

## **ACER-CART Report AGM November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

### **2024 ACER-CART Annual General Meeting – Ottawa, Ontario**

RTAM was once again proud to support our members by attending the ACER-CART AGM in Ottawa, Ontario this past June. It was an informative meeting and allowed the RTAM President and Vice President to continue work which was started this past winter between both organizations. While it was good to meet counterparts and leaders from other provinces, this was the last AGM ACER-CART will be hosting in Ontario. As the Ontario Retired Teachers have left ACER-CART and are now seeking to gain members from other provinces, the AGM will now move outside of Ontario, reflecting their departure from the national body. A bid process has begun for provinces to host the ACER-CART AGM in future years. RTAM is interested and hope to bring the event to our Province in 2025 or 2026.

### **RTAM is supporting ACER-CART's creation of a new strategic plan**

RTAM has been in meetings with the ACER-CART Board, Executive and leadership going back to Fall of 2023. We have been sharing online meetings to help plan for the next chapter in ACER-CART history while addressing concerns for their short- and long-term growth. Our RTAM Executive Director has been an integral part of this process having helped ACER-CART work through a SWOT Analysis and now helping them as they create their organizations foundational pillars and multi-year strategic plan. We hope we can be part of the rebranding and growth of ACER-CART as they look at a future without Ontario.

### **RTAM submitted a letter in support of ACER-CART send a letter to RTO.**

ACER-CART provided an Open Letter to RTOERO Members: Retired educators from all the other provinces and territories are concerned, because RTOERO's current corporate strategic focus is to supplant our provincial organizations which will cost each province their members, their funding and eventually their existence. ACER-CART views this as a threat to their organization and all provincial organizations, which is why they are promoting a campaign of awareness. RTAM has shared this open letter on our social media platforms, our website and our newsletter.

### **ACER-CART Advocacy for Bill C-64**

Bill C-64: An Act Respecting Pharmacare, and ACER-CART participated in our "Share Your Voice" campaign that advocated for a national pharmacare program. ACER-CART advised that we must not be complacent in believing Bill C-64 provides a universal pharmacare program; we must keep the pressure on federal and provincial politicians, and advocate for an expanded program. ACER-CART continues to take feedback and insight from provincial stakeholders and partners while advocating on their behalf at the National/Federal level.

### **ACER-CART membership fee of \$0.25 per RTAM member is due.**

In accordance with Article 12.02, "Members shall pay an annual fee as established by the Annual General Meeting based on the member organization's total membership as of September 30 of each year."

The fee has been established according to the following formulae:

- \$0.25 per member (Associations with more than 20,000 members)
- \$0.35 per member (Associations with fewer than 20,000 members).

The present is an invoice for the 2024-25 fees. RTAM must provide ACER-CART with an update to membership numbers and to redeem the fees accordingly at the earliest date possible as we are one of the main pillars of financial support along with BC and Alberta.

### **ACER-CART Priorities: Looking Ahead**

The national priorities evolve from issues affecting the wellbeing of seniors all across Canada, issues often dictated by Government legislation. ACER-CART does have current priorities, but is expected to expand upon those with the release of their new strategic plan.

- Seeking and working with partners aligned with the ACER-CART Strategic Plan
- Priorities are developed by the ACER-CART executive from member input
- Priorities are approved at the AGM by leadership and membership
- Priorities are addressed by both the executive and the committees in a timely manner who share the commitment to delivery
- Priorities are set annually although the issues may be ongoing depending on socio-political circumstances

### **ACER-CART Priorities: 2024-25**

ACER-CART will continue elevating the profile of our National Association in our provincial associations and at all levels of government and beyond.

### **Priority**

- ACER-CART will, in collaboration with like-minded organizations develop strategies for aging at home.
- Advocate for the development and implementation of National Seniors' Strategy which includes a universal national Pharmacare program and combats the move towards privatization.
- Advocate for a public health care system that prioritizes appropriately supported care in seniors' own homes and their own community for as long as possible.
- Members be properly supported in their efforts to achieve financial stability to enable aging in the right place
- Complete the strategic plan.

**ACER-CART performed a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats (SWOT) analysis and here are some of the key takeaways from what we saw:**

- Everyone would like to see representation from Ontario and Quebec, even though Ontario RTOERO (formerly RTO - Retired Teachers of Ontario) pulled out of ACER-CART
- Everyone would also like to see representation from the Territories. This is important to inclusion.
- Building awareness for members about ACER-CART is talked about repeatedly in more different ways than any other topic. It is diverse but clearly important for everyone and very few people know about the organization or what it can do for them.
- There is a common theme of people wanting to use Zoom to facilitate more conversations, planning and communication to enable more meetings and while reducing costs.
- Advocating for National/Federal pharmacare and aging at home are two top priorities for all provinces which we can rally around and promote.