

CWA-SCA CANADA
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 15-17, 2011
MONTREAL, QC

Retired

Members' Council

Report
Report

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CWA-SCA Canada Retired Members' Council

During the past year CWA-SCA Canada retirees have been on the front lines in CLC's Security for All Pensions Campaign. We have worked closely with the Congress of Union Retirees (CURC), other pensioners and senior citizens organizations, labour councils and other unions.

We are affiliated with CURC and the Ontario Federation of Union Retirees (OFUR). We have a representative on CURC's union affiliates committee. We send delegates to the CURC and the OFUR conventions. We are also assisting CURC develop and implement an internal and external communications strategy.

Several of our members are on the executive (include chair and communications) with the National Capital Region CURC Chapter. Through the Chapter we have been active in the Pensions campaign, including face-to-face lobby with federal and provincial politicians. We also assisted the Ottawa District Labour Council with last fall's municipal election campaign. One of our retirees is on the executive committee with CURC in Saskatchewan. We have also been distributing information on the pensions' campaign and other material of interest to retirees through our national email distribution list.

Through our affiliate with CURC we participated in the National Pensions and Senior Citizens Federation convention in Ottawa last fall. We assisted the Federation write its annual brief, which was presented to politicians in Ottawa earlier this year. Many of the Federation's issues are our issues. We also assisted the Federation in the preparation and redesigning of its newsletter.

Through our association with CURC we provide retirees' access to a Benefits Plan with health benefits, life insurance, property and auto insurance at discounted rates. Some of our retirees have taken advantage of what's offered.

Recruitment continues to be our greatest challenge. We have contacted close to 700 retirees, mostly through mail-outs, using contact information provided by CWA locals. Out of those we have compiled an email distribution list of approximately 200 people. We need support and assistance from locals, especially in reaching union members before they leave their workplaces.

To assist in those efforts we encourage closer association between locals and retirees, following the lead set by the Ottawa Newspaper Guild where a retiree sits on their executive committee. We will also be exploring ways to have a greater presence, with updated information on the Council and retiree issues, on Union websites.

While it continues to be our hope to eventually form Retiree Chapters in some locations/regions across the country (either in a formal or informal sense) we have decided to focus on connecting our retirees with CURC chapters across the country. We have been doing that with some success.

The CWA/SCA Canada Executive Committee voted last month to continue to offer free memberships for the next year. Our operating costs are minimal – affiliation fees for CURC and others, convention costs, some travel costs, and normal operating expenses such as printing, photocopying, mailings, etc. We have an arrangement with the insurance provider to help with mailing costs when their brochure is included.

We are hoping to encourage some of our retirees in Vancouver to drop in at the CLC convention in May. CURC will have a booth there and will conduct a session on retirees on the Tuesday night of the convention.

We are also hoping to be able to send a couple of delegates from the Toronto region to the CURC convention in Port Elgin in October.

Report Submitted by:

**Gerry Jones
CWA-SCA Canada Retired Members' Council**