

## Bulletin to Branches 2010-04

April 28, 2010

### Regional visits continue

The month of April has seen me traveling to Nova Scotia, where on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> the Regional meeting took place. The National Director (ND) for Nova Scotia, Paul Cadeau (Left in photo), was also in attendance. The exchanges were many and very fruitful. The branch presidents elected Allan MacIntyre (Right) as their new ND and he will replace Paul Cadeau, immediately after Congress. Paul is retiring after many years of service to FSNA in different capacities.



I was also invited to the Regional Meeting in Manitoba. The meeting was held in Brandon on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Stan Hrabarchuk (Right), National President and Joe Sanderson, ND for Manitoba, were in attendance. All the branches were represented and the discussion was extremely interesting and lively.



Terry Gunlaugson (Left), newly elected President of the Western Manitoba Branch, invited all the Regional Meeting attendees to the branch AGM in Brandon. There were over 50 members in attendance and the information was very well received.

I would like to thank Peter Kerr, RSO for Nova Scotia, Peter Cliche, RSO for Manitoba, and Terry Gunlaugson for making these meetings possible.

### National Board of Directors (NBOD) meeting

The NBOD met in Ottawa from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. The agenda for this meeting was intense and required extended meeting hours. Among the most important issues were: policy framework, proposed 2010 by-laws, reports of the standing committees and discussion on Congress 2010, including resolutions. We are aiming to distribute the meeting minutes with the May Bulletin to Branches.

## Appointment to PSPIB Nominating Committee

The President of the Treasury Board, Stockwell Day, appointed National President Stan Hrabarchuk as the pensioners' representative on the Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSPIB) Nominating Committee. This group is responsible for identifying qualified candidates for proposed appointment to the PSPIB Board of Directors. Stan succeeds Dennis Jackson, whose five-year term had expired.

## Bill Mullen remembered



Bill Mullen, former FSNA National Secretary-Treasurer, former President of the Ottawa Branch, and former Regional Director for Ottawa/St. Lawrence, passed away on April 11, 2010. Bill was a very valued member of FSNA. He worked tirelessly to make major contributions to the successes achieved by the Association as a whole. All his friends and colleagues at FSNA extend their deepest condolences to Margaret Mullen, children, grand and great-grand children and extended family. Bill will be deeply missed.

## Alterna Bank partnership comes to an end

In early 2008, FSNA and Alterna Bank partnered to offer a financial planning/banking affinity program on a trial basis to members within the boundaries of the Toronto, Ottawa and subsequently Fraser Valley West branches. The trial period was to allow Alterna Bank to gauge the success of the program and to determine the feasibility of offering this service throughout Canada.

Alterna Bank has recently completed its in-depth research, including an FSNA member survey, a market segment potential and an evaluation of the FSNA member business generated since the launch of our trial partnership. The findings from this research indicate that Alterna is not in a position to profitably expand the FSNA affinity partnership on a national basis. Alterna Bank and FSNA will therefore end their partnership and this FSNA affinity program will no longer be available after April 30, 2010.

Alterna will however continue to serve and honor all existing agreements made with FSNA members who had opted to do business with the Bank. In the event that you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bob Brunet at [brunet@fsna.com](mailto:brunet@fsna.com).

## Tape receipts to travel claims

**Action** All those submitting travel claim forms to the National Office for reimbursement are requested to tape small and loose receipts either to the back of the claim form or a separate sheet. This will help to prevent small and loose items from being separated from the claim during processing and scanning. However, faxed or e-mailed claims and receipts are preferred as always. If you wish to fax or e-mail a claim, please **do not** submit the original copies.

## Quarterly remittance of dues by branches

**Action** This is a reminder that FSNA By-laws require branches to submit on a quarterly basis the national portion of any membership dues collected by branches.

## Dental coverage for those living in long term care/residential facilities

The PDSP and the PSHCP offer coverage for eligible dental care and services regardless of place of residence. However, dental care may be provided for seniors or low-income seniors in long term care facilities or residential facilities as per each provincial/territorial legislation. Legislation varies from province to province and in fact from region to region.

“...The Pensioners’ Dental Services Plan (PDSP) is intended to provide coverage to eligible pensioners for specific dental services and supplies that are not covered under a provincial or territorial health or dental care plan.”

PDSP Rules (April 1, 2006)

**Where** to claim the amounts not covered under a provincial/territorial health or dental plan will depend on whether the expenses were for oral surgery or for accidental injury.

“...If a member is covered under the Public Service Dental Care Plan, the Pensioners’ Dental Services Plan, the RCMP Dependents Dental Care Plan, or the CF Dependents Dental Care Plan, claims for expenses for **oral surgery** should **first be submitted to that [dental] plan**. Any amount not covered by that plan may be submitted to the PSHCP. (amended September 8, 2006)”

PSHCP Directive (April 1, 2006)

“...If a member is covered under the Public Service Dental Plan, the Pensioners’ Dental Services Plan, the RCMP Dependents Dental Care Plan, or the CF Dependents Dental Care Plan, claims for expenses for **accidental injury** should **first be submitted to the PSHCP**. (amended September 8, 2006)”

PSHCP Directive (April 1, 2006)

### FSNA at 50

In 2013, FSNA will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.  
Plans for this momentous event must get underway.  
Branches are invited to send their suggestions for the festivities to take place during Congress 2013, which will be held in Ottawa, to me at **sceacero@fsna.com**.  
Thank you everyone for your participation.

## **Congress '10 packages**

By April 9, packages of official Congress documents were mailed to all participants, (branch presidents or their representatives, NBOD members, PAOs, RSOs and observers/spouses), so that they would be received by the April 15 deadline.

The documentation included:

- the Preliminary Program for Congress,
- a short report from the *Ad hoc* Nominating Committee,
- the 2010 Proposed By-laws and a briefing note about how this discussion will be handled at Congress, and
- some 30 resolutions that were submitted for consideration at Congress.

The packages were mailed to the addresses that participants provided when registering for Congress. If you have not yet received the binder, contact Melanie Hudson at [mhudson@fsna.com](mailto:mhudson@fsna.com).

## **Advocacy initiatives**

Please find attached the summary of advocacy initiatives undertaken in March. FSNA is legally required through the Lobbying Act to register our advocacy meetings with public office holders within the Government of Canada when paid staff are involved. These submissions are available to the public online at [https://ocl-cal.gc.ca/app/secure/orl/lrrs/do/login?language=en\\_CA](https://ocl-cal.gc.ca/app/secure/orl/lrrs/do/login?language=en_CA). To check out where and when FSNA has been promoting the rights and interests of our members, open the link then:

- Click the button titled, “Registry of Lobbyists” on the left side of the web page
- Click on “Search Monthly Communications Reports”
- Enter the words Federal Superannuates National Association under “Client, Organization, or Corporation Association with the Communication” within the Communications Report Search
- Press enter

There you will find a detailed listing of FSNA advocacy meetings with Public Office Holders in 2010.

## **National office closed**

The national office will be closed on Monday, May 24 for Victoria Day.


## **ON GUARD summer 2010 deadlines**

**Action** The deadlines for the summer 2010 branch report information to arrive at the National Office are: Friday 30 April Membership changes (for non WMS branches)  
Friday 7 May Branch Reports

The expected delivery period to members is 7 – 18 June 2010.

Reports can be sent by e-mail to Françoise Gauthier (**[gauthier@fsna.com](mailto:gauthier@fsna.com)**). Please include the **branch code** (i.e. NB64) as well as the **branch name** (i.e. Moncton) in the message **subject** window.

If you have not received an acknowledgement reply within two working days, call her or send her another e-mail, as this could indicate there was a transmission problem.



Sylvia Ceacero, MBA, MA  
Executive Director

Attachments:

Summary of advocacy initiatives undertaken in March

## Tracking FSNA's Advocacy across Canada March 2010

ED = Executive Director  
LTC = Long Term Care  
NBOD = National Board of Directors  
ND = National Director

PAO = Provincial Advocacy Officer  
PDSP = Pensioner's Dental Service Plan  
PS = Public Service  
PSHCP = Public Service Health Care Plan

RSO = Regional Services Officer  
SDB = Supplementary Death Benefit  
SR = Standing Resolution

Date	Issue	Means	Stakeholders	FSNA Advocate	Outcome
1 mars	<i>Âgisme</i> <i>Bail de location des retraités</i> <i>Maltraitance</i> <i>Droit de mourir dans la dignité</i>	Rencontre de la Ministre des Aînés + Réunion du G-15	Ministère de la famille et des aînés, Conseil des Aînés Sous-comité d'éthique sur le vieillissement et les changements démographiques	Directeur National (DN) Agent de liaison provincial (ALP)	Un avis du conseil des aînés sur l'âgisme est prévu en mars Adéquation à faire avec le code civil du Québec et la pratique actuelle sur les baux de location aux aînés. Mémoire du sous-comité d'éthique sur le vieillissement aux audiences sur le droit de mourir dans la dignité
Mar 16	Placements for Nursing Home beds	Meeting	Secretary of State for Seniors for NB	PAO for NB	Establishment of a partnership to create new Nursing Home Beds in 2010. A \$400 million capital renewal and replacement plan to create 700 new Nursing Home Beds over 10 years.
Mar 16	The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society and in particular Seniors.	Meeting and Consultation	Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Senior's Secretariat	PAO ON and NU	FSNA will be asked to participate in a future meeting.
Mar 16	Seniors Housing	Meeting	Secretary of State for Seniors, NB	PAO for NB	Possibility of a group or committee being formed to come up with some workable solutions.
Mar 18	Inclusion of drugs on formulary and seniors oral care	Group of IX Meeting	Researcher, Manager of Pharmacare Administration, NS Department of Health	PAO NS	A Chief Dental Officer position has been established for the first time and will be responsible for oral health care for seniors.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>FSNA Advocate</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Mar 19	Marriage after age 60, immediate indexation of pensions, coordination with CPP, annual benefit statement for pensioners	Meeting	Policy Advisor, Minister's Office, Department of National Defence (DND)	National President, ED, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Senior Research & Communications Officer	Receptive to pursue work on the marriage date-related restriction and to the provision of a personalized annual statement of benefits to pensioners.
Mar 25	Pension services	Meeting	Public Service Pension Advisory Committee (PSPAC)	Pensioners representative on PSPAC & Senior Research & Communications Officer	Very receptive to reduce telephone waiting times for member queries.
Mar 25	Marriage after retirement/age 60; Public Sector Pension Investment Board; Administrative services to superannuation members	Meeting	President of the Treasury Board; Assistant Secretary Pensions and Benefits Sector; Director of Parliamentary Affairs	National President, ED, Senior Research & Communications Officer and the Health Care Research & Advocacy Officer	A letter was received on Mar 30, 2010 from the President of the Treasury Board re endeavouring to look at the feasibility of offering annual statements of benefits for pensioners.
Mar 29	Proposed Alberta's Seniors' Drug Plan	Meeting	Minister of Health and Wellness and the Executive Director Pharmaceutical Funding and Guidance	ND and RSO for AB and 2 VP Red Deer Branch	Commitment to look into how premiums are determined for seniors.  The Minister suggested contact with the Parliamentary Assistant to Seniors to determine how FSNA can participate in the development of an

Date	Issue	Means	Stakeholders	FSNA Advocate	Outcome
					<p>Alberta Health Care Act.</p> <p><b>Media Release March 31, 2010:</b>  The Government of Alberta announced that the proposed changes to Alberta's seniors' drug plan scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2010, have been delayed in order to address necessary legislative and regulatory changes and align with other government programs for seniors.</p>
Mar 31	Proposed New Retirement Home Act for Ontario	Special Consultation Meeting	Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Senior's Secretariat; and her Staff, Project Manager, Ministry of Health Staff	PAO ON and NU	Bill 21 should be passed into Law by Summer 2010.
Mar 31	Elder Abuse	Co-Chaired Meeting of PEI World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Committee	PEI Seniors Secretariat	PAO PE	