

NEWSLETTER

NAFR - Quebec Branch

INDEX

- A Word from the President
- Recognition of volunteers
- Become a Branch Pillar
- Branch website makeover
- Tribute to Viateur Beaulieu
- Phoenix and Retirees - Last update
- Bas-Saint-Laurent-Gaspésie Director Report
- Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean Director Report
- Follow-up Tables de concertation des aînés
- Webinars - Le Curateur public du Québec
- Harmonize names on passports and vaccine documentation
- Virtual activities
- Reader Corner
- Branch Office Hours
- Newsletter Collaborators
- Next Issue



A Word from the President

With the New Year's greeting, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and resilient New Year. With the ongoing health crisis, we haven't really had a choice to adopt new habits.

Phenomena have appeared that are gaining momentum: the scientific foundations are under attack from all sides, the authoritarian drift that "wokeism" seeks to denounce and the culture of banishment where criticism loses all its finesse and rigor and are causing a lot of ink to flow. Perhaps we are sawing off the branch on which society is sitting?

Today, we must also take into account not only the aging of the population, but also the shortage of manpower which has a significant impact on the availability of services. It is no longer just the power of money that decides what services you will receive. The availability of human resources is a major issue in ensuring that care and services can be delivered effectively.

The importance of home care in Québec is far behind a large number of countries according to the OECD. For example, in Finland, Denmark, Austria, Germany, etc., the approach is more focused on well-being than on medical care, with a range of services to meet various needs. As foreign experience has shown, giving priority to home care and home support services, regardless of the home, and delaying institutionalization in long-term care facilities, when possible, would meet the needs and preferences of seniors while generating savings in public spending.

We need to collectively empower ourselves to make the right choices. With the support of the Federal Retirees community, strategic and effective advocacy efforts are underway and more will be done in preparation for the provincial election campaign. Support "your" Québec Branch, you are the best source of recruitment. Become a member, even if you are not retired! And become a volunteer, help extend your active life, come and brainstorm with us, be "in the zone" and make a difference!

Our next Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, April 8, 2022 at the Centre Le Trait-Carré in Québec City (If it is possible).

If you are interested in joining the Board of Directors, please fill out the nomination form available at www.anrf-sq.org and send it to our office to the attention of the Chair of the Nominations Committee. It would be a pleasure to have you on our team!

Sincerely, René Grenier,

President of the Québec Branch.

OCDE, Panorama de la santé : Les indicateurs de l'OCDE, 2019.
ICIS, Tendance des dépenses nationales de santé, 1975 à 2021.

Recognition of Volunteers at the Citadelle

I would like to acknowledge and thank those who give their time to the Quebec Branch. Although it sounds cliché, volunteers are the strength of our Branch. What a genius idea of Jean-Marc Demers to chair the COVIDexit committee, which has allowed us to continue to get together, even virtually, and to keep in touch. Ghislain Lavoie and Germain Boivin who started the breakfasts again as soon as the sanitary measures allowed it. And all the other volunteers who, through their actions, keep the Québec Branch active despite the pandemic.

As a token of our appreciation to our volunteers, we had the opportunity to visit the second official residence of the Governor General at the Citadel of Quebec and to be received at the Officers' Mess for a superb "classy" lunch. We had to postpone this activity last year, but the opportunity finally presented itself on November 26th. Inside this splendid heritage building, we were able to admire magnificent collections of works of art, objects and furniture that are very "vintage Canadian". In addition to the two guides-interpreters who told us some of the secrets of the site, our "own patented guide", Serge Boisseau, also gave us a brief history of the Citadel. The whole thing took place in a jovial and friendly atmosphere. I think that everyone appreciated this extraordinary moment. A heartfelt thanks to our mission leaders: Yves Bouchard, Serge Boisseau and Gilles Belisles.

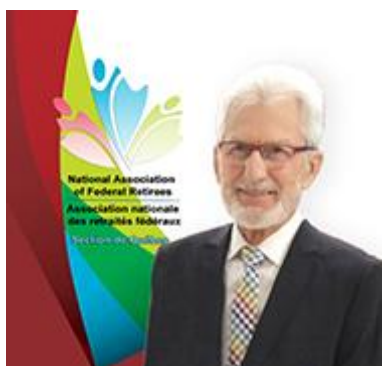


By René Grenier, President



BECOME A BRANCH PILLAR!

By Jean-Marc Demers, President of the nominating committee



Submit your candidacy for election to the Board of Directors!

As you know, thanks to our volunteer members - our pillars - we can provide you with activities and information.

Each year, the terms of office of 3 of our leaders expire at the end of the AGM in April. Is this your opportunity this year to offer your services to your colleagues? [Application Form](#) (in French)

For more information, contact us by email at anrf@bellnet.ca or with Jean-Marc Demers, president of the Nominating Committee at jmd01@bell.net

THE BRANCH WEBSITE HAS HAD A MAKEOVER!

By Micheline Lefrançois, 1st vice-president



We are proud to present our new version of the Branch website.

Updated, this site offers a wealth of information directed to members and new members. The aim is to provide you quickly with the information you are seeking, whether on membership, renewal, advocacy priorities or social and cultural activities, as well as our publications.



In addition, we want to highlight the work of our two regional directors in our large territory, namely Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Bas-Saint-Laurent-Gaspésie, as well as the valuable contribution of liaison officers.

Over time, the site will be regularly updated with new content and information under the various tabs.



Viateur Beaulieu

Many warm thanks go to our valiant volunteers: Viateur Beaulieu, website designer and Branch webmaster for his 10 years, and Marianne Lafond who works tirelessly to keep content and publications of the Branch up to date. It is due to their commitment and competence that we can offer you such quality and fresh information. Have a successful navigation!

Anrf-sq.org



Marianne Lafond



Tribute to Viateur Beaulieu, volunteer of the Quebec Branch

By Yves Bouchard, Advisor to the Board of Directors, Quebec Branch

Dear Viateur,

It's been 10 years since we first met to plan our website update. I quickly discovered in you a person of action, openly spoken, competent, professional, dedicated and committed to the development of a high-quality product. It's due to you that our website update got off the ground and stood up all these years. In addition, you took upon your shoulders the technical development of the Newsletter and became its translator. This Newsletter is the pride of the Quebec Branch.

The Quebec Branch was extremely lucky to have such a committed volunteer like you. Thank you for your continued support to the Communications Committee. You were able to ensure a smooth transition with other colleagues. Furthermore, you are leaving behind a brand-new version of the website which was recently inaugurated.

It should not be overlooked that during all these years you have played, with your colleagues, the role of a trainer and mentor. Your availability and quick turnaround time to prepare last-minute projects often saved the day.

I remember from your passage a proud and honest man, a leader and a visionary. I learned a lot from being around you and, moreover, I found in you a sincere friend. Your presence among us will be missed. Good luck with your new challenges.



At long last — Phoenix general compensation damages forms available for retirees

Par Diane Legros, Co-secretary

On December 16, 2021, Treasury Board finally launched the process of requesting general compensation for Phoenix failures for retirees and ex-employees.

If you were employed between 2016 and 2020, you may be eligible for general damages compensation. Former employees in the Public Service Alliance of

Canada (PSAC) groups could receive a maximum of \$ 2,500, while those who have already received a lump sum could receive a supplement of up to \$ 1000.

Treasury Board Secretariat officials confirmed that the service standard for issuing payments is 45 business days and that complex cases may take longer to resolve. Payments will be made from the payroll system and will be separate from regular monthly pension payments.

[KNOW MORE](#)

To check if you are eligible and to take the steps to submit your application, [visit the Treasury Board Secretariat website](#) and follow the instructions. This [process is separate from the recently announced process for claims](#) for people who have suffered severe impacts from the Phoenix pay system.



The Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) celebrates its 60th anniversary



CCG BADGE



The CCG fleet (in part) at the quayside in Quebec

More than 1,600 people from the Coast Guard work in the Central region, which covers the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes, with a large part of the workforce based in Quebec City. You can easily recognize the base where you can admire the icebreakers at the wharf, near the Québec-Lévis ferry.



An icebreaker and in the background Lévis



The CCGS Des Groseilliers in the Saguenay Fjord

Several of them are members of our association including our President René Grenier, Claude Larochelle 2nd Vice-President, Pierre Landry, Secretary, Nicole Laveau, director and many other members of the Quebec Branch and elsewhere. We invite retirees and future retirees of the CCG to join us and thus participate in the effort to defend the rights and interests of all federal retirees.

It was in fact on January 26, 1962, that the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) was created.

Let us underline the exemplary contribution of the men and women who are a symbol of service and security in Canada and around the world from coast to coast.

We wish happy 60th anniversary to all present staff and retirees of the Canadian Coast Guard!

To learn more about the Canadian Coast Guard, see:

[The Canadian Coast Guard at 60 \(ccg-gcc.gc.ca\)](http://ccg-gcc.gc.ca)

SAGUENAY-LAC-SAINT-JEAN DIRECTOR REPORT



By Ghislain Lavoie, Director SAGUENAY-LAC-SAINT-JEAN

Until further notice, restaurants are closed. However, when it opens, lunches at **La Baie** will take place every first Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m., at the Chalutier restaurant, 490 Boul. de la Grande-Baie sud, La Baie, G7B 2C7 418-697-0000.

In **Alma / Lac St-Jean**, breakfasts will be held on the last Wednesday of the month, at 9:00 a.m. at the Pacini restaurant, 1000, boul. des Cascades, Alma G8B 3G4 418-668-0872. Check the public health instructions.

BAS-SAINT-LAURENT-GASPÉSIE DIRECTOR REPORT



By Bruno Beaulieu, Director Bas-St-Laurent/Gaspésie

Our agreement with the Association des aînés de l'Université du Québec à Rimouski (ADAUQUAR) continues and offers distance and face-to-face training for all members of the Quebec Branch. Some training is free. I invite you to consult the program for winter 2022.

[PROGRAMME HIVER 2022.pdf \(uqar.ca\)](https://uqar.ca/PROGRAMME_HIVER_2022.pdf) (in French)

News from the Tables de concertation des aînés (TCA)



By Nicole Laveau, for the Capitale-Nationale

[Here is the Table's December 2021 Newsletter.](#) (in French)



By Serge Boisseau for Chaudière-Appalaches

The «table» provided the Municipalité amis des aînés (MADA) Décembre 2021 MADA [joint](#) with its Newsletter which provides information that may be of interest to you. (in French)



Webinars - Curateur public du Québec

By Micheline Lefrançois, 1st vice-president

Webinar series on «Law to better protect vulnerable persons» continues this winter. Led by Corinne Harbec-Lachapelle, responsible for public events, these sessions allow people to discover different aspects of the law aimed at better protecting people in vulnerable situations, which will come into effect in June 2022. today on the Lepointdevente.com platform.

It's free! Note that it is not necessary to have attended other topics to register for a session. [Link to the backgrounder in pdf.](#)

For more information on the law to better protect people in vulnerable situations, visit our website at: Quebec.ca/mieuxprotéger.

Federal Retirees to federal, provincial governments: Harmonize names on passports and vaccine documentation

By René Grenier, President



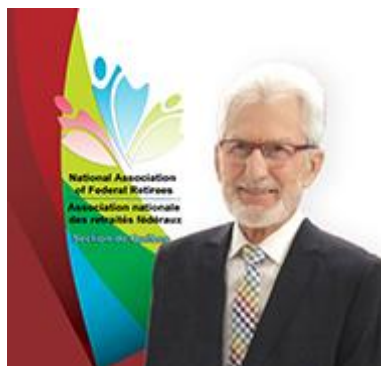
Following several requests from our members, we believe that this information will reassure many.

While the global COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, many Canadians are looking forward to being able to resume international travel safely, in accordance with travel advice and requirements upon entry into various countries. Increasingly, entry into a country requires proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

This month, the National Association of Federal Retirees contacted four federal departments and the Quebec Minister of Health to defend the interests of its members, these Quebec women, who fear their ability to travel outside of Canada. be assigned a different last name on their passport than the one written on their vaccination record [KNOW MORE](#)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Monthly breakfasts in the Quebec / Chaudière-Appalaches region will resume according to public health rules. Currently, it is unlikely that our planned lunch at Restaurant Normandin-Lebourgneuf on January 26, 2022, will take place. To stay informed, visit our website under [Calendar](#) or our [Facebook page Quebec Branch](#).



Language rights in proceedings outside Quebec

Reading note by Jean-Marc Demers

In an article published in a Toronto weekly, Me Gérard Levesque, of the Ontario Bar, specializing in language rights, indicates that in a judgment of July 27, 2021, of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, in the [*Bélanger v. the Order of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario*](#), 2021 ONCS 5132, Madam Justice Lise Favreau - since December 20 a member of the Ontario Court of Appeal - "affirms that the Ontario government's negligence to appoint Francophones on the Board of a Professional Order [is not an acceptable excuse](#) to limit the right of their members and the public to use French. She then recalls that the protection of the public includes [respect for language rights](#). [Lise Favreau accède à la Cour d'appel de l'Ontario \(l-express.ca\)](#)



Recent Virtual Activities – Québec Branch

The Virtual Holiday 5 to 7 of December 22, 2021



René Grenier, President



Serge Boisseau, MC



Des participants, Photo de Bruno Beaulieu

Readers Corner

By Micheline Lefrançois, 1st vice-president



Considering that over the past few months we have received a lot of feedback, we are reviving the Reader's Corner. The Quebec Branch encourages you to share your comments following articles published by our collaborators and volunteers in our latest Newsletters.

Following the article by Jean-Marc Demers published on September 15 entitled "The Supreme Court's jurisprudence in linguistic matters applies to federal government employees" on page 4, here is a commentary from Roger Bergeron, outgoing president of the Mauricie Branch:

"André Dionne, Montreal, deserves that the NAFR Quebec District congratulate him on being a staunch defender of French and official languages, and for having held firm, throughout 2010 to 2021. Thank you, Jean-Marc, for keeping an eye for us on what is going on in judiciary circles. "

Following our article on **Veterans' Week** and Remembrance Day ceremonies where we laid wreaths across our territory on November 11, here is a comment from Normand Parent, member of our Branch and Liaison Officer to Maria:

"Thank you for this superb, beautiful publication and yes we must continue to make sure that we never forget our veterans. And we are fortunate that people like you and your team are making sure these ceremonies are in the news"

Many of you reacted to our virtual 5-7 on December 22, as well as on our holiday Greeting Card.

Please note that your "Bravos, thanks and keep up the good work wishes" are always greatly appreciated. They are precious rewards for our volunteers. You make our tasks more relevant when you make known your appreciation and suggestions. Please do so at our office email address anrf@bellnet.ca Thank you!



Edna Richer, coordinator

Branch office hours

Our office has resumed its usual schedule
Hours: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday

Phone: (418) 661-4896 Toll Free: 1-866-661-4896

E-mail: anrf@bellnet.ca

Web Site: anrf-sq.org

[Follow us on FACEBOOK](#)

You can leave a message in our voicemail at any time; it will be our pleasure to call you back.

When health regulations require, we work remotely.

Please check our phone message before you go to the office.



If you come to meet us at our office, you have to wear the mask, and show your proof of vaccines and ID Card.

Hand sanitizer is available. Thank you very much for your cooperation.



Scan this QR code with the camera of your cell phone or tablet to visit our website where you will find more content on the rights and interests of our members.

Members of the Communications Committee and Collaborators



Micheline Lefrançois



Edna Richer



Diane Legros



Lise Lavoie



Marianne Lafond



Pierre Marquis



Claude Larochelle

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