

# ADAPT



## MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THESE TIMES

Many things have changed over the past few months, but one thing that has not changed is our association's commitment to serve the needs of retired educators. In this issue of Connections we see how BCRTA Committees, Board and staff are adapting to the circumstances to deliver value to members.

### AGM TO BE HELD ONLINE

The BCRTA Annual AGM is being held online. We will use technology to hold a Conference Day on October 2nd and the AGM on October 3rd, 2020.

The decision was shaped by these circumstances:

- Meetings of over 50 people are not allowed
- It would be impossible to physically distance in our hotel (just imagine the elevator!)
- There are fewer flights available

- There is a significant possibility of a second wave of COVID-19 in the fall which is also flu season.
- Our membership is the most vulnerable to major consequences if we are exposed to COVID-19

Organizing the event will be a very different experience but we will stay close to the conference and AGM format that we have done in the past.

*continued...*

### IN THIS ISSUE OF BCRTA CONNECTIONS:

- 2** Invite a Friend to Join BCRTA
- 3** Retirement Workshops Go Online
- 4** Golden Star

- 4** Finance Update
- 5** BCRTA's Tiede Elected President of National Association
- 6** Save with Simply Connect Phone Plan



## ADAPT MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF THESE TIMES

Branch presidents have been sent information on the number of delegates they may elect or appoint to represent their branch.

Branches will still have the same number of delegates eligible to vote, and we will meet all our obligations for reporting and good governance. Preparations are underway to provide delegates with a quality connection to the proceedings, including the ability to conduct secure voting on motions and elections.

The conference day promises to be informative, with presentations by Seniors Advocate Isobel McKenzie who will address the needs of seniors in these times. Also lined up are two UBC professors and thought leaders: Dr. Steve Young, an expert in public health policy, who will address the prospect of universal Pharmacare and related issues; and Dr. Roger Wong, an internationally-recognized geriatrician who is familiar to BCRTA members for his regular column in PostScript magazine.

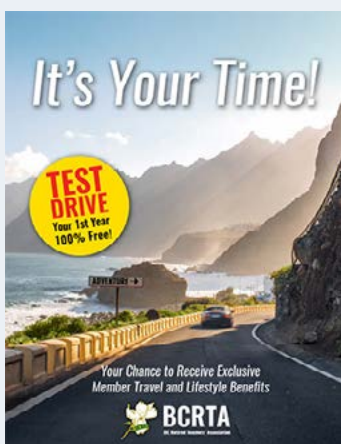
Other important elements of our usual conference and AGM will continue, including the Membership

awards presented to branches, reports and updates from committees and staff, and the PostScript Excellence Awards, recognizing the achievement in print of BCRTA members who contribute to our quarterly magazine.

For a number of years BCRTA has worked closely with the Vancouver Airport Hilton in Richmond. When it became apparent that no meeting would be possible under the current guidelines, it was gratifying to see the hotel waive any cancellation fees, and when restrictions are lifted we expect to return to that location in years following.

Our greatest regret is that the online experience will not provide the usual social interactions we enjoy in meeting new and old friends.

Delegates will receive more information on the AGM in the coming months. Connections Newsletter will provide full reporting on the proceedings in the fall.



### ***Have a friend who is eligible to join the BCRTA?***

- Retired Teachers
- Retired Support Staff
- Retired Post-Secondary Educators

***Get all the benefits of membership and the first year is free!***

[\*\*\*bcrta.ca/join\*\*\*](https://bcrta.ca/join)



# BCRTA Pre-retirement Pension Workshop



The restrictions on travel and gathering has changed the way BCRTA is reaching out to educators thinking about retirement. For a number of years, the BCRTA Pensions and Benefits Committee has been providing pre-retirement workshops around the province. Last year, over 1,000 active teachers attended seminars led by a small group of experts. It was an outreach program that required a significant investment of time and resources.

With travel and meeting restrictions, BCRTA staff and the workshop team are now giving the presentation online. The new format debuted in May, with a pair of workshop Pro-D sessions held for Surrey Teachers. These two sessions reached nearly 300 people.

Two more sessions were held on June 4 and June 11. Over 200 teachers signed up for those sessions, using an online portal on the BCRTA Workshop website that allows active teachers to sign up for access to resources and news updates.

A number of active teachers who attended the session took the plunge to BCRTA membership immediately, giving them immediate access to Advantage Partner benefits.

## A SUITE OF RESOURCES

Stepping into retirement can feel like a step into the unknown. The Pre-Retirement Workshop helps educators contemplating retirement with an overview of the facts they need to confidently step into this new phase of life.

Registrants have access to:

- BCRTA's Retirement Guide
- Income and Expense Worksheets
- A Retirement Checklist
- Latest Information on EHC rates
- Comparisons of EHC plans
- Information about BCRTA benefits

## PARTICIPANT SATISFACTION

Attendees have been overwhelmingly positive about the workshop. A whopping 95% would recommend the workshop to a friend.

Educators can register for a future workshop at <https://bcрта.ca/workshop>

*Pensions and Benefits Committee*



**BCRTA**  
Excellence  
in Education



## Golden Star Awards Announced

The Excellence in Public Education Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Golden Star Awards. School closures mid-March affected the number of applications we received but quality made up for quantity.

Congratulations to Tilia Prior and Marion Collins, teachers at Tecumseh Elementary School in Vancouver and Genny Redman, teacher at Thetis Island Elementary School on Thetis Island.

These teachers led intergenerational programs that exemplify the rich interactions and outcomes that can occur when students and seniors interact. When circumstances permit, the Committee looks forward to presentation events at Tecumseh and Thetis Island. Kudos to all involved!

2020 marks the eleventh year of the Golden Star Awards. Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19 restrictions, BCRTA staff members Laurie, Kristi and Tim have provided the support the Committee needed to implement this year's Golden Star Award program. Additionally, members can now access the Golden Star Award archive of past winners from 2010 to 2019.



June 30th is the fiscal year end for the BCRTA. The Finance Committee presented a draft budget for recommendation to the AGM. The draft budget will be printed in the Summary of reports and mailed to all members in early September.

The Committee sent out a request for proposal for auditing firms to conduct the annual audit for a 3-year contract starting at fiscal year end 2021. Three Audit firms were selected to be interviewed and the recommended firm will be presented as a motion to the AGM.

*Grace Wilson*  
1st VP and Treasurer

## IN THE MAIL

The Summer issue of PostScript is on its way!

### In this issue:

- Building and using a wood-fired oven
- BCRTA in Morocco
- Golden Star Awards
- Creating art from recycled materials
- Money Talk
- Health news
- Learning to Surf
- and much more!





# BCRTA'S TIEDE TO LEAD NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

On June 4th, 2020, the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) held their 2020 Annual General Meeting. At that meeting, BCRTA's President Gerry Tiede was named President of the national organization.

ACER-CART represents over 160,000 retirees in every province and territory.

BCRTA has helped lead a number of advocacy initiatives with ACER-CART, including advancing priorities for the last Federal election, and petitions sent to parliament to protect defined benefit pensions.

Gerry offered these comments on his new position:

*There is a huge opportunity there, as well as a challenge, for all our provincial and territorial Associations to work together and make some progress on the big issues affecting seniors in Canada. The COVID-19 tragedy has really exposed the need for a national seniors' strategy covering home care, residential care, national pharmacare and the list goes on. Seniors' lives matter too!*

*I'm especially honoured to join the ranks of my BC Retired Teacher heroes who are now Past Presidents of ACER-CART:*

- 1. Bruce Watson - Bruce was the leader of the employee side in negotiating our Joint Trust Pension agreement - the best in Canada!*
- 2. Pat Brady - We still bring him back to Chair our BCRTA AGM*
- 3. JoAnn Lauber - The rare gem that we all admire and love. Nobody has contributed more to ACER-CART and BCRTA than JoAnn.*
- 4. I never met Clair Wark but he was the first President of ACER-CART and also came from the BCRTA.*



## BCRTA MEMBER DEALS

**Exclusive discounts for BCRTA members**  
**10% OFF** Talk & Text plans<sup>1</sup> | **15% OFF** Smartphone plans<sup>1</sup>

### Talk & Text Plan

~~\$30~~ **\$27** /month<sup>1</sup>

- **Unlimited** Canada-wide minutes
- **Unlimited** text messages (Canada/international)



### Moto G<sup>7</sup> Play

**\$0**<sup>2</sup> 2-year term  
\$300 no term

- 5.7" HD touch screen
- 13 MP camera
- Quick charge
- Moto gestures

### Family Share Plan

~~\$80~~ **\$68** /month for 2 lines<sup>1</sup>

- **1 GB 5 GB** of shared data<sup>3</sup>
- ~~400~~ **800** shared Canada-wide minutes<sup>3</sup>
- **Unlimited evening and weekend minutes**
- **Unlimited** messages (Canada/international)
- **Unlimited Canada-wide talk and text between both users**



### Samsung Galaxy A10e

**\$0**<sup>2</sup> 2-year term  
\$250 no term

- 5.8" touch screen
- 8 MP camera
- Easy Mode
- Android 9 (Pie)

### Smartphone Plan

~~\$45~~ **\$38<sup>25</sup>** /month<sup>1</sup>

- **4 GB** of data
- **Unlimited** Canada-wide minutes
- **Unlimited** messages (Canada/international)



### Samsung Galaxy A20

**\$0**<sup>2</sup> 2-year term  
\$400 no term

- 6.4" touch screen
- 13 MP camera
- Quick charge
- Android 9 (Pie)

*All plans shown include voicemail, call display and name display.*

Other plans and phones available

Call **1-866-669-7212** and quote promo code **"BCRTASAVE2020"**  
or visit [simplyconnect.ca/bcrtasave2020](https://simplyconnect.ca/bcrtasave2020) for more details.

Offers shown are available until **June 30, 2020** or while quantities last and are subject to change without notice. **1** 10% off applies to the Talk & Text monthly plan fees, and 15% off applies to the Smartphone monthly plan fees. Discount applies for as long as you are a member of the BC Retired Teachers Association and cannot be combined with Bring Your Own Phone discount. **2** Device pricing and minimum monthly rate plan apply for each line, and vary by term and plan chosen. Early cancellation fees apply with a 2-yr term. **3** Bonus data, minutes or texts vary by term and plan chosen. Some conditions apply, call 1-866-669-7212 or visit [simplyconnect.ca/bcrtasave2020](https://simplyconnect.ca/bcrtasave2020) for details.



# DISCOVER THE VALUE OF BCRTA'S MEMBERS' ADVANTAGE PROGRAM

[www.bcrta.ca/members-advantage-program/](http://www.bcrta.ca/members-advantage-program/)



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# BCRTA

BC Retired Teachers' Association