

Meeting of the Seniors' Advisory Council of Nova Scotia Minutes
Meeting of the Seniors' Advisory Council of Nova Scotia
Thursday, February 27, 2020 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
1894 Barrington Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2A8
Halifax, NS

ATTENDANCE:

Present:

Ron Swan, *CARP Nova Scotia Chapter*
Bill Berryman, *Retired Teachers Organization*
Alyson Hillier, *Retired Teachers Organization*
Bernard Conrad, *Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association*
Helen MacDonnell, *Community Links*
Carol Rogers, *Community Links*
Peter Kerr, *National Association of Federal Retirees*
Richard Malin, *Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia /Nunavut Command*
Simon d'Entremont, *Department of Seniors*
Claude Renaud, *Regroupement des Aines de la Nouvelle Ecosse*
Alma Johnston-Tynes, *Federation of Senior Citizens*
Michelle Langille, *National Association of Federal Retirees*
Faizal Nanji, *Department of Seniors*
Phil Bagnell, *Senior and Retired Doctors Section of Doctors Nova Scotia*

Regrets:

Terry Donovan, *Federation of Senior Citizens*
Ernestine Gouthro, *Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association*
Bill VanGorder, *CARP Nova Scotia Chapter*
Margaret Casey, *Senior and Retired Doctors Section of Doctors Nova Scotia*
Veronique Legault, *Regroupement des Aînés de la Nouvelle-Ecosse*
Paula Wedge, *CARP Nova Scotia Chapter*

Welcome and Call to Order: Bill B. called the meeting to order.

Additions/Adoption of the Agenda: There were no additions to the agenda.

Moved by Claude Renaud, seconded by Bernie Conrad.

MOTION CARRIED

Adoption of the January 23, 2020 Minutes:

Moved by Alma Johnston-Tynes, seconded by Phil Bagnell MOTION CARRIED

Action Items – Lyndsay to add Ron Swan to the attendees list from January meeting.

Business Arising from Minutes

- A) Still waiting a response from Minister Delorey to the letter of January 26, 2020
- B) Faizal updated the group re: Bill Greenlaw meeting. Representatives from Volunteer NS will be present at March meeting.
- C) Bill updated the group on the NSHA Mental Health and Addictions Program Website with Helen as a follow up – 500 people have completed the survey.
- D) Bill updated the group on the Engaging Nova Scotia: Measuring What Happens Survey. Hoping to have Danny Graham come and speak to the group at a future time.
- E) Peter sent information on Jennie Herbins' address to the Department of Seniors. Bill updated the group on the Deprescribing Network and hoping to have Dr. Cheryl Smith come and speak to the group in March.

Treasurer's Report

Claude updated the group. No change in balance. The three signing officers were asked to go to the Government Employees Credit Union office and sign documents to allow Claude to write cheques.

Update from the Department of Seniors

SHIFT 2.0: Simon updated the group. He hopes to have a formal presentation to the group soon. Communities, Cultures and Heritage is getting money for, "Let's Get Moving". Social Innovation Lab has extended funding for a fifth cohort.

Silver Economy Summit: Will take place in May 19th and 20th, 2020 at Acadia University. Deputy Minister agreed to fund accommodation and travel for some members to attend.

Age-Friendly Recognition Program: Launch will be in early March with an in-person event to follow at some point.

Federal/provincial/territorial Ministers of Seniors Forum: Bill updated the group regarding Elizabeth Haggart's presentation in January.

Bill passed out a hardcopy of the NSCC Middleton program which inspires a provincial rollout of the community-based seniors' day program at NSCC campuses.

Deputy Minister and Bill spoke on Budget 2020-2021 which was provided at the Budget "Lockup" on February 25, 2020.

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities All Party Committee on Capped Property Tax Assessment Program

Ron provided information on his presentation to the All-Party Committee on January 30, 2020.

Council members wish to have guest speakers provide information on the pros and cons of removing the CAP before formulating an opinion on behalf of Council members.

Action: Bill will write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Ron will provide some background information to Bill.

Request from Barb Adams, PC Critic for Seniors, Home Care and Long-Term Care

The Council members agreed not to meet with Barb Adams as the group is an advisory body to the provincial government and could be in conflict if meeting members of the opposition parties.

Non-employee Statement of Expenses

Faizal and Lyndsay gave brief update on why the finance department requires original receipts for expenses. The Department of Seniors will cover the cost of postage when expenses are mailed in.

Alzheimer Awareness Breakfast January 30, 2020

Alma reported that over 300 people attended the very informative breakfast. Guest speakers were Dr. Chris MacKnight, Head of the Division of Geriatric Medicine; Marilyn Taylor, a Board Member living with dementia and Dr. Wanda MacDonald, Manager of Alzheimer Services in Nova Scotia. Dr. MacKnight emphasized the need for early detection and care following the diagnosis. Marilyn spoke on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms for persons living with Alzheimer Disease. Dr. MacDonald provided information and programs that are available to the public by the Alzheimer Society and indicated there are eight caregivers centres in HRM.

NS Department of Justice on-line survey for family property law

Bill reminded members that this survey was looking for feedback on how family property is divided at the end of marriage or registered domestic partnership.

Food costs impacting seniors

Peter and Richard spoke on how large grocery stores are pricing goods that are discriminatory for seniors' needs and habits. A guest speaker on the Mobile Food Market will be invited to speak at a future meeting.

Meeting with Federal Minister of Seniors Deb Schulte

Bill spoke to the Minister on February 11, 2020 on a National Senior Strategy. She indicated government is working on a Dementia Strategy, which is coming into place. Bill also spoke about those who want to continue working beyond 65, rural transportation, recreational programs for seniors and retirement income.

Script Talk Audible Prescription Labels

Bill spoke to this and passed out a document. Ron spoke on the program provided by the Sobeys pharmacies and provided documents for the Council members.

Nursing Homes of NS Association: Designing the Future of Care Conference April 22-24, 2020

Bill will send information on the conference to Council members who might wish to attend.

New Business

1. National Pharmacare program – Bill spoke on the two documents he sent to members from the Canadian Health Coalition.
2. Update on High Dose Flu Vaccine - Ron has received information from Dr. Shelly McNeil and will provide it to Bill.

Roundtable

CARP, NS Chapter – Ron updated the Group. Finance meeting coming up. There is an ABCs of Fraud meeting in April. AGM is in May at the Atlantica Hotel and a summer social takes place in July.

Retired Teachers Organization – Bill and Alyson updated the group. AGM will be on May 21, 2020

Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association – No updates

Royal Canadian Legion - Richard updated the group. Executive Council meeting took place this past week.

Federation of Senior Citizens and Pensioners – Alma updated the group, AGM is on April 29-30, 2020 in Truro.

Senior and Retired Doctors Section of Doctor's Nova Scotia – Phil updated the group. Fountain of Health's funding is coming to an end at the end of March. Margaret and Phil went to Doctors Nova Scotia for new funding.

Community Links – Helen updated the group, AGM is in June. Carol also updated the group, mentioning that there are five new board members.

National Association of Federal Retirees – Michelle updated the group.

Regroupment des Aines de la Nouvelle-Ecosse – Claude updated the group, AGM in September.

Documentation:

Sydney surgeon new deputy minister

NS has highest rates of food insecurity

Wheels off health-care cart again

Social Isolation and Loneliness can Affect Seniors' Health

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Bernie Conrad and seconded by Alyson Hillier MOTION CARRIED

***Future Meetings:** March 26, 2020