

**Briefing Notes of Regular Meeting of  
PARKLAND AREA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (PARTA)  
December 10, 2024**

**Statement of Welcome**

President, Iona Robertson, welcomed all members and guests present. She introduced and welcomed ARTA representatives and special guests, Gary Sawatzky and Amanda Shaw. She acknowledged that we are meeting on Treaty 6 and 8 First Nations land.

**President's Report**

- **ATA Local 10 Monthly Meeting** - Bill Fraser and the President attended the meeting on December 4. Plans are ongoing for the new Highschool to be built in Spruce Grove.
- **ARTA/PARTA Membership** - Please ensure that your ARTA and PARTA annual memberships are up to date. ARTA will do online registration and e-transfers.
- The President attended the **ARTA Board of Directors Meeting** on November 26 and 27. She presented a proposal for consideration to the Board to discontinue the practice of gifting the members of the Board. The idea promoted much discussion and will be considered in future meetings.
- **Information from ARTA:**
  - The Charitable Foundation is in excess of \$9 M.
  - ARTA employs 70 employees, including those in Calgary.
  - ARTA experienced much growth in 2023-24.
  - There are 3000 ARTARx members.
  - The average age of ARTA members is 70 years.
  - It requires 25 members to create an ARTA Branch.

**Presentation**

ARTA representatives, Gary Sawatzky and Amanda Shaw responded to questions from our members regarding recent health care premium increases. Gary noted the increases are due to inflation and utilization and that increases to premiums are the only way to deal with this. Higher demands are being made on our health care with no increase in supply. In some cases, the government is not covering the cost for large cost increases for dental procedures and for new drugs and vaccines, one example of which is the RSV Vaccine. A question was put forward regarding overaged or disabled dependents. It was suggested that Dependent Member Services would be the appropriate department to contact.

**Announcements**

- PARTA has received the Branch Grant in the amount of \$1 340.00.
- There will be a breakfast for the January 14, 2025 meeting. Following the breakfast, we will discuss the topic of how to prepare an AHS Medical "Green Sleeve" and an Emergency Evacuation Kit.
- Check your emails for Cost of Living (COLA) Adjustments for your 2025 Pension.
- The President noted the passing of one of our colleagues.

The following dates are reserved for upcoming PARTA meetings:

January 14, 2025	February 11, 2025
March 11, 2025	April 8, 2025
May 13, 2025	June 10, 2025 (AGM)

Meeting adjourned.