetings don't have the same effectiveness as an in-person meeting, the cost savings will allow us to do more.

Representatives of AFUR/CURC have attended picket lines in support of workers on strike or locked out – such as the AUPE members at Monterey Place who were locked out for just over 9 months, as well as the corrections officers, again members of AUPE who were on a wildcat strike over safety issues.

AFUR along with the Calgary Area Council will again be staffing an information booth at the Calgary and District Labour Council Labour Day BBQ.

We have concentrated our efforts into getting reorganized and are hoping to now be able to work on the various issues affecting retirees and seniors.

In solidarity,

Susan Keeley, AFUR President

Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees (SFUR) Report

Even with several changes to the SFUR executive since the last CURC convention in 2011, the SFUR has remained focused and expanded on the priority activities of **organizing, political action and education.**

At the November 2012 SFUR annual general meeting, Betty Pickering stepped down as SFUR president and Janice Bernier (CEP retired, AFM & ACTRA) was elected as the new president. The executive currently is Treasurer, George Britton (CUPW retired); Secretary, Donna Furi (CEP retired, CUPW); 1st Vice President, Ron Monk (CEP retired); 2nd Vice President, Michael Sheridan (CLC staff retired).

The SFUR has worked over the past 2 years with various labour, political and community groups on the issues of **pensions, health care, pharmacare, home care, housing, pre-retirement planning** and the **union busting legislation** of the Wall provincial SaskParty government (Bill 85) and of the Harper federal conservative government (Bill C-38 & Bill 377).

SFUR executive members represent retirees at several tables and community events promoting the programs and activities of the SFUR, the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL), Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC). And the SFUR oversaw the establishment of two Union Retiree Area Councils – in Saskatoon and Regina.

SFUR members have been involved in a variety of regional activities through the Regina and Saskatoon retiree area councils and the Regina & District Labour Council (RDLC) and the Saskatoon & District Labour Council (SDLC). While things are running smoothly with the Regina Retirees Area Council and the RDLC, we've run in to jurisdictional problems with the Saskatoon Retirees Area Council at the SDLC. While the jurisdictional issues remain unresolved we will continue to organize individuals in CURC and the SFUR, however organizing additional retiree area councils and affiliation talks with other labour councils are temporarily on hold.

The SFUR continues to work with other like minded organizations that represent and advocate on behalf of retirees and seniors. President Pickering was elected as President of the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM), an umbrella organization for 16 different groups that represent over 100,000 seniors in the province. As a result of this partnership, the SFUR is able to rent office space in the SSM office to conduct SFUR business.

At the 2011 SFUR annual general meeting, SFUR founding father and past president, Wes Norheim was recognized for his work and dedication to building the union retiree organization in Saskatchewan. He received further recognition when the SSM presented him with the "Advocacy Award" at the SSM Celebrating Seniors gala on September, 30th, 2012 in Regina. Wes was nominated for the award by the SFUR for his advocacy work for decent housing, pensions and benefits for retirees and seniors.

The SFUR has hosted and co-sponsored several major community events in Saskatchewan over the past 2 years. The SFUR co-sponsored the SSM 22nd Annual Convention and 50th Anniversary of Medicare Conference on May 16th & 17th, 2012 in Regina. And the SSM was a co-sponsor of the 23rd Annual Convention and Housing Summit in Weyburn on June 11th & 12th, 2013.

Betty Pickering chaired the SSM Fitness Conference “Moving Beyond the Gap – fitness for older adults with special health considerations” on March 26th & 27th, 2012 in Regina to raise awareness of the inconsistency for individuals with chronic disease to access fitness programs in Saskatchewan.

The SFUR along with the SSM co-sponsored the “Wanted: Alive NOT Dead – Health Care & Pensions” public forums. Through the month of September 2012, forums were held in North Battleford, Prince Albert, Melfort, Saskatoon, Humboldt, Yorkton, Weyburn, Rosetown and Swift Current. The Moose Jaw and Hanley forums were held in early 2013.

We have been actively **organizing** to expand our membership base to over 400 members. The SFUR has attended national, provincial and regional union conventions, labour council annual meetings, local meetings and events. Interest in the benefits plan offered by SFUR/CURC through Canadian Benefits continues to play a key role in the recruitment and retention of members.

When it comes to our **political action**, the SFUR played an active role with the SFL and CLC on the national pension issue. SFUR presidents, Betty Pickering in 2011/2012 and now Janice Bernier in 2012/2013 represent union retirees on the SFL Pension Committee. We have attended and participated in all levels of pension meetings, forums and lobby efforts organized by the CLC.

The SFUR hosted a joint press conference with the SSM in Regina in response to the Harper government’s changes to the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security (OAS) on February 1st, 2012. The CURC press release was the basis of the SFUR statement and it was covered by all media (print, radio, tv) province wide.

Under the current federal Conservative and provincial Sask Party governments, retirees and seniors have been losing ground. As a result, retirees were very involved in promoting the CLC Better Choice and SFL Labour Issues campaigns and SFUR members actively worked for many NDP candidates in both the last federal and provincial elections.

SFUR members continue to work with like minded labour, political and community organizations in the lobby of municipal, provincial and federal officials. SFUR members attend city council meetings, the provincial legislature and we continue to work with CURC and the CLC on federal issues.

On February 13th, 2012 members of the SFUR executive met with the provincial NDP opposition to present the CURC-SFUR position on pensions and healthcare (homecare). We also contacted the Saskatchewan provincial government and the SaskParty Caucus office to request meetings with the Minister of Justice regarding pensions and the Minister of Health regarding the homecare document released by CURC. To date we have not been successful in getting these meetings.

The SFUR continues to closely watch developments with Bill C-377, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (Labour Organizations) and Bill C-38 which made changes to pensions, health care funding and environmental protection.

We also are extremely concerned with the Saskatchewan government's Bill 85, the Saskatchewan Employment Act. This is an all encompassing omnibus bill that lumps approximately a dozen pieces of legislation (including the Trade Union Act, Labour Standards, OH&S Act, Essential Services Act, to name a few) in to one document of only 200 pages. The Act has been pushed through without any of the accompanying Regulations, which leaves much of the Act unclear.

While there are some very significant changes in wording, it really is what has been left out of the document that is of greatest concern. Much of the new Act wipes out years of worker and labour rights along with decades of decisions and interpretation of the various acts setting back worker rights to early 1900's standards.

In terms of **education**, the SFUR is actively promoting pre-retirement training. The CURC-CLC facilitator training for "**What're you doing after work? A pre-retirement course**" was held in Edmonton on May 28th & 29th, 2012. SFUR members Linda Flowers and Jim Bitinsky from Saskatoon and Betty Pickering, George Britton and Janice Bernier from Regina attended.

The Saskatoon Retirees Area Council hosted the workshop in Saskatoon in November 2012 which experienced some difficulties with the delivery and attendance. Based on this and prior to the SFUR offering the course, affiliates around the SFL executive council table were consulted as to what would work best to get their members to attend. The consensus was that low cost registration, food and a maximum 1½ day commitment would get union people out.

To meet the needs of our affiliates and their members, we made some modifications to adapt the agenda and timeline. We shortened up the delivery time to a Friday evening and a full day Saturday. And we rearranged the material to cover all the financial exercises on the second day.

The SFUR then offered and successfully delivered the workshop in both Regina and Saskatoon in April 2013. With a maximum of 24 seats available in each class, the Regina workshop had 24 pre-registered with a final number of 20 attendees (7 couples/6 singles) and the Saskatoon workshop had 28 pre-registered with a final number of 19 attendees (6 couples/7 singles).

CEP Local 1-S in Regina and SEIU-West in Saskatoon graciously provided their facilities, the CLC provided us with the course binders and the SSM provided us with brochures on senior safety and fraud. The Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan (PLEA) provided everyone with brochures and pamphlets on Wills & Estates, Living Wills, Power of Attorney and several other topics covered by Saskatchewan law.

At both the Regina and Saskatoon workshops, we provided information on the activities of CURC and the SFUR, the health benefits package and the plus side of union retiree membership. Michael Sheridan and Janice Bernier delivered both the Regina and Saskatoon workshops and Ron Monk came in to make the presentation on the benefits package.

The evaluations were very positive and we have been fielding calls from interested union members asking when the next workshops will be offered. Several participants (pre-registered for the Regina and Saskatoon workshops) were not able to attend for personal or work related reasons, so they are now on a waiting list for the next opportunity to attend. We currently have interest from several union locals to present the course in smaller cities and rural locations throughout the province.

The next steps are to recruit and train additional facilitators to expand our base of instructors. And the SFUR will establish a standing “Education Committee” to oversee the delivery of the Pre-Retirement Workshops throughout Saskatchewan. With the development of the Pre-Retirement workshops we are able to add a whole new dynamic to the services previously offered by the SFUR.

The priority activities of **organizing, political action and education** around the issues of **pensions, health care, pharmacare, home care, housing, pre-retirement planning and labour legislation** keep the SFUR very involved. We continue our work to improve not just the lives of union retirees and seniors, but to better to lot of all working people and families in Saskatchewan.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice M. Bernier – President
Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees (SFUR)

Manitoba Federation of Union Retirees (MFUR) Report

MFUR has undergone a very tough couple of years.

President Al Cerilli after many years of hard work with MFUR, has most deservedly again retired. Brother John Marlow stepped in as MFUR President and was continuing on Al's great work. John was gathering together a new Executive as the previous Executive has also decided it was time to retire. John had appointed myself as Secretary, Brother Barry Henry as Vice-President, and Brother Jack Morrison as Treasurer. John was in the process of setting up the new Executive when he suddenly passed away last November.

Brother Henry and I both decided to work together and that I would step up as interim-President until we could convene a meeting of the members of CURC/MFUR. Brother Morrison was out of the country at the time.

A meeting was convened on January 29th, 2013 and an election for the new Executive of MFUR was held with Sylvia Farley of the MFL conducting the elections.

The following is the new Executive of MFUR: President – Barbara Jones; Vice President - Barry Henry; Secretary – Bob Newman; Treasurer – Jack Morrison

Activities of MFUR since the last CURC Convention and since November 2012:

- I have attended several of the “Idle No More” rallies on behalf of MFUR.
- MFUR had an information table at the UFCW 832 Retirees Celebration during UFCW 832's 75th anniversary event in April. We handed out a lot of packages with CURC information and Benefits information.
- Though Barry and myself were trained by CURC on the Pre-Retirement Course – “What Are You Doing After Work”, we have not as yet been able to offer this course. We will be training more facilitators shortly.
- I attended the Annual AGM of the Manitoba Child Care Coalition. As the CLC has made Child Care one of their new campaigns, the Coalition is planning to hold several “Kitchen Table Talks” with parents on their stories about trying to find affordable child care for their children. MFUR has joined the steering committee of the Coalition as we know that a vast majority of child care is now being done by Grandparents. We need to join the struggle for more affordable child care spaces in Manitoba.
- Barry Henry and I attended the Federal Budget Brown Bag Lunch with Peggy Nash, the Finance Critic for the Federal NDP. She explained some of the issues which were embedded within the Omnibus Bill. The document is so large that we may never really understand its full extent.
- Barry and I also attended “Canadian Retirement Security Issues” presentation at the University of Winnipeg Retirees Meeting. Paul Moist, National President of CUPE, gave a presentation on the state of retirement today and what we must do to ensure that there is sufficient funds for those coming behind today's retirees.

- I attended the first CLC/LCAN (Local Community Action Network) meeting held in Winnipeg. About 30 local activists from various unions, community groups and organizations attended. We are strategizing how to effectively raise the NDP's standing in several key Winnipeg ridings.
- I also attended, along with Barry, a rally held by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, outside of the Department of Mines offices on Empress Street. The rally was held to outline the Assembly's position on the Peat Mining. The Department of Mines are the ones that created the problem with these peat mines by not complying with the law and consulting with the First Nations. The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled in favour of many First Nations regarding this issue and if we are to halt the strip mining of the forest from Beaver Creek all the way up to Matheson Island, we need to fully support our First Nation neighbours.
- Barry and I also attended the Day of Mourning ceremony on April 28th at the new Manitoba Hydro downtown building.
- We have also been working at catching up on our per-capita payments to the MFL and CURC and are looking into affiliating with the Winnipeg Labour Council and the provincial labour councils.
- I attended my first CURC Executive meeting in Ottawa on May 23rd and 24th and also attended the CHC Pharmacare Conference on May 24th and May 25th.
- The Pharmacare Conference was extremely interesting and clearly outlined the need for a National Pharmacare Plan in Canada. It clearly showed that we must all work together across party lines to make this happen.

The MFUR Executive is looking to the presidents of the labour councils in the province to help us make contact with retirees in their areas. I have met with these presidents at the June MFL Executive Council meeting. I left with each of the president, packages with CURC information and benefit packages which they will have on display at their offices.

One of the main focuses of MFUR over the next few months will be on increasing our membership and footprint in Manitoba.

In speaking with Brother Cerilli, he agrees that since the last CURC Convention, MFUR has continued to try and overcome what we feel is our largest stumbling block to increasing membership. Many retired sisters and brothers belong to active retiree groups within their own unions and are reluctant or do not see the need to join another retiree group.

I feel that we, as retirees, need to be more visible at Union meetings, Labour Council meetings and Community events and we need to be actively promoting CURC in order for retirees to see the benefits of becoming a member of CURC/MFUR.

In solidarity,

Barbara Jones, President MFUR

Ontario Federation of Union Retirees (OFUR) Report

Since our last Convention, the Ontario Federation of Union Retirees (OFUR) has experienced its share of illness and loss. Long time council member Bill Stacey passed away after a long illness and Les Vale, our first webmaster, resigned due to poor health, as did member Don Wright from Toronto. At this writing, long time President, Orville Thacker is undergoing treatment for a serious health issue that has required his full attention and the loving help and support of his wife Shirley. In his absence, Suzanne Clancy, 1st Vice-President is acting on behalf of Orville and the members of OFUR Council. We are all wishing Orville a speedy recovery and are looking forward to the time when he can return to the leadership of OFUR.

OFUR's 16 council members have held 10 quarterly meetings and our 10th biennial Convention in Sudbury. Our meetings are held in the OFL building on Gervais Drive in Toronto and are faithfully attended by delegates from Toronto, Kitchener, Hamilton, Sudbury, Mississauga, Oshawa, Etobicoke, Thunder Bay, Whitby, and North Bay, with representation from CAW, SOAR-USW, SEIU, CUPE, OPSEU and OSSTF-ARM. OFUR currently represents over 66 affiliates throughout the province and continues to receive several requests for information or help yearly.

All council members are very active in their respective communities, as well as attending various provincial and federal campaigns, rallies and conferences near and far. In the fall of 2011, council members supported and picketed, with striking community college support staff, rallied with the Ontario Health Coalition at Queen's Park and Occupy Toronto and worked for, and helped elect, NDP candidates in their ridings. President Thacker was very active in Kitchener working with the Ontario Health Coalition, attending town hall meetings and being interviewed on local TV. Our SOAR Chapters have long supported retirees in their communities and continue to work even harder with the recent layoffs, plant closures, and ever increasing loss of much needed health care and public services. CAW retirees successfully occupied an Oakville plant and negotiated a \$20 million increase to their benefit plan after ThyssenKrupp notified 1,550 retirees that their benefits would be terminated, and pensions cut. Retirees were offered \$15 million to settle and successfully negotiated a \$35 million settlement for their benefits and had their pensions changed into annuities. Kudos to retirees who long remember the tools and skills needed in labour and management negotiations and are not afraid to use them.

In October, 2011, OFUR sent a letter to Prime Minister Harper clearly expressing our dismay and disapproval of Private Members Bill-C377. The fall of 2011 and early 2012 saw council members lobbying and emailing MPPs to end the prorogation of the legislature and get back to work and continued to express our anger and disapproval over Bill 115 that effectively eliminated teacher's collective bargaining rights. President Thacker and Vice-President Clancy were delegates to the OFL Convention and shared an information table with CURC. Orville and Suzanne are also delegates to the OFL Executive Council and have regularly attended all meetings these last two years.

2012 saw OFUR supporting the striking Caterpillar workers in London, lobbying Conservative MPPs and MPs on pensions and health care, and planning the April OFUR Convention in Sudbury. President Thacker attended the OFL Economic Rights Council and, ever vigilant, OFUR continues to remind our NDP MPPs and MPs that we expect them to uphold and enhance the gains in worker's rights, healthcare, pensions and public services that have been hard won, with labour support, and to fight attempts to diminish these gains in any way.

OFUR endorsed and attended the OFL Day of Action, attended meetings, rallies and town hall meetings in continued support of the Ontario Health Coalition in its efforts to improve healthcare funding and services in Ontario. In November, 2012, Orville was the recipient of the Ontario Health Coalition Daniel Benedict Award for his ongoing support of quality healthcare and social justice issues for seniors.

OFUR members from Kitchener were actively involved in the campaign to successfully elect the NDP candidate in the by-election and continue to meet with MPPs and MPs on issues of local interest, as well as pensions, health care and job loss for all citizens of Ontario. In March of this year, Orville was our delegate to the CLC National Conference held in Toronto in March

The OFUR council has kept secretary Joyce Cruickshank very busy replying to convention resolutions and sending letters to various provincial and federal government officials on behalf of our concerns over CETA, Bill 115, the temporary foreign workers program, enhancing the CPP, Pharmacare and Bill C-377.

OFUR currently oversees 7 CURC area councils and is planning the first joint meeting of presidents in early October in Toronto. We are also in the process of planning our April, 2014 Convention being held at the Toronto Airport Travelodge.

Vice-President Suzanne Clancy and CURC member Henry Evans-Trebrinke, with the support of the Hamilton and District Labour Council (HDLC) have delivered 3 "What Are You Doing After Work" courses and received excellent feedback. The HDLC continues to support and advertise the course and will provide free space if needed.

The Hamilton, Burlington and Oakville (HBO) CURC, under the leadership of President Malcolm Buchanan, is very active and has a huge profile in the area. The HBO is fully supported by the HDLC and has voice, but no vote at labour council meetings where Malcolm often speaks on issues of importance and concern to workers and retirees. The labour council is currently looking at the possibility of changing the by-laws to enable the CURC HBO Area Council to have voting privileges.

Area councils in Ottawa, Oshawa and London also gave the pre-retirement course which was well received in their community. These councils were also active with labour pickets and protests in their community.

Throughout all our activities the members of OFUR remain dedicated "to the proposition that Ontario retirees, as free citizens, are entitled to secure and protect their mutual

welfare and that of their families by all legitimate means.....by the utilization of their collective strength, abilities and resources.”

Submitted by Suzanne Clancy, 1st Vice-President on behalf of Orville Thacker,
President

The Fédération des syndicalistes à la retraite du Québec Report

Since the last CURC Congress in October 2011, the Fédération des syndicalistes à la retraite du Québec focused on recruiting new regional councils of union retirees.

During this period, we met twice with the officers of FTQ regional councils, twice with FTQ leaders, and also with members of the FTQ Board at the official signing of a letter of agreement formally recognizing the Fédération des syndicalistes à la retraite du Québec. The Conseil de syndicalistes à la retraite de la région de Québec (Council of Union Retirees of the Quebec region) was thus founded on November 1st, 2012.

The Federation's Executive Committee met six times over the past two years.

In April 2012, Brother Rivard and I met with Marguerite Blais, the Quebec Minister responsible for Seniors, to put forward our demands with regard to health and home care for seniors, as established at the last CURC convention.

During this period, members took part in many events, in particular:

- The 2012 Maple Spring and its many events in support of the students;
- In March 2012, we went to Alma to support our USW brothers and sisters who have been locked out since the beginning of the year in a brutal move by Rio Tinto Alcan;
- The many rallies against the Harper government's changes to EI held in several cities across the province of Quebec;
- Other events organized by the FTQ and community organizations.

As President of the Federation, I attended all meetings of the CURC Executive, as well as the Canadian Health Coalition (CHC) Conference, in May. Meanwhile, Brother Rivard was invited to present our project on founding Councils of Union Retirees at the FTQ Mauricie Regional Council Convention.

Since 2013, the Federation has observer status at the FTQ General Council meetings, both of which I attended.

We are members of the Retirement and Insurance Committee of the FTQ. We are also working on joining other FTQ committees of interest to our members such as the committee on the Status of Women.

Thanks to the valuable support from CURC and its programs, as well as from the FTQ, we are able to pursue our efforts in implementing Councils of Union Retirees throughout the province of Quebec. After the summer holidays, we will also be meeting with FTQ union leaders to secure their assistance and financial support.

Claude Parent, President

Nova Scotia Federation of Union Retirees (NSFUR) Report

Pre-Retirement Course:

This was put on in Moncton and we had six excellent students, two from Cape Breton and four from Mainland Nova Scotia, one being totally bilingual, and myself.

We have received a request from an SEIU sister from Local 902 who would like three course to be taught in her area, Digby, Yarmouth and the Valley. We are in the early stages of planning dates to do this.

Feed NS:

In December 2012, NSFUR joined with CAW Retirees in their drive to collect food and money for FEED Nova Scotia. For the second year in a row, we were on the CBC radio afternoon show “Mainstreet” and were able to talk about Labour’s (retirees and activists) contribution to this and other community initiatives.

May 30, 2013 Convention:

We had an excellent convention with the highest attendance ever, over 50 delegates. The agenda was full and after each speaker there was ample time for questions and answers.

To start off we had greetings from Nova Scotia Federation of Labour President Rick Clarke. This was followed by a presentation from Representatives from the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia (PANS): Pharmacist Rose Dipchand & Executive Director Allison Bodnar.

Jason Edwards, Researcher with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Nova Scotia (CCPA – NS), gave an excellent overview of objective policy analysis as seen by their organization.

Valerie White, representative, NS Senior’s Secretariat talked about the various programs available to seniors. We are now listed as an organization in their provincial publication.

Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Representative Tony Tracy talked about CLC national campaigns on CPP, Old Age Security, Pensions, EI and how we can join the campaign.

NS Premier Darrell Dexter made a presentation on what the NDP Government has done for seniors and all Nova Scotians in a prolonged economic downturn and how things are now looking better, due to such initiatives as the “Ships Start Here” Campaign – which means a huge contract for the Halifax Shipyard and thousands of new jobs over the next 30 years.

The rest of the convention was dedicated some to some changes to the NSFUR Constitution, a discussion on the formation of NSFUR Regional Councils & the election of the NSFUR Executive.

Election of Officers (2yrs)

President: Larry Wark
Vice President: Dave Huskins
Recording Secretary: Alice Neiley
Sergeant-at-Arms: Wally Power
VP-at-Large: Sandra Whitehead

Regional Council Chairs

CBRM: Cecil Snow (Sydney)
Western: Dave Martin (Valley)
Central: Sonny Campbell (New Glasgow)
HRM: Ken Taylor
Southern: Donny Calhoun
Strait: Vacant
Cumberland: Vacant

Our next convention is in 2015. We will have delegates at the NS Federation of Labour Convention in Halifax, from October 27 – 30, 2013.

We are also planning presentations to Labour Councils across the province about formong regional retirees' Councils in these areas. The Regional Council in Sydney are in the early stages of formation and we will be working with them in the year to come to solidify the Council.

As of the writing of this report, we are in the midst of a provincial election campaign, election on October 8. 2013. We hope for the best with the re-election of Darrell Dexter as Premier.

In solidarity,

Larry Wark, President, NSFUR

PEI Federation of Union Retirees (PEIFUR) Report

The Federation was very active in support of CLC & CURC campaigns. On the CLC\CURC campaign to improve the CPP, we held several meetings, which included Wes Sheridan, PEI Minister of Finance. He is a very strong supporter of the CLC proposal to improve CPP.

On Bill C-377, we also made several attempts to meet with Hon. Gail Shea who was then Minister of National Revenue and Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and now Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. She refused to meet so we wrote to the press on the substance of the issue and on her refusal to meet.

In June 2013, we held a wellness seminar with the aid of CAW's Dean Lindsay and a local pharmacist. There were 22 participants. In October, we will hold our first pre-retirement seminar in conjunction with the PEI Federation School. Last fall, I was part of the CURC session in Moncton to train retirees to give this course. I plan to meet with major affiliates at the PEI Federation of Labour Executive meeting in late August in regards to the pre-retirement course

I have met with the First Vice-President of the PEI Federation of Labour in regards to having a seat for our organization on their Executive. I will be attending the fall meeting of their executive to discuss this further.

I have had contact with several retirees and directed them to the CURC office ,as well as to Anne Spencer, our benefits consultant. I have also met with members of PSAC , UPSE, UFCW, and replied to CUPW concerning them joining CURC, as well as meeting with the IBEW locally. I went to Halifax to speak to IBEW's All Canada Progress Meeting.

Evert Baker, President