

## ***Getting to Know Our RTO...***



***Up Close and Personal!***

***Who are we?***



**Retired Teachers Organization of  
the NSTU**

**7400 retired teachers from across the province  
who enjoy membership in an organization  
that recognizes and supports our  
professional and personal connections.  
Membership is open to all recipients of a  
Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension.**







## Our Mission Statement

The RTO is the official body representing the retired teachers of Nova Scotia and will **advance, promote and protect the welfare of its members.**



## A Provincial Voice for Retired Teachers

- Approximately 7400 members in 23 Branches across the province
- Branches are roughly aligned to the NSTU Locals.
- Branches are geographically assigned to Regions.

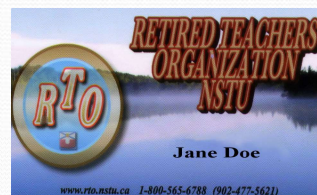


## RTO Membership

All teachers who are in receipt of a pension from NSTPP in Nova Scotia are eligible to become an RTO member on retirement.

Retired teachers may join later if they did not join at retirement.

Teachers who have taught elsewhere may join the RTO as an Affiliate Member.



*Updates to your membership (mailing address, phone number, etc.) can be made by contacting the NSTU Office*  
**1 800 565 NSTU**



## And Membership has its privileges!

- **Up to date retiree information** on pension, insurance , and matters of interest to retired educators
- **Opportunity for social connections** with other RTO members in your Branch
- **Deals and Discounts** - similar to those enjoyed as an NSTU member
- **The Retired Teacher, our RTO newsletter**, produced 3 times a year: Spring, Fall and Winter issues
- **A voice on provincial matters related to seniors** - The RTO is a member of the Senior Advisory Council of Nova Scotia which advocates for seniors on issues such as health and social welfare in NS
- **A voice on federal matters related to seniors** - As a member of ACER-CART, the *Canadian Association for Retired Teachers* we work on behalf of our members on issues such as health, pensions, a National Pharmacare, elimination of elder abuse and a National Seniors' Strategy
- Finally, RTO membership provides an **opportunity for leadership** at both the Branch and at the provincial level.

## Branch Structure

- Branches have their own Executive and budget.
- Each Branch receives an annual grant from the Provincial RTO based on their membership numbers.
- Branches organize activities for the members in their Branch – meetings, workshops and social events.
- Branches can generate funds to supplement their budget. Branches can also apply for Branch Initiative Program (BIP) grants.

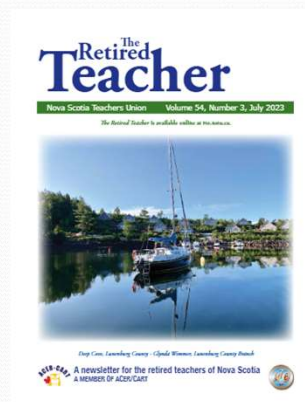
## Branch Activities

- **Luncheons** with a meeting component
- **Dinners** with guest speakers
- **Social / leisure activities** such as workshops, plays and indoor and outdoor gatherings
- **Contact** by telephone / email
- **Volunteer possibilities** and leadership opportunities



## RTO Communications

- RTO Newsletter
- RTO Website ([rto.nstu.ca](http://rto.nstu.ca))
- Branch Facebook Groups
- Branch Newsletters





## The Provincial RTO Executive

Acting **President** – Alyson Hillier  
Acting **Past President** - Bill Berryman  
Vice President (elected at the AGM) – Pat Hillier  
**Treasurer** (elected at the AGM) – Jim Kavanaugh  
**Secretary** (elected at the AGM) – Bonnie Mahaney  
**Members at Large** representing the 7 Provincial Regions  
    **Cape Breton -Victoria** -Mickey Gouthro  
    **Strait** -Tammy Landry  
    **Chignecto-Central** - Cindy MacKinnon  
    **Halifax Metro** – Hugh Fraser  
    **Valley** – Shelley Morse  
    **South Shore** –Chuck McLellan  
    **South West Shore** – Steve Surette

Each Member at Large is elected by the Branches in their region.

## RTO Provincial Standing Committees

- Several committees support the work of the RTO with members selected from across the province. Members serve for a year with the option to apply for a second year.
- Each spring following the AGM there is a call for applications for standing committee members.
- Each committee is chaired by a member of the Executive
- Committees meet 3 to 4 times a year.

**Committee work is an excellent way to gain experience and to understand how the RTO works at the provincial level.**

## About These Committees...

**Communications Committee** - Working with the newsletter editor, provides support for the publication of each issue; working with the webmaster, provides up-to-date information on issues on the website (rto.nstu.ca)

**Membership Committee** - Promotes membership in the RTO and recruitment and support Branch membership updates. They identify RTO merchandise to be made available to members.

**Pension and Benefits Committee** With a mandate to study and respond to pension and benefits concerns, they represent the RTO on the NSTU Pension Committee and other related pension and benefits issues.

**Programs Committee** - Organizes a bi-annual provincial symposium on wellness themes. Coordinates programs and/or workshops as determined by the Executive.

**Research and Review Committee** - Researches and analyzes the effectiveness of the programs offered by the RTO.

## RTO Programs

- Branch Programs / Initiatives
- Retirement Journey
- Advance Care Planning
- Fountain of Health
- Provincial Wellness Symposium \*

\* held in alternate years





## Provincial RTO Activities

- Golf Tournament in September
- Curling Bonspiel in March
- Bowling Tournament in April

Check the RTO website and newsletter for registration information for these annual events.



## About the RTO Legacy Foundation

- This fund honours the life and work of teachers and is **supported by donations** from the RTO as well as from Branches and individuals.
- Applications for **annual grants** are vetted by the RTO Executive in April and grants are awarded to worthy projects benefitting organizations and societies which support children and young people across the province.
- **Memorial cards are available** from Branch Presidents.
- The Legacy Foundation is a **registered charity and income tax receipts are provided** to donors.

## Other Areas of RTO Affiliation

**NSTU Pension Committee**

**Seniors Advisory Council of Nova Scotia (Group of Nine)**

**The Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART)**

**Nova Scotia Hospice Palliative Care Association (NSHPCA)**

**Nova Scotia Community Transportation Network**

**Nova Scotia Legal Information**

**Deprescribing Network**

## Our Relationship with the NSTU

- **Regular meetings** through a RTO/ NSTU Liaison Committee: 3 times/ year
- **Meeting space** in the building (as available)
- Assignment of a **NSTU Staff Officer** for the RTO and access to office staff on matters of concern related to pension and insurance as well as updates to membership
- **Membership in the NSTU Group Insurance Plan** in accordance with the provisions of the plan
- **Membership in the Teachers *Plus* Credit Union**
- Invitation to the **NSTU President to address Branch Presidents and AGM**
- **Clerical support services**, as well as printing/postal support as offered by the NSTU\*

\* Cost assessed annually



Your **membership, involvement and support** assists the RTO organization to advance, promote and protect the welfare of our members.



**Together we're stronger!**

**Thank you.**