



NOVEMBER 2022

Dear BCRTA Members

Colleagues, it is my great pleasure to be able to connect with you as the new President of the BCRTA. The delegates to this year's Conference and AGM were so enthused to once again meet in person, and we plan to carry forward that enthusiasm through the year.

We continue to provide the best health benefits and insurance programs available to members, and more are joining every month. As well, with pandemic restrictions eased, we plan to once again visit branches around the province, and I certainly look forward to meeting many of you.

Arnie Lambert
President
BC Retired Teachers' Association



AGM Elects New Board Members

On October 1, the AGM elected the BCRTA board for 2022-2023

Table Officers

Arnie Lambert, President
Caroline Malm, 1st Vice President
Dave Scott, 2nd Vice President
Grace Wilson, Past President

Directors Inside the Lower Mainland

Pat Thiesen, Delta (now in 2nd year of a 2 year term)
Barb Mikulec – elected to two-year term
Linda Watson – elected to two-year term
Rosalind Kellett – elected to a one-year term

Directors Outside the Lower Mainland

David Denyer – elected to a two-year term
Stephanie Koropatnick – elected to a two-year term
Charlene Hodgson – elected to a one-year term
Margaret Sutton – elected to a one-year term

BCRTA 2022

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & AGM

Conference Content Available to View

A number of our conference segments are now available on the BCRTA website. Here is a complete list of videos available online – click on the title to view the video on the BCRTA YouTube channel:

[Reconciliation and Acknowledgment by Shishona Austin](#)

Land acknowledgment and personal reflection by a teacher from the Burnaby School district on Canada's National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

[Five Practical Strategies for Aging in Place by Sue Lantz](#)

The link is for sharing with BCRTA members only. Learn more about Sue Lantz at www.collaborativeaging.com

[Telling Your Story by Noel Bentley](#)

Learn more about Noel Bentley at powerof3speaking.com

[President's Update by \(outgoing\) President Grace Wilson](#)

Grace outlines the issues and initiatives addressed at BCRTA.

[Membership Awards by Dave Scott](#)

A celebration of branch membership growth.

[ACER-CART Update](#)

News from our national body of retired educators.

[Golden Star Awards 2022](#)

An inspirational program of intergenerational learning.



PostScript Excellence Awards Celebrate BCRTA Members Contributions

See the interviews with this year's winners.

[BEST PERSONAL ARTICLE](#)

(Sheila Gair Award)

BCRTA Executive Director Tim Anderson

interviews [Eileen Hayes about her article "Silk Sisters"](#) which was published in the Summer 2021 issue of PostScript Magazine.



BEST TRAVEL ARTICLE

Tim interviews [Helene McGill](#) – a conversation that starts with her article "My China" (Summer 2021 issue of PostScript Magazine) and goes on to reveal more of Helene's many adventures.



BEST PHOTO OR ARTWORK

A touching interview with artist [Dutchie Mathison about the paintings in her work "Wild Roses"](#), featured in the Winter 2021 issue of PostScript Magazine.



Wild
Roses

BC Public Sector Retiree Associations Hold Leadership Summit

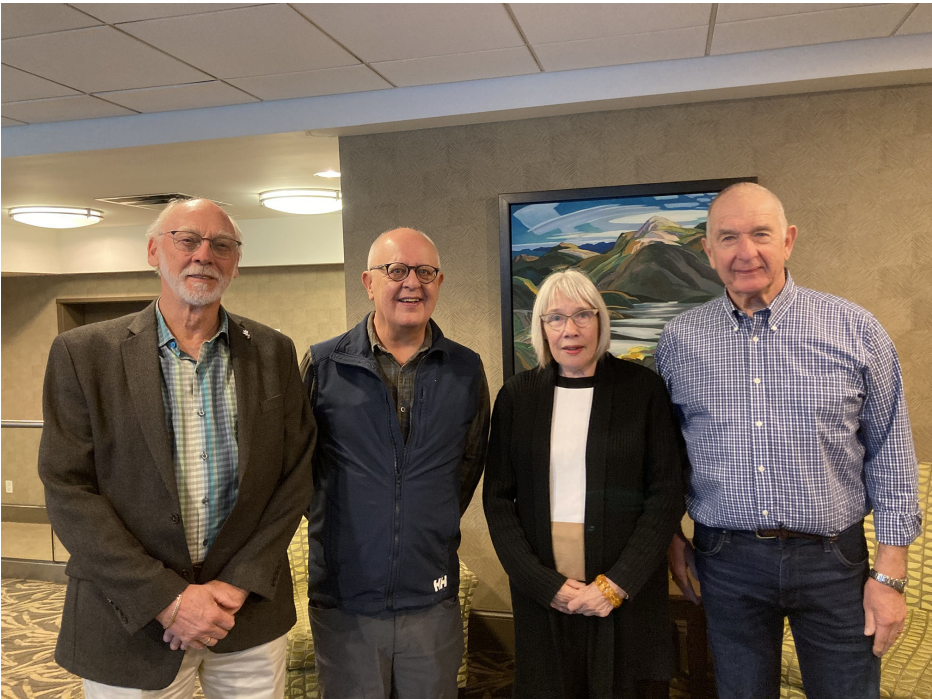
With our many shared concerns for our members' well-being, BCRTA is working with BC's other public sector retiree associations to better serve our retirees. Topics of discussion include best practices in member service, protecting the rights of retirees and our associations, and the future of services for our members.

Leadership of the four major public sector retiree associations met in Vancouver in early November. Attending were representatives of BCRTA, the Municipal Pension Retirees' Association, the BC Government Retired Employees' Association, and the BC College Pension Plan Retirees' Association. Together our associations advocate for the rights of over 200,000 retirees.



Above, 2022 Retiree Summit attendees (L-R): *Tim Anderson (Executive Director, BCRTA), Patrick Harkness (Communications, BCGREA), Al Barclay (Membership, BCGREA), Arnie Lambert (President, BCRTA), Gerry Tiede (Benefits, BCRTA), Brian Green (President, BCGREA), Mary Griffin (President, CPPR), Howard Brown (Communications, MPRA), Terry Erskine (President, MPRA), George Davison (Secretary, CPPR), Grace Wilson (Past President, BCRTA), Vincent Sherry (1st Vice-President, BCGREA), Mark Costales (Johnson Insurance), Lisa Hansen (Johnson).*

Below, the retiree association Presidents: *Arnie Lambert, President BCRTA; Brian Green, President BCGREA; Mary Griffin, President CCPR; and Terry Erskine, President MPRA.*



GOLDEN STAR AWARDS

It's time to get the word out as we look forward to getting applications from around the province for the annual Golden Star and Golden Star Legion Award Programme.

As our major intergenerational project each year, the Golden Star Awards represent an on-going celebration of classroom excellence. [Debbie Marr, the 2022 Golden Star Legion Award winner, brought together veterans, community seniors and her students in "Planting Intergenerational Promises"](#) – a program utilizing the curriculum materials of BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation's curriculum material "Planting Intergenerational Promises" – a publication Debbie helped write. [View the video here.](#) This unique learning plan prepares elementary students to develop long lasting relationships with seniors in the community through a number of engaging activities. It was developed with support from Service Canada, New Horizons for Seniors, the Dutch Liberation 2020 Canadian Society, and the BC Agriculture in the classroom Foundation (bcaitc.ca). It's worth recommending to teachers in your community.

This Fall, we urge each BCRTA branch to make active teachers aware of the Golden Star Award program through word of mouth and through forwarding information to your BCTF local association. Simply direct as many public school educators as you can to the BCRTA website link "Golden Star Awards". Posted are a summary of past winners, a printable poster for publicizing the programme, and the application form – both in on-line completion and handwritten submission formats. If you feel so inclined, print off the poster and ask that it be posted in your local schools.

Help get the word out! Your Excellence in Public Education Committee is looking forward to receiving inspiring applications and to recognizing the work of teachers who involve their

students with seniors in their community in on-going projects.

Please direct any inquiries to Steve Bailey, Chair of the Excellence in Public Education Committee at sdbailey504@gmail.com.



Participate in Focus Groups re: Green Shield Coverage

Are you enrolled in the Green Shield Canada extended health and/or dental program? The Teachers' Pension Board of Trustees wants to hear from you.

The board is currently reviewing the pension plan's retirement group health benefits program. Your voice is important to the board as it completes this review.

There will be two opportunities to provide input:

1. In 2022, sign up for a chance to take part in a focus group or individual interview to discuss your experience and what matters most to you.
2. In 2023, take part in a membership-wide survey.

To learn more and sign up for the chance to participate, visit <https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/modernizing-retirement-health-coverage>.



NOW AVAILABLE FOR BCRTA MEMBERS: TERM LIFE INSURANCE, CRITICAL ILLNESS INSURANCE AND COVERAGE FOR YOUR DEPENDENTS

BCRTA and our partner Johnson Insurance have teamed up with IA to offer a suite of coverage for our members. If you are concerned about protecting your loved ones in the event of critical illness or loss of life, review these offers.

Visit <https://specialmarkets.ia.ca/bcrt/home>

Help wanted: Workshop Presenters

The Seniors Health and Wellness Institute-COSCO serves communities throughout BC with free on-line or in-person workshops where we have available facilitators. We have given over 3,000 workshops to over 56,000 attendees since we began with one workshop in 2007. We now offer over 46 workshops which raise awareness of healthy living, personal planning, legal and financial literacy and safety topics.

Facilitators are always welcome to discover the joy of presenting workshops, especially to our diverse ethnic population.

To book a workshop or to learn more about becoming a presenter contact our coordinator at www.seniorshelpingseniors.ca



What are your travel dreams?

You could make them come true! Check out BCRTA's group travel offers for wonderful adventures at a reasonable price.

Destinations on offer: Portugal, Morocco, Croatia, and more.

[Visit bcrt.tripmerchant.ca to learn more](http://bcrt.tripmerchant.ca)



BCRTA's Prestige EHC and Travel insurance program - the best just got better!

We are pleased to announce significant improvements to the Prestige EHC and Travel Insurance package offered exclusively to BCRTA members.

Beginning September 1, coverage improvements include:

- **No more age banding on extended health coverage.** (Age does affect travel rates.)
- **Hearing aid claim limits will rise by 40%**, with an ability to claim with greater frequency. Coverage will change from \$1,000 every five years to \$1,400 every four years.
- For members born after 1940, plan **drug claim maximums will increase**: \$1,500 plan will rise to limit of \$2,000. The present \$3,500 plan will rise to a limit of \$4,000.
- Availability of **home delivery of prescriptions** for a low \$6.99 dispensing fee (see the Express Scripts services page at <https://pharmacy.expressscripts.ca/BCRTA>). Includes 24/7 access to a pharmacist. Ideal for your medications that need a 90 day supply.
- Much **better pricing on 93 day Prestige travel coverage**. Increase your trip length maximum from 62 to 93 days within the Prestige plan, for a modest price.
- **Trip cancellation will now INCLUDE COVID** coverage.
- **Rate reduction option**: choose to add an optional \$1,000 deductible to out-of-province health costs for significant overall rate savings. ~~You will continue to enjoy first-payer coverage up to \$5 million on trip cancellation coverage.~~

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Make the move to BCRTA members' most highly rated insurance coverage!

Contact Johnson Insurance at 1.855.616.6708 or visit bcrtajohnson.ca.

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MOVED?
NEED TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO?

Update your [Email Preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe](#)

DO IT HERE:

<https://bcrtajohnson.ca/update-member-info/>