

## Bulletin to Branches 2010-05

May 26, 2010

### **Executive Director: cross country tour report**

My cross-country tour to visit the branches and membership of FSNA continued in late April with an invitation to address the Ottawa Branch's Annual General Meeting (AGM). I then attended and spoke at the Québec Branch's AGM.

From there, I was invited to the Alberta/NWT Regional Meeting in Lethbridge, Alberta. Next stop was a Regional Meeting in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

From there, I headed to Saint John, New Brunswick for the Regional Conference. The following day, I attended the Montreal Branch's AGM. Next, I went to St. John's, Newfoundland, for the Regional Meeting. The last stop in this phase of my tour found me in Trenton, for the Eastern Ontario Regional Meeting.

This has been a very exciting whirlwind of a tour that has seen me crossing many time zones. I got to have first-hand encounters with numerous branch executives and many of our members. The topics of discussion have been varied; the discussions have been passionate and sometimes heated. Above all, one fact stands out to me: the dedication of the volunteers who administer the affairs of the branches for the benefit of the membership.

I am now back in Ottawa, finalizing the last details of Congress 2010. I look forward to seeing you in June. I'm also starting to plan a continuation of my tour in the fall.



Some of the branch executive members who attended the Québec Branch's AGM.



Red Deer Branch delegates took part in the Alberta/NWT Regional Meeting, in Lethbridge.



Southern Alberta Branch delegates and volunteers hosted the Alberta/NWT Regional Meeting, in Lethbridge.



The grandchildren of Prince Albert Branch President Maurice Lafond provided much appreciated entertainment to those attending the Saskatchewan Regional Meeting.



Branch representatives who attended the New Brunswick Regional Conference held in early May, in Rothesay.



Members of the Montréal Branch executive who attended the branch's AGM.



Members of the Newfoundland and Labrador branches shared a meal during the Regional Meeting held in St. John's.



Regional Services Officer, Eastern Ontario, Anne Clapperton, took part in the Regional Meeting held in Trenton.

## **Appeal of the verdict of the pension surplus court case**

On April 19 and 20, Richard Poersch, FSNA National Director for Ontario, attended the hearings of the appeal of the verdict of the pension surplus court case. He reports that at the proceedings, held at the Ontario Court of Appeal in Toronto, our lawyers did a very good job of representing members' interests. However, the hearings also went well at the original trial but in the end, the verdict was not favourable. Therefore, let us not create false hopes. And let us not forget that if a favourable verdict is rendered, the only effect it will have would be a return of the \$30 billion surplus back to the superannuation accounts.

The outcome of the appeal will be known only when the appeal judges have finished reviewing the case and render their ultimate verdict, a process which usually takes several months.

## **National Board of Directors Minutes**

The minutes of the March 2010 NBOD meeting are enclosed.

## **Congress '10 packages**

By May 21, a second package of official Congress documents was mailed to all participants, (branch presidents or their representatives, NBOD members, PAOs, RSOs and observers/spouses). Like the previous package, it was mailed by TriCo Group Inc. on behalf of FSNA. As per the instructions enclosed, this new material is to be inserted into the binder sent earlier in April. The package includes:

- Updated Index and Program
- National President's Report
- Briefing Note on Core Services and Funding for Branches
- Briefing Note on CPP Vertical Expansion and Explanatory Paper
- Report on Advocacy and Standing Resolutions
- Biographical notes on Micheline Danis Bisailon, who will make a presentation on the PSHCP Benefit Card
- Election candidates' biographical profiles
- National Office Organization Chart.

The packages were mailed to the addresses that participants provided when registering for Congress. If by June 1<sup>st</sup> you have not received this new set of documents to be inserted into your binder, contact Melanie Hudson at **[mhudson@fsna.com](mailto:mhudson@fsna.com)**.

## **Advocacy initiatives**

Please find attached the summary of advocacy initiatives undertaken in April.

## AlarmCare

FSNA is pleased to welcome AlarmCare as its newest affinity partner. AlarmCare is a Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) designed to help anyone live independently and securely in their homes. If assistance is needed, a simple push of the help button will immediately send an emergency signal. Installation is free and the service regularly costs \$28 per month. FSNA members are being offered a special price of only \$25 per month for the first three months. More details on this addition to FSNA's affinity programs will be in the summer issue of ON GUARD.

## ON GUARD fall 2010 deadlines

**Action** The deadlines for the fall 2010 branch report information to arrive at the National Office are: Friday 20 August Membership changes (for non WMS branches)  
Friday 27 August Branch Reports

The expected delivery period to members is 27 September – 3 December 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:

NBOD March 2010 minutes ([Click here to download](#))  
Summary of advocacy initiatives undertaken in April

### 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](mailto:sceacero@fsna.com).

Thank you everyone for your participation.



**Tracking FSNA's Advocacy across Canada  
April 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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>FSNA Advocate</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Apr 9	Support for caregivers, the Aging At Home Strategy, Retirement Homes Act- Bill 21	Meeting	Senior Advisory Committee on Long Term Care	PAO ON & NU	The Long Term Care Homes Act 2007 has received royal assent. Parts of the Act come into force in July 2010.  Bill 21 in ON received second reading and the Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy.
Apr 9	Seniors issues including health care, finances, housing, transportation, lack of sufficient care facilities	Meeting	Minister of State (Seniors)	PAO for SK	
Apr 15	Resolution read in the NS House of Assembly thanking the Group of IX for their representation of Seniors.	Meeting	NS Minister of Health	PAO for NS, as a member of the Group of IX	

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Apr 15	NS Budget Update and Personal Directives Act (PDA)	Meeting	Group of IX	PAO for NS	PDA proclaimed on April 1, 2010.
Apr 15	Strategy to move forward to raise awareness with government officials re priority seniors' issues	Teleconference	CNSO Executive Committee	ED, Senior Research & Communications Officer, Health Care Research & Advocacy Officer	
Apr 15	Seniors issues	Meeting	ED and staff of the Seniors Healthy Living Secretariat	ND & PAO for BC	
Apr 19	Seniors living in poverty	AGM meeting	Canadian Pensioner's Concerned and the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly	PAO ON & NU	
Apr 19-21	Pension surplus – Monitoring court hearings of the appeal process	Court hearings	Ontario Court of Appeal Judges (3)	ND for ON	
Apr 26	Elder Abuse	Meeting	PE Seniors Secretariat	PAO PE	