

# BRANCH REPORT

NB65 | Fundy Shores

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## President's message

On behalf of the Board of Branch 65, Fundy Shores, welcome to this special edition of our branch newsletter. It's probably the most important one I've ever had to write, so please keep reading. On Sept. 14, 2022, your board met in person to discuss several pressing issues. Normally we don't send a newsletter every quarter, but we felt it would be in the best interests of the branch and you to keep you up to date and informed at this time.

First of all, we are already thinking ahead to 2023 and our next annual general meeting. This will likely take place in late April or early May but won't be your normal AGM. Why? Because this time we plan to hold our AGM as part of the branch's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. While only registered branch members will be able to vote at the AGM itself, we want to open our celebration to any federal retirees who aren't existing branch members but may have an interest in learning more about our association.

As we can finally hold face-to-face meetings once again, we want to give you this chance to reconnect in person. We need to keep in touch and see one another, so to mark this very special occasion, we are presently looking at several venues which can provide catering for more than 100 people. We will advise you well in advance so you can make plans to attend.

We also hope to resume regular face-to-face member meetings and dinners in the coming year. This brings me to the second reason for this special newsletter.

We have much to be thankful for as part of a national organization with a focus on safeguarding our pensions, health and dental plans, and of great importance to those members who enjoy travel across Canada and abroad, MEDOC travel insurance.

The Fundy Shores Branch is your local point of contact with our national organization and is governed by a board of local members elected by you. Our job is to keep you connected and

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informed, organize branch activities and do our part to support national's efforts to protect your benefits.

In the spring of 2022, your board undertook a comprehensive review of our branch by-laws to bring them into full alignment with the 2021 version of national by-laws. Our new by-laws were approved first by members attending our 2022 Branch AGM and then by the national board in June.

Regrettably, one unexpected impact of our by-law changes affected a number of long-serving Fundy Shores board members who are no longer eligible to stand for re-election in 2023. As a result, only three of our existing ten board members can re-offer next year and only two plan to do so.

Over my 8-year tenure as president, I have repeatedly asked for help at our dinners and in my reports to you. I have had some luck, but we are now at a critical point where we will require at least 6 and ideally 8 new board members to step forward and stand for election at our annual meeting this spring. If we fail to get enough new volunteers, our branch will not be able to function. As a board we meet about every 2 months for about 2 hours. The work is not hard, and you will be supported by the former board and by national office. Also, I plan to remain for one further year but as a board advisor only.

I am proud of the work we have done and of the friends I have made over the past years. I say that with heartfelt thanks to all those I have worked with and gotten to know. It made my life busy at times, but it was my choice to take on more than required. Now, my fellow board members and I want to see this branch move forward with the help of a new board, more new members, and new ideas.

Failing is not really an option, but if we are not able to rebuild our board and move forward, we will be forced to surrender our charter and the branch will close. The members will be dispersed to either the Fredericton or Moncton branch. Our monies will be sent there as well.

Is this what we want for Fundy Shores? I hope and pray not!

Please take this to heart before you trash this newsletter and say not me. We all have a few spare hours, and many hands make light work. If you're not sure or have questions, please contact me or one of the board members. We cannot let this branch of 1140 members go.

Thank you  
Lorraine Scott  
President Branch 65  
Fundy Shores  
[MIscott55@gmail.com](mailto:MIscott55@gmail.com)  
Home 506 849 2430  
Cell 506 608 4796