

NEWSLETTER

NAFR - Quebec Branch

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GIA – October 22, 2021 (Virtual)

GENERAL INFORMATION ASSEMBLY (GIA) INVITATION TO MEMBERS AND FUTURE MEMBERS


**Friday, October 22, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
By Zoom**

The Quebec Branch warmly invites you to the Fall Information assembly. Come by and have fun listening to our travel talk and learn about Branch activities.

Make our association known: bring a retired acquaintance of the federal government.

MANDATORY REGISTRATION by clicking on the following zoom link:
[Virtual AGI registration](#) *Event held in French

AGENDA

- 9:30 a.m. – Welcome remarks
 - Mediterranean Cruise Conference by Voyages Traditours
- 
- **MEDOC travel insurance** - update for travellers
 - Advocacy
 - Recruitment campaign underway

- Social activities – monthly breakfasts are back
- Agency Julie Labbé - Residential consulting services

Draw and door prizes

End of the meeting 12:00



<https://www.facebook.com/RetraitesfederauxQuebec>



A word from the president, René Grenier

The summer season is already behind us. I wish you all had the best for the summer. It goes by so quickly! The daily routine is back to normal and here we are, all of us in an election campaign and with a COVID-19 vaccination passport that allows access to certain places or participation in certain non-essential activities, only for those who are adequately protected or who have a recognized contraindication to the COVID-19 vaccination. From a Federal Retirees perspective, there are two Special Members' Meetings (SMM) by video conference. Our executive and some committees finally met face-to-face. But the Zoom platform is still an easy way to hold our meetings.

Regarding the elections, Micheline Lefrançois, 1st Vice President, is our champion and with her team, the Quebec Branch is focusing on a National Seniors Strategy. We have sent a letter to the candidates in the 17 ridings in our territory to remind them of our priorities and issues. And we are ready to meet with candidates and eventually elected officials of all parties to remind them of their commitments to seniors.

The 2021 Annual Members Meeting (AMM) was held electronically on June 17 and 29, 2021. For regulatory reasons, there was no voting during these sessions, and the actual voting was postponed until the fall. The aim is to have an open discussion (without the restrictions of the rules of procedure) on the proposals at the session on September 8th, and then hold the debates and votes on September 15th. For the Quebec Branch, Micheline Lefrançois, 1st Vice President, will be our proxy.

As for our activities, golf is always popular and our next Branch breakfast will be on September 29 at the Normandin in Lebourgneuf. For the Saguenay and Bas-St-Laurent regions check our website. We wanted to hold a General Information Assembly (GIA) meeting in person, but after investigation, it will be wiser to hold it on the Zoom platform on October 22nd. We were looking forward to seeing you in the flesh and having informal discussions. But there were too many uncertainties about the procedures, the technicality of doing it face-to-face and on a zoom platform at the same time was very complex and we didn't want to put our members in a delicate situation. In the meantime, all of our members will be able to attend, we will have one guest at the GIA who will be talking about cruise opportunities and of course there will be attendance prizes from our branch. Don't forget to register with our office for the breakfasts and the GIA.

We look forward to seeing you.



Advocacy

By Micheline Lefrançois, 1st Vice President

Federal Elections - Our Priorities

We are all involved in this Election Campaign! Just a few days before the September 20th vote. Many of us have already exercised their democratic rights, having been to the advance poll.

The electoral campaign gave our Branch the opportunity to write to the candidates of the 17 ridings in our territory to signal our priorities and challenges. We invited all candidates to meet with us to learn more about their commitments and to determine to what extent they correspond to the concerns of our members and future members.

PRIORITY - A National Seniors Strategy

We have emphasized a National Seniors Strategy. We wanted to know the position of each candidate in our territory: How will each implement a national strategy for seniors focused on health care infrastructures, support for caregivers, home care, long-term care?

In his letter to the candidates, our president René Grenier underlined the following:

"By the nature of our Association, we have a bias towards seniors and retirees. With regard to the current election, although our four priorities remain important, a first observation has been strongly imposed in our eyes. We have all witnessed the destruction made by the pandemic in CHSLDs and all the light that has been shed on the pressing needs of people aged 50 and over. "

But what do we mean by a national senior's strategy?

This is vast and involves all provinces and territories. For example, the Report of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, *Get Ready: For a New Generation of Active Seniors!* Recommends ² "that the Government of Canada, in collaboration with its provincial, territorial and Indigenous partners, develop a national senior's strategy to control the growth in spending, while ensuring that appropriate and accessible care is provided."

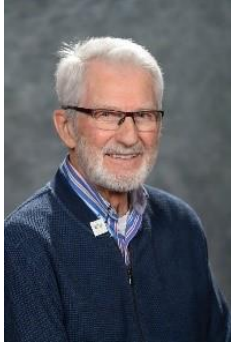
Our seniors are more and more active. Their life expectancy has improved greatly. At the same time, seniors need more care when and where they need it. The health care infrastructure is becoming increasingly important. In addition, issues relating to natural caregivers, home care and long-term care remain at the heart of our concerns.

On the eve of this election, we encourage you to observe the different political party platforms to better understand the issues that best meet your needs and allow you to make an informed choice.

² GETTING READY: For a new generation of active seniors - First Interim Report of the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance on Canada's Aging Population

As we did after the previous elections, our branch will ask to meet with elected candidates from all parties to remind them of their commitments to seniors. We will keep you informed.

To learn more about our priorities, see [Our Priorities | Federal Retirees](#)



Supreme Court Official Language Case Law Applies to Federal Government Employees

By Jean-Marc Demers, Branch member, retired lawyer

Here is a judgment by the Federal Court of Appeal of last month that may bring back memories of work situations for many of us.

This is a November 2010 complaint from Mr. André Dionne, federal civil servant in Montreal, filed with the [Commissioner of Official Languages](#) (in French) where Mr. Dionne maintains that his right to work in French has been constantly infringed during his 22 years working for the [Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions](#). In January 2014, the Commissioner of Official Languages confirmed the merits of the complaint. However, on July 3, 2019, the Federal Court rejected Mr. Dionne's claims.



Madam Justice Marianne Rivoelen

On August 4, 2021, following an appeal, the Federal Court of Appeal, with reasons by [Marianne Rivoelen](#) J.A., concurred in by [Yves de Montigny](#) J.A. and [George Locke](#) J.A., overturned the Federal Court decision and in particular adopted the reasoning of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Beaulac case on the grounds that Mr. Dionne's language rights have been infringed.

As a federal retiree with a long bias favorable to the quality of work of the federal government, it is interesting to read paragraph 52 of the reasons for judgment of Madam Justice Rivoelen of the Federal Court of Appeal in this case:

[52] Clearly, cases concerning language of work rights are possible only if employees who feel they have been wronged by their employer's actions (or inaction) make a complaint to the Commissioner. I acknowledge the courage and perseverance that Mr. Dionne has shown throughout this process, first as a complainant to the Commissioner and later as an applicant before the Federal Court and now as an appellant before this Court. I think it is people like Mr. Dionne who advance the state of the law in the area of language rights and, for that reason, I particularly commend his participation in the controversy concerning the interpretation of Part V of the [OLA](#). In these circumstances, and given the subtleties of the arguments presented by Mr. Dionne and the other parties, I think it is important to consider the various interpretations of [paragraph 36\(1\)\(a\)](#) that have been submitted to us.

I recommend to members of our Branch the reading of the very interesting column by Me Gérard Levesque, a lawyer / writer specializing in language laws across Canada, published in L'Express de Toronto on this judgment ([Language rights of federal public servants clarified «in French only»](#)), and the judgment itself ([Canada \(Commissioner of Official Languages\) vs. Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions \(2021 FCA 159\)](#)).



Recruit members and Win Big

By Claude Larochelle, 2nd Vice-president

Despite the difficult context for recruiting, your Recruitment Committee is very active in the field. We have reconnected with certain ministries and organizations where we used to go to present our Association.

We are currently working on a communication plan to find members who do not know our association. We are also monitoring the coming of certain shows on condition that Public Health allows it.

Did you know that by helping us recruit new members you could win prizes?

The National Office (NO) is organizing a recruitment campaign. Members who recruit new members have the chance to win exceptional awards. The Campaign started on September 1st and ends on December 31st. Participate in large numbers and be well!

Click on [this hyperlink](#) to find out how to participate.



To Better protect vulnerable people - Curateur public du Québec

By Diane Legros, Co-secretary

We had planned to get a presentation from the Curator to brief our members on official and relevant information on these issues. Pending a face-to-face presentation, the Public Curator is offering various webinars that may be of interest to you. ***Webinars in French**

The promotion of the webinar series: "Better protect" is done through several channels including their newsletter and on their [Facebook Page](#).



LES WEBINAIRES
MIEUX PROTÉGER

8 SÉANCES VIRTUELLES

Retour de la série
de webinaires
en septembre 2021

Consultez la programmation
L'inscription est gratuite.

Votre gouvernement

Québec

Registration for sessions is done via the Lepointdevente.com website and it is free.

3 themes will be discussed during the fall and several dates are available from September to November:

1. All about the evolution of the protection of people in vulnerable situations
2. All about the assistance measure
3. Everything you need to know about the protection mandate

Here are the dates and themes of the [fall 2021 sessions](#). (In French)

A big thank you to Ms. Corinne Harbec-Lachapelle, responsible for public events, who provided us with this information.

Phoenix and retirees

By Claude Larochelle and Diane Legros

If you retired in 2016 or later and suffered damage related to the Phoenix system, there is something new for you since August 26, 2021. We invite you to consult the page: [General compensation claims - Phoenix](#).

Overall, the TBS Claims Office is working to launch a new claims process for former employees scheduled to be available for December 2021. This one-time claim process will:

- Former employees represented by the PSAC will be able to seek general compensation for damages caused by the Phoenix pay system, including amounts for any period they worked in a position not represented by the PSAC;
- Former employees covered by the 2019 Damages Agreement will be able to submit claims for remedial amounts.

For detailed information on catch-up and overdue payments, see the [General compensation for damage caused by Phoenix page on canada.ca](#).



REPORT FROM BAS-SAINT-LAURENT/GASPÉSIE

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

As a result of the agreement signed between ANRF-Quebec Branch and ADAUQAR, Branch members have access to the same rates and conditions as ADAUQAR members. (Association pour le développement des aînés[e]s à l'UQAR (ADAUQAR)).

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!

Here is the program for of ADAUQAR: [PROGRAMME automne 2021 .pdf \(uqar.ca\)](#). (In French)

We invite you to follow them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/adauqar>

September 20th is the deadline to register for training which will begin the first week of October.

Link – Registration form for training and to become a member: [Inscription \(uqar.ca\)](#). (In French)



REPORT FROM SAGUENAY/LAC-SAINT-JEAN

By Ghislain Lavoie, Administrator SAGUENAY/LAC-SAINT-JEAN

Our monthly breakfast resumed at La Baie on September 7th and those in Alma will resume on September 29th. Please see the [Social Activities page](#) for more details.



Social Activities

Resumption of monthly breakfasts

The Quebec Branch is happy to once again offer you the chance to have breakfast together. Indeed, after a long year of confinement and in accordance with current public health rules, we will gradually resume our social activities.

- **For members and future members of the greater Quebec-Lévis-Chaudière-Appalaches region**

Breakfast will take place on the last Wednesday of each month.

The next lunch will be at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 29, 2021.



At the **Normandin restaurant**, 986, rue Bouvier, Québec, G2J 1A3, 418-627-1265 A private room is reserved for 35 people from the Branch.

Cost of breakfast - from \$ 8.30 a la carte. [Click here to access the Normandin Menu](#) (In French) to know the choice of breakfasts.

For the Normandin, 35 places are available. To attend the breakfasts, you must present your vaccination passport and reserve your place by email: anrf@bellnet.ca mentioning your name and phone number. Restaurants are required to maintain a register of each customer.

- **For members and future members of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean**



La Baie: breakfast resumes every first Tuesday of the month as of **September 7, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., at the restaurant Le Chalutier**, 490 Boul. de la Grande-Baie sud, La Baie G7B 2C7 418-697-0000



Alma: last Wednesday of the month **starting September 29, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at the Pacini restaurant**, 1000, boul. waterfalls, Alma G8B 3G4 418-668-0872.

- **For members of Bas-Saint-Laurent-Gaspésie**, for breakfasts at **Rivière-du-Loup**, the dates are not available at the moment. We will keep you informed.



FOLLOW OUR BRANCH ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/RetraitesfederauxQuebec> and click the "Like" button so you don't miss a thing.



Seniors' Concertation Tables (SCT)

By Nicole Laveau, Administrator

National Capital Region

- Video to the virtual conference about [L'accès aux soins de santé un enjeu pour les personnes âgées en situation de pandémie - YouTube](#) (In French)

Very interesting and informative. Eye-catching. Dynamic. Possible solutions.

- The Réseau de Transport Collectif Québec (RTC) has developed a new service: the Integrated Mobility Accessibility Service (SAMI).

[RTC's integrated mobility support service \(SAMI\) | RTC \(rtcquebec.ca\)](#)

The objective of the RTC is to increase the number of trips and the number of users. Many people are worried about using public transport. This site presents the tools to eliminate myths. It's for everyone and free.

This videoconference was organized by the Branch's COVID-Exit Committee.



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](#)



If you come to meet us at our office, you must wear a mask. Hand sanitizer is available.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

NEXT NEWSLETTER: November 15, 2021



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

Members of the Communications Committee and Collaborators



Micheline Lefrançois



Edna Richer



Diane Legros



Viateur Beaulieu



Lise Lavoie



Marianne Lafond



Pierre Marquis



Claude Larochelle