

"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale." Lauren DeStefano in her book *Wither*

**NEARTA: Northeastern Alberta
Retired Teachers' Association**

**September 2025
Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 3**

September Meeting Highlights

*Election of the 2025-2026 NEARTA Executive. Thanks to Paul Boisvert for chairing the election of officers. See inside for more.

*Newly elected President Roy Ripkens presented his report: Review of the ARTA Board of Director's September Meeting.

*Discussion of the role of NEARTA in social action and advocacy.

*Discussion of the NEARTA Constitution and possible updates.

*Discussion of topics for future Guest Speakers.

*Guest Speakers, Lionel and Gloria Campeau, presented on the *Forever Canadian* petition, its goals, progress and successes. *Thank you for the information!*



Your NEARTA Newsletter is produced four times per year. If you have suggestions please send them to the NEARTA email (northeasternarta@gmail.com)

Contact us!

Email: northeasternarta@gmail.com

Website: <https://artabranches.net/nearta/>

Follow Us on Facebook:

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

Come to the next NEARTA Meeting: Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 11:00 a.m. at the Glendon Seniors' Centre.

See you there!



NEARTA, provides an opportunity for friends and colleagues to meet, enjoy activities together, and pursue a healthy lifestyle.

NEARTA activities offer social connectedness, an avenue for retired teachers to remain in contact with their colleagues, enjoy meals, benefit from speaker presentations, encourage and participate in community volunteerism, and have fun!



ARTA Mission:

"ARTA supports an engaged lifestyle after retirement through member-centred services, advocacy, communication, wellness and leadership."



Thank you!

**The NEARTA 2025-2026
Executive elected at the September 16, 2025 Meeting**

⇒ **President - Roy Ripkens**

⇒ **Vice-President - Suzanne (Zan) Reilly**

⇒ **Treasurer - John Orr**

⇒ **Secretary / Communications - Richard Cameron**

⇒ **Past President - Larry Lambert**

Thank you. We looking forward to working with you!



Thank you and Best Wishes to Larry Lambert, Long Time NEARTA President!

NEARTA thanks Larry for his years of exemplary service to ARTA and NEARTA. Larry will continue to serve NEARTA as the Past President sharing his knowledge and experience.

Larry became involved with ARTA and NEARTA in the year 2000. He became the NEARTA Branch president 16 years ago. Larry retired from St. Paul Education in 1994. During his career Larry was an active ATA member and served as the ATA Local president.

At the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association Annual General Meeting in Edmonton in October 2024, Larry received Honourary Lifetime Membership in ARTA.

Larry and his family have been involved in building the St. Paul community since moving there in 1974. Larry and his family built a wonderful life in St. Paul. He and his wife Louise raised their children and watched their family grow. Since moving to St. Paul, they continued to be active community members, contributing to making lives better in many ways.

As Larry said in his own words, "Gratitude is a feeling of appreciation for a kindness or favour received. I believe that it is more than that. It is an attitude, a way of thinking and a way of living." NEARTA is grateful to you, Larry! Thank you.



**Thanksgiving Day
Monday, October 13th.**

**Some Ways to Express
Our Thanks**

- ◆ Write thank-you notes, especially to those you wish to thank in your community.
- ◆ Create a gratitude tree with leaves to hand and share the things we are grateful for.
- ◆ Volunteer for a local charity.
- ◆ Perform random acts of kindness.
- ◆ Express appreciation to someone in person.
- ◆ Invite someone to join your meal.
- ◆ Give thanks to the land that we live on and to all those who walked the land before us.
- ◆ Engage in conversations about gratitude with your family and friends.
- ◆ Gratitude, generosity, good food, and family are a wonderful way of saying thank you at Thanksgiving.



Winter Backyard Birds

from the *Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC)*

Many bird species choose to stay in Alberta throughout the winter. There are a few things you can do to help ensure the health and safety of your neighborhood birds throughout the winter months.

Clean your feeders:

Feeders give winter birds an easy food source and an opportunity for you to enjoy their presence in your yard. Moldy seed and droppings left in and around feeders can cause illness and spread diseases. Clean and rinse regularly to keep feeders safe for healthy birds.

Avoid heated bird

baths: Heated bird baths pose a significant risk in cold weather. Open water signifies to birds that it's warm enough to bathe in, but once they've left the water, it can quickly freeze on their legs and feathers affecting their ability to fly. Winter birds are well adapted to the weather and eat snow for hydration when needed.

Provide bird friendly

food: Birds need high fat content food to maintain their energy. Black sunflower seeds and suet are excellent winter food choices for birds.

by Carley Goodreau

-Retrieved September 21, 2025 from <https://www.aiwc.ca/blog/winter-backyard-birds/>



The Alberta Municipal Election is October 20, 2025

Impact of Trustees and School Boards

(Retrieved September 26, 2025 from Alberta School Boards Association: <https://www.asba.ab.ca/municipal-elections#FastFacts>)

Public, Catholic and Francophone school boards are crucial decision-making bodies that support the success of students across Alberta. Trustees are locally-elected representatives serving on these school boards, each playing a critical role in shaping the future of public education.

Facts about Locally-Elected School Boards

1. Governed by trustees who are elected by, and accountable to, their communities including parents/guardians.
2. Offer a wide range of program choices including internationally recognized options.
3. Collectively manage more than \$7 billion in public funds.
4. Prioritize fiscal prudence and maintain transparency to ensure public funds are used effectively.
5. Support the success of more than 700,000 students.
6. Welcome all students, regardless of background or circumstance.
7. Promote public education as key to a strong democracy.
8. Make local decisions that better reflect community needs.

Alberta Municipalities: Running for Municipal Office

Retrieved September 26, 2025 from ABmunis: <https://www.abmunis.ca/advocacy-priorities/spotlight/running-municipal-office>

1. **Becoming a municipal elected official is a significant responsibility, one that plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of local communities.**
2. **These officials can make decisions that impact everything from infrastructure and budgeting to economic development and the delivery of essential municipal services.**
3. **As the voices of their community, councillors ensure that the concerns and needs of their municipality are heard and addressed.**
4. **Their decisions can directly enhance the quality of life for residents, whether through improving public services, fostering economic growth, or creating a more inclusive, equitable community.**



Happy Thanksgiving!

"Wishing you the happiness of good friends, the joy of a happy family, and a wonderful Fall Season."

Have a beautiful Thanksgiving!



It's Harvest Season!

"A garden overflowing with blessings, a testament to nature's generosity and the gardener's care."



NEARTA Membership

It is time to re-new your membership or to join NEARTA. Annual memberships are valid from September 1st to August 31st. NEARTA Membership is \$10.00 / year. For the NEARTA Membership Form, go to:
<https://shorturl.at/PZgJV>

For more information about joining ARTA, go to:

<https://www.arta.net/join>

Forever Canadian is a citizen initiated petition giving Albertans a clear, democratic voice to affirm if they believe that Alberta belongs in Canada.



Why this petition?

Growing talk of Alberta separation is creating uncertainty, driving away talent, chilling investment, and dividing communities.

This petition is how Albertans give a clear, democratic answer, that we remain in Canada.

A strong result reduces uncertainty, restores stability, and brings focus to practical solutions that move Alberta forward.

The Alberta's Citizen Initiative process is to place a simple, unifying question before voters.

What is the Question?

Do you agree that Alberta should remain in Canada?

How the Citizen Initiative Works

- ◇ To qualify, organizers must collect nearly 300,000 verified signatures in 90 days. This takes thousands of volunteers, many public signing locations, and clear information for the public.
- ◇ Volunteers register to help collect signatures following Elections Alberta rules.
- ◇ Eligible Alberta voters sign the petition in person with their name and address as they appear on the voter list.
- ◇ Signatures are verified and submitted to Elections Alberta.
- ◇ If the threshold is met within the time limit, a referendum question can proceed.

**This information is from the "Forever Canadian" website (retrieved September 19, 2025)*

<https://www.forever-canadian.ca/about>

"If you know a teacher—past or present—thank them.

Not with an apple. Not with a mug.

Thank them with your eyes.

Your voice.

Your respect.

Because in a world that continues to move on and change ...

Teachers stay.

Teachers stand.

And teachers remember every child this world tried to forget."

"We meet many students throughout the years, they all leave a lasting impression. We thank them for being an unforgettable part of our lives and careers."

