



OCRA is an organization that advocates for its members on issues of concern

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From the President

Linda Choptiany
 president@ocraretirees.ca

2019 Highlights to Date

OCRA General Meeting October 23, 2019

The OCRA Board is pleased that St. Clair College and the St. Clair College Retirees' Association will host the Fall 2019 OCRA General Meeting on Wednesday October 23, 2019. The location for the meeting will be the beautiful St. Clair Centre for the Arts located on the waterfront in Windsor. For more details, please see the article about St. Clair College in this newsletter. This is a great opportunity to attend the OCRA General Meeting and visit the many attractions in the Windsor area.

Board Updates – Who Is Working on What

OCRA is grateful to the Board directors who volunteer their time and expertise to work on behalf of our members. Here is a guide to what directors have been working on recently.

Membership (membership@ocraretirees.ca)

Yvonne Glenville (Centennial) has taken over the role of Membership this year. Yvonne formerly

handled the Communications portfolio and we are pleased she is applying her skills to the detailed job of membership.

Communications (communications@ocraretirees.ca)

Barb Mathers (Fleming) is a new director on the OCRA Board and the new Communications Officer. This issue is her first OCRA newsletter.

Liaison

Directors Ron Conlon (Loyalist) and Doug Willford (Humber) have been reaching out to the Human Resource departments of the colleges to encourage new retirees to join OCRA. In addition, Doug is currently redesigning the Benefits Comparison Chart. This informative document will be available to OCRA members only.

Contact Information

Derrick May (Mohawk) has recently updated the Contact Information document posted on the [OCRA website](http://www.ocraretirees.ca) (ocraretirees.ca). You will find descriptive information and phone numbers for organizations such as the CAAT Pension Plan, the College Employer Council, Ontario Colleges Administrative Staff Association (OCASA), CAAT Retirees Group Insurance Advisory Committee (CRGIAC) and many more. A real time-saver!

FSCO & FSRA

Vice-President Andrew Dykstra (Georgian) recently attended the stakeholders meeting of the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO). Every year OCRA is invited to attend and this year there is information about the change-over of FSCO to FSRA (Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario). See his article for more information. §

Linda Choptiany

Making the Plan Stronger for You

Derek W. Dobson, CEO and Plan Manager of the CAAT Pension Plan



The CAAT Plan continues its steady progress on making the Plan stronger.

The Plan is now 120% funded, up from 118% the previous year and our funding reserve grew to \$2.6 billion from \$2.3 billion. Funding reserves are an important part of keeping the Plan strong as they provide a cushion against investment market declines and unexpected demographic changes that would increase liabilities. This is the ninth consecutive year that the Plan improved its funded position.

Amid challenging markets at the end of 2018, the Plan exceeded its policy benchmark by 1.62%, earning 0.5% net of investment management fees, to bring its annualized five-year net rate of return to 8.7%. The Plan's 10-year annualized net return of 9.9% has added \$1.4 billion in value compared to the benchmark. Plan assets stand at \$10.8 billion.

The CAAT Plan has 51 employers, including 24 colleges, and 50,000 members, 16,100 of whom are retired. Last year the Plan grew by a net 3,530 members.

More details of the Plan's performance are available in the member-focused 2018 Annual Report entitled, "Ready Today for Your Tomorrow," (www.caatpension.on.ca/en/about-us/annual-report).

Growth Makes the Plan Stronger

In making the decisions, the Plan's governors uphold the fundamental priorities of benefit security, value, contribution rate stability, and equity among members. Growing and diversifying the Plan membership provides the opportunity to further support these priorities. Specifically, growing the Plan membership improves the likelihood that the Plan will remain in a surplus funded position, improves the likelihood of paying conditional inflation protection now and in the future, and improves contribution rate stability. Continued growth will help the Plan to achieve these goals for current and future Plan members.

In the article I wrote for the Fall edition of the OCRA Newsletter, I explained how growing and diversifying the membership, either through enrolment of more part-time employees or through mergers with employers such as Torstar or Shareholders Association of Research and Education (SHARE), makes the CAAT Plan stronger and more secure.

It is important to remember that every prospective new employer is assessed thoroughly based on its viability, and evaluated against the Plan's established principles for growth. Those principles say that any type of growth must be in the best interest of the Plan and its members and that the Plan will not take on the debt of another plan.

The CAAT Plan is performing well and growing, and diversifying the membership makes it even stronger. If you have not already done so, subscribe to My Pension NewsLink (www.caatpension.on.ca/en/about-us/news/my-pension-newslink) to get the latest CAAT Plan news including updates on mergers. §



Please advise OCRA's Membership Coordinator (membership@ocraretirees.ca) of any changes to your email, phone, and/or postal address.

Membership Matters

Yvonne Glenville
Membership Coordinator
membership@ocraretirees.ca

We are continuing to collect the 2019 Membership Renewal fee. Always include your OCRA membership number when you remit fees. If you misplaced your OCRA membership number, do not worry. We will still accept your payment, just be sure that the member name is clearly indicated with the payment. We are happy to accept payment by the following methods: cheque, money order, or Interac e-Transfer.

For the five retiree associations – Centennial, Lambton, Mohawk, St. Clair and St. Lawrence – there will be no change to your collection of OCRA membership fees.

OCRA is in the process of reviewing its membership database and will be removing members that have not paid for their membership fee for more than two years. If you are one of those members, you can keep your membership active by remitting your 2019 Membership fee (\$10.00). Don't worry about the years that you have missed. You may want to consider a lifetime membership. See the Membership Rate Table below. We are reluctant to remove members from the database because they will no longer receive any communication, voting privileges, newsletters, etc. If for some reason you do not want to belong to OCRA, we would appreciate knowing your reason why. OCRA is constantly working to make its existence and communication avenues more interesting and relevant to CAAT Retirees.

As always, we appreciate you keeping your membership contact information up-to-date so that you will have uninterrupted communications, including the newsletters, voting privileges, and invitations to our general meeting.

Some of you are generously responding to our request for donations. Any additional help we receive allows us to continue offering our \$10.00 annual fee. Thank you on behalf of OCRA!§

Age	Fee
70 years or older	\$ 50
69 years	\$ 60
68 years	\$ 70
67 years	\$ 80
66 years	\$ 90
65 years	\$100
64 years	\$110
63 years	\$120
62 years	\$130
61 years	\$140
60 years or younger	\$150

Membership Coordinator contact information:

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Nota bene: For more OCRA news, visit [our website](http://ocraretirees.ca) (ocraretirees.ca) for minutes of Board meetings, contact information for organizations, newsletters, bulletins and feature articles.

Where's OCRA?

Having trouble finding the OCRA web site using a web browser? You are not alone. If you just type the search word "ocra", you will get results about ocra the vegetable and a variety of organizations that use the same acronym. Who knew that it would be so commonly used! There's not much we can do about it except to advise you to type a little bit more in the search box—"ocra retiree" seems to work. Or, once you have found the page, bookmark it in your web browser so you can return to the page with one click.§



Photo Credit: Derrick May

From left to right: Derrick May, Linda Choptiany, Jim Martin, Stella Pulkinghorn, Ron Conlon, Yvonne Glenville, Lorna Plunkett, Douglas Willford, Barbara Mathers, Andrew Dykstra, Liz Erwin

Linda Choptiany	(Centennial, OCRA President)
Derrick May	(Mohawk, OCRA Past President)
Andrew Dykstra	(Georgian, OCRA Vice President)
Stella Pulkinghorn	(Fleming, OCRA Secretary)
Lorna Plunkett	(Fleming, OCRA Treasurer)
Yvonne Glenville	(Centennial, OCRA Membership)
Barbara Mathers	(Fleming, OCRA Communications)
Ron Conlon	(Loyalist, OCRA Liaison)
Doug Willford	(Humber, OCRA Liaison Assistant)
Liz Erwin	(Georgian, OCRA Director)
Jim Martin	(St. Clair, OCRA Director)

CAAT Retirees Group Insurance Advisory Committee (CRGIAC)

Kim Macpherson
Benefits Officer OPSEU

Retirees participating in the Retiree Group Benefits Plan with the colleges should be aware that there is a committee called the CAAT Retirees Group Insurance Advisory Committee (CRGIAC) mandated under both the CAAT Academic and CAAT Support collective agreements. CRGIAC is an advisory body that assists the College Employer Council in ensuring the appropriate benefit design and cost effectiveness of the group insurance benefit plans available for all eligible retirees. Retiree representatives from CAAT Academic (Lorie Irvine), CAAT Support (Sheila Hirsch-Kalm) and OCASA (Susan Alcorn MacKay) along with their respective resource staff from OPSEU (Kim Macpherson, Benefits Officer) and OCASA (Erin Roberts, Executive Director).

An important role of CRGIAC is bringing forward contentious claims for review when a claims problem with Sun Life is not resolved through the existing administrative procedure. The existing procedure is to first discuss any claim issue with Sun Life directly to see if the matter can be resolved. If the issue is not resolved, the college's Benefits Administrator should be contacted. If the Benefits Administrator is unable to resolve the issue, the retiree can then contact their respective OPSEU or OCASA resource person (see contact information below).

Should you require assistance with a benefit claim issue, and you are unable to resolve it through the above process, here is the contact information:

For OPSEU CAAT Academic or Support retirees:

Kim Macpherson - Benefits Officer, OPSEU
1-800-268-7376 ext. 5564
kmacpherson@opseu.org

For OCASA retirees:

Erin Roberts - Executive Director, OCASA
1-866-742-5429 x 101
erin@ocasa.on.ca

After discussing your issue with you, OPSEU and OCASA resource staff will ensure that retired members participating in the college's retiree insurance plan have been paid correctly and bring forward any claims that have not been adjudicated correctly or other items of concern to retirees participating in the group insurance plan. §

FSRA – A New Financial Regulator

Andrew Dykstra
OCRA Vice-President

FSCO (Financial Services Commission of Ontario) was established in 1997 to regulate the insurance sector; pension plans; loan and trust companies; credit unions and caisses populaires; the mortgage brokering sector; and co-operative corporations in Ontario.

Now we have a new regulator on the block.

The Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario (FSRA) (www.fsrao.ca) is a new, independent regulatory agency that will, in June 2019, assume regulatory functions currently delivered by FSCO.

With regard to pension plans, FSRA's objective is to promote good administration of pension plans, and to protect and safeguard the pension benefits and rights of pension plan beneficiaries.

Brian Mills, the CEO of FSCO, is retiring, and Mark White is now the CEO of FSRA. Another key person on the management team of FSRA is Caroline Blouin, Executive Vice-President of Pensions.

The three key strategic directions that FSRA has adopted in regard to pension plans are:

- Protect consumers and pension plan beneficiaries
- Promote innovation and competition
- Enhance market integrity and stability

OCRA, as one of many stakeholders, looks forward to working with FSRA as it assumes its regulatory functions. §

2019 OCRA General Meeting

St. Clair College, October 23, 2019

We are happy to let you know that St. Clair College and the St. Clair College Retirees' Association (www.stclaircollege.ca/retirees) has agreed to help sponsor the OCRA General Meeting currently scheduled to be held on **Wednesday October 23, 2019**. The College has agreed to provide the meeting facilities and the lunch. The meeting will take place in the St. Clair Centre for the Arts, located on Riverside Drive, on the banks of the Detroit River. Hotels, parking, and many places of entertainment are immediately adjacent to the Centre. Our management link with the Centre, Christina Frye, has contacts with the hotels and once more details are known, costs will be announced for your information.



Credit: <http://www.stclaircollege.ca/campusprofiles/>

St. Clair College has campuses in Windsor and Chatham, Ontario (about an hour apart, just off Hwy. 401). Both are near the most southern point of the Canadian mainland, Point Pelee National Park, just outside Leamington, Ontario.

The ability to access Detroit, Michigan through the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel or the Ambassador Bridge is fairly straight forward. A passport or enhanced driver's license is necessary to cross the border in either direction. As a note, about 5 km west of the Ambassador Bridge, the new Gordie Howe International Bridge is under construction.

Boat tours of the Detroit River are usually available, with the boarding location on the river very near the Centre for the Arts.

Some activities are weather dependent, so keeping track of upcoming weather changes is recommended.

Here are some web sites that show the variety of activities and places that you might find interesting to visit while you are in this area.

- St. Clair College
www.stclaircollege.ca
- St. Clair Centre for the Arts
www.stclaircollege.ca/stclaircentre
- Point Pelee National Park
www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/on/pelee
- Windsor River Cruises
www.windsorrivercruises.com
- Windsor - Essex
visitwindsor-essex.com
- Chatham - Kent
www.chatham-kent.ca
- Detroit
visitdetroit.com

Please note that further information regarding the OCRA General Meeting will be provided later this summer. §



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