

Patricia's April Message

In the movies, April is always depicted as a romantic, breezy, warm showers-new blossoms kind of month, and I think we all view this start of spring in the same way! We look forward to earlier sun rises...yes, we expect to see the sun more frequently, enjoy the warming winds and, of course, those first buds of spring. More importantly, we welcome that surge of energy that accompanies Spring, that desire to 'get out ' and enjoy the weather! We at NSGREA continue to push forward, bringing some new ideas to life, undertaking some new initiatives that will blossom with new opportunities, and just like everyone else, look at chances to do some spring cleaning! May the April showers bring you happiness and joy, may those first buds of spring signal the start of a great season of sun and blue skies, and may spring breezes blow gently in your life as we celebrate this wonderful change of season.

Key Messages:

Over 60% have now paid their membership fee of \$35.00 Thank you!! We look forward to receiving payment from those remaining, at your earliest convenience. If you have an email address, your renewal package would have arrived via email in December. Our membership year is from January to December. Once we get closer to 100%, we will begin the search for a new office – without stairs!!

Annual Convention to be held Monday, September 21st at the NSGEU building, 255 John Savage Avenue in Burnside.

A note about your receipt. It is not actually a tax receipt. You will see that no where on it does it state that. We are a voluntary association of Retirees. We are not a Union with mandatory dues or a Professional body with Professional Standards. We have been told that many of you submit it with your taxes and nothing has been said. So, I leave it with you.

We have talked about enhancing our funds so we can do more for and with you, so we have embarked on a fundraising activity, Rafflebox. There will be more detail in my May Greeting!

I trust you have all had a good Easter despite the weather. We are pleased to let you know that we have completed the mailout of 2026 Membership Cards and 2025 Receipts. If you have not received yours, please let us know – 902 865-5050 (I double checked to make sure I got it right this time!!) or 1 800 -677-8666. You can also email us at office@nsgrea.ca

We were very pleased with our Pension and Benefits Rep , Fred Morley's presentation to the Public Bills Committee on the concerns we have around the Public Service Superannuation Plan (PSSP) and the Government's approval to extend the review period from 5 to 7 years. This **does not** impact the 5-year review for Cost-of-Living increases. What it does impact, is our ability to challenge aspects of the plan

which require changes in legislation to bring it in line with other Public Service Plans across the country. No other province waits 5 years for a cost-of-living review. There is more information on our website if you would like to explore our actions further.

The Provincial Executive will be voting to accept or reject the unaddressed Resolutions not dealt with at the Convention. There will be an update next month.

We will now be getting into 'Resolution Season' when we begin developing our ideas to bring to Convention 2026. Please be thinking of anything you would like to change or add to our Constitution and Bylaws or our activities and operations. We are going to encourage greater participation across the province, so anyone interested can contribute. The Provincial Executive will be meeting with the Regional Presidents or their designates this week and we will be creating ways to make this happen.

We have also begun work on the development of a strategic plan for the Association. This will also be discussed at the meeting later this week and then reviewed with you. We are anxious to hear your ideas about what you want from NSGREAA.

Well, that is enough for this month. Next month there should be updates on the progress on the new website, ways to contribute to the Strategic Plan and to the Resolution process and the introduction of Rafflebox.

Have a great month!!

Patricia