



Bell Pensioners' Group

Together, Protecting our Pensions and Benefits since 1995

OTTAWA CHAPTER, INCLUDING ONTARIO EAST, NORTH & OUTAOUAIS

Summer 2023 Newsletter

Upcoming Meeting

October 25th, 2023, at the Nepean Sportsplex

Dear BPG Members,

Summer is here, having started with a full blast of heat and more for most of us, particularly in eastern Ontario.

Since our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 31st at the Nepean Sportsplex, your Ottawa Leadership Team has reviewed your feedback from the survey conducted at the meeting. More info on this later in the Newsletter ...

In this Newsletter you will find:

1. Highlights from our May AGM
2. The President's Message
3. The Pension Committee update on Bill C-228
4. Your 2023/2024 BPG Board of Directors
5. Vacancies at the Ottawa Chapter and National Board that need to be filled by BPG Volunteers

On behalf of the Ottawa BPG Leadership team, I want to thank you for your support. I look forward to seeing you, sharing a coffee, and chatting at our next face-to-face Fall Meeting on October 25th at the Nepean Sportsplex. In the meantime, I hope you and your families have a great summer.

Claude Elliott

Chair BPG Ottawa and North East Chapter

BPG Ottawa Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Ottawa NE Annual General Meeting held on May 31st, 2023, was the first face-to-face AGM since May 2019. The meeting was well attended with more than 130 in attendance. The Spring meeting is the one mandatory meeting we hold each year to present financial results and hold elections.

The large number of attendees required us to expand the meeting area in the Sportsplex into the second meeting room. While it provided more space for attendees, it caused some problems with our presentation material (i.e., fonts too small for the larger room) and the sound system. We will work with the Sportsplex team to improve both for our fall meeting in October.

It seems many members came to the meeting to hear the presentation from Manulife on the exclusive BPG Travel Insurance program. Introduced on April 1st, the program has generated overwhelming interest. While the plan was to get existing members enrolled, word got out to pensioners who were not members. As a result, since April 1st, our chapter has signed up more than 100 new members! The program has, in fact, been so popular that Manulife extended the enrollment period to August 31st as neither BPG nor Manulife was able to keep up with the demand.

Please note that it may take at least 2 weeks for Manulife to contact those who apply as the demand at the contact centre is very heavy.

All information, including the enrollment form, FAQ, and details about the plans are available on the Manulife portal at the following link:

<https://www.manulife.ca/campaigns/bpg-travel-insurance.html>

For more information, please contact:

ManulifeGroupTravel@canamti.com or call: 1-888-332-3007

Recordings of the AGM presentations and material are available online at

https://1drv.ms/f/s!Al_eHnMFcAAvlge8RWs-YzBCy5Xw?e=0FjcWz

AGM feedback

At the AGM, we asked attendees to complete a one-page questionnaire to provide feedback on our meeting and suggest topics for future guest speakers. Thanks to those of you who responded. Your input – including topics and ideas for future speakers – was valuable. As Cyber security was the topic most often mentioned, we will look for a guest speaker to address this issue at a future meeting.

Those in attendance who completed the questionnaire were eligible to win a \$50 gift card. Don Smart from Maitland was the winner of the draw.

Local Chapter volunteers needed!

In order to maintain our success as a BPG local chapter, we need volunteers to fill the following vacant positions:

1. Newsletter Editor- as the editor, you are not required to write the newsletter but, rather, organize and format input from others.
2. Event Organizer – as the event organizer, you will coordinate meeting logistics and catering with the Sportsplex.
3. Co-Chair – as Co-Chair, you will work with the Chair with a view to assuming that role within a year.

If you have an interest in learning more about any of these positions, please reach out to me, Claude Elliott, at chairbpgottawa@bell.net.

The Personal

The Personal will hold another contest this year with multiple chances to win.

The Company has also announced a dividend and will be providing a rebate of \$100 for home and \$125 for auto policies in the October timeframes.

Stay tuned for more details in the Fall Newsletter.



NEW MEMBERS

Darlene Levecque
Michael Phelan
Howard Healy
John Follet
Lucille Kennedy
Frank Norbert Radske
Frank Watts
Peter Corbett
Nicole Leroux
Pierre Gibeault
Daniel Mimeault
Carol Toth
Cheryl Harding
Keith Balmer
Marsha Albanese
Patricia Burns
Robert (Bob) McIntosh
Kathy Burns
Carl Conway
Linda Leslie
Ghislaine Lafleche
Brenda Smith
Fred Ghaban
Greg Samsal
Sue Casey
Tom Ham
Maureen Fox
Rena Collyer
Linda Bond
Nicholas Macdonald
Judith Moss
Judy Manton
Michael Keller
John Simmons
Rachel Crete
John Bathurst
Adele Swinwood
Katherine Horler
Elisabeth Hansman
Micheal Vezina
Stephen Mears
Stuart Wright
Francine Brunet

Richard Fleming
Terry Smart
John Hatry
Deborah-Lynn Guertin-
Beauchamp
Caroline Smith
Maurice Lavigne
Sherree Abbott
Claire Louiseize
Spencer Donald Merritt
Philippe Chartrand
Carlos Mendes
Mavis Anderson
Maurice Mailhot
Cecile Dumont
Peter Werner
David Joyce
Valerie Major
Donna Walsworth
Les Kneif
Malcolm Myerson
Paul Roy
Christine Valois
Cathie Ischkin
Patricia Case
Rick Larin
Douglas Bender
Ruth McGarvey
John Butler
Daniel Dulmage
Rosalba Idone
Leise Moore
Ron Ono
Deborah Holway
Lynn Laporte
Monique Marier
Gary Hopkins
Claudette Killoran
Mike Hopkins
Jennifer Landreville
Elio Domenicucci
Harvey Joseph Moss
Alan Calder

Susan Lefebvre
Joyce Dorothy Caron
Mona R. Lanctot
Paul Shortall
Robert Templeton
Lee Bonsteel
Arthur Eastman
Brian Ledingham
Wayne Goddard
Natalie Plouffe
Dennis Moran
Cate McDougall
Roger Robert
Sue Morton
Phyllis Grant-Parker
Margaret Scott
Jo-Anne Pelletier
Bev Rothwell
Nicole Lemieux
Cheryle Canning
Gilles Seguin
Marie-Josée Purcell
Wayne Whitney
Alfred Seguin
Linda Assad
Fredrick Vawer
Brian Cunningham
Len Puukila
Andre Cloutier
Peter de Gosztanyi
Nanci McNabb
Steven Tulloch
Ken Naylor
Denise Guenette
Myles Robillard
Judith Pulcine
Demetrios Reklitis
Jeremy Phillips
Glen Young
Donald Walker
Wanda Lafleur Wilde

President's Summer Message:

Summer is here. Your board of directors, along with a few volunteers, has worked hard through the winter to deliver on some of our strategic objectives. Following are some highlights:

Thanks to some hard work from the Canadian Federation of Pensioners (CFP) and letter-writing campaigns from our members, Bill C-228 was finally passed into law.

For Bell Canada pensioners who retired before 1998, the indexation case is taking a slow route to resolution. Lawyers have had sporadic discussions but there is no concrete resolution at this time.

At our April face-to-face Board meeting, we voted to change the look and feel of the website and to add a member-only portal. Look for the new website in the fall.

The consolidation of financial and membership information is progressing with most chapters now working with QuickBooks Online. A survey outline is in the works. We will be seeking your input later this year.

Finally, the big news of the day is that we have negotiated a deal with Manulife to provide travel insurance to our members. Details were presented at our AGMs.

If you didn't have an opportunity to attend an AGM, French and English recordings are available via a link on the National website.

As always, we are looking for volunteers in a variety of positions. There are four vacancies on the national Board of Directors (see below for details) and the chapters also have openings.

If you are interested and wish to volunteer, please contact the national board or your local chapter.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

Antonio (Tony) Lépine

BPG President

Bill C-228

BPG worked closely with the Canadian Federation of Pensioners (CFP) and its partners to support C-228, a bill that would move pensioners closer to the front of the line in the event of sponsor bankruptcy. Bill C-228 was passed by the House of Commons in November 2022. It was approved by the Senate with no

amendments and received Royal Assent by the Governor General in April 2023. The Federal government now has four years to implement it.

BPG sent a letter to Mike Powell, President of the Canadian Federation of Pensioners, to congratulate him on his great work and our VICTORY!

BPG Board – 2023-2024:

The BPG Board of Directors currently has 16 members, including seven Chapter Chairs representing members in Ontario, Québec and Aliant Atlantic.

<https://www.bellpensionersgroup.ca/index3.php?chapt=corporate&lang=en§ion=6>

Board Members

Antonio Lépine (President)
Vacant (Vice President –Ontario & Atlantic)
Ronald Nicol (Vice President - Québec)
Terry Inder (Treasurer)
Tony Scandella (Secretary)
Denis Marquis (Past President)

Chapter Chairs:

Ken Matthews (Aliant Atlantic)
David Milne (Ontario Central)
Christian Roy (Montréal)
Marjolaine Gilbert Poulin (Québec)
Claude Elliott (Ottawa / East & North Ontario)
Henri Bourque (Télébec)
Dan Zaluski (Southwestern Ontari

Directors at Large:

Steve Longeway – Nominations Committee Chair
Karen Lawson – Communications Committee Chair
Mary Lynne Forestell – Audit and Finance Committee Chair
Bernard Barbeau – Pension Committee Chair
Vacant (Benefits)
Vacant (Legal Matters)
Vacant (Information Technology)

If you are interested in hearing more about these opportunities, please contact Steve Longeway at steve.longeway@gmail.com.

BPG Needs Volunteers!

All roles at both the National and local Chapter levels within BPG are staffed only by member volunteers. By becoming involved, you help keep all roles fully covered by qualified volunteers, ensuring that BPG can continue to fulfill its mandate to our members.

Why Volunteer?

Taking on a volunteer role with BPG is a rewarding, worthwhile, and interesting experience with opportunities for expanding your network, learning about pension-related issues, meeting and working with like-minded people, as well as having a chance to demonstrate valuable skills used during your career at Bell. The current BPG team will support you, provide training, and ease you into your new role.

Here are some good reasons why you might consider becoming a volunteer as a BPG Board Member:

- Help ensure our pensions are being protected and Bell continues to do its part.
- Ensure governments' rules and regulations will protect our pensions (should they ever need to be protected).
- Reconnect with peers met during your career at Bell.
- Give back to BPG and to dedicated Board Members by also volunteering personal time.
- Contribute to developing ideas to recruit new members and ensure BPG keeps existing members.

Board of Directors Vacancies:

We are currently looking for volunteers to fill several vacant positions on the National Board. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the following short job descriptions of the positions we are hoping to fill over the next year. If you or someone you may know is interested, please contact Steve Longeway at steve.longeway@gmail.com to learn how best you can contribute your volunteer time and expertise to BPG. A more detailed description of each position is available to those who are interested.

Vice-President Ontario/Atlantic:

Your responsibilities as Vice-President Ontario/Atlantic would be to act on behalf of the President in his/her absence and be the eyes and ears for the President in the designated region. You would assist the President with the general administration of BPG and support the Chapter Chairs in the region in terms of succession-planning and membership recruitment. You would also be asked to chair one BPG Board committee.

The VP for Ontario/Atlantic would demonstrate the following attributes:

- Strategic thinking
- Strong analytical, leadership, problem-solving, and administration/coordination skills
- Excellent communications, team building, and conflict resolution skills

Director at Large - Legal Matters:

Your responsibilities as Director at Large – Legal would be to acknowledge and follow the BPG Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policy and participate in the management and oversight of the affairs of BPG. You would be asked to:

- Attend meetings of the Board of Directors (BOD) of BPG on a regular basis and serve on at least one BPG committee
- Participate in a knowledgeable and responsible manner in the decision-making activities of the BOD
- Advocate on behalf of the interests of the membership
- Provide strategic advice and guidance to the Board on pertinent issues based on your knowledge and experience
- Take on responsibility for managing tasks as required at the discretion of the Board

Director at Large – Information Technology (IT):

The Director at Large – IT should have a Strong Information Technology background. Experience with websites (WordPress), (QuickBooks), email campaign managers, and integration of various tools would be an asset.

Responsibilities as Director at Large – IT would be to:

- Acknowledge and follow the BPG Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy and participate in the management and oversight of the affairs of BPG
- Attend meetings of the Board of Directors of BPG on a regular basis and serve on at least one BPG committee
- Advocate on behalf of the interests of the membership and be responsible for the overall technical direction and integration of the various projects/tools and processes of BPG
- Provide strategic advice and guidance and set direction to the Board on pertinent issues, IT strategies, and integration requirements based on knowledge and experience
- Help shape policies and processes of the organization, represent the interests of the Board at meetings with key stakeholders and gain as much knowledge and insight as possible into the operations of BPG all while supporting Chapter initiatives and programs.

Director at Large – Benefits:

Experience with Bell benefits would be an asset for the Benefits Director who would demonstrate good organizational and communications skills and the ability to chair meetings.

Responsibilities of the Director at Large – Benefits would include:

- Supporting BPG’s objective to protect the non-pension benefits of our members and support the chapters in facilitating member access to non-pension benefits
- Escalating corporate benefits issues to BCE, as required, and following up
- Being accountable to the BPG Board and Chapter Chairs on escalation cases
- Being responsible to monitor BCE’s quality of service to our members and anticipate adverse trends related to pensioners’ benefits.
- Attending all BPG/Bell F2F meetings in Montreal

Check out our Social Media links

New Facebook Page

If you haven't already done so, check out the NEW BPG Facebook Page! It's a great way to connect with friends and peers, share your stories, find valuable information, and keep in touch. Check out the great videos of Board volunteers and members sharing their thoughts on the importance of BPG at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BellPensionsersGroup>

LinkedIn

Check it out and follow us on LinkedIn at:

https://www.linkedin.com/company/bpg-ontario/?lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_search_srp_all%3BGf%2F%2F9RoVTF%2B4vXS67ndaJA%3D%3D

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- On <https://intouch.bell.ca> click on the In Touch by email section in the bottom left corner to register your email address
- By email at intouch@bell.ca
- By telephone at 1-877-666-7474

For any questions related to your Pension or Benefits, contact Bell Employee Services:

- By email at employeeservices@bell.ca
- By telephone at 1-888-400-0661
- By mail at 1, Carrefour Alexander-Graham-Bell, A-4, Verdun, Quebec H3E 3B3

Bell Benefits Website:

<https://www.benefits-avantages.hroffice.com/>

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Rates for new deposits only, renewals not included

Rates apply to regular terms, TFSA, RRSP and RRIF terms

Please call our Member Support Center at 1-800-209-7444

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Monday to Friday

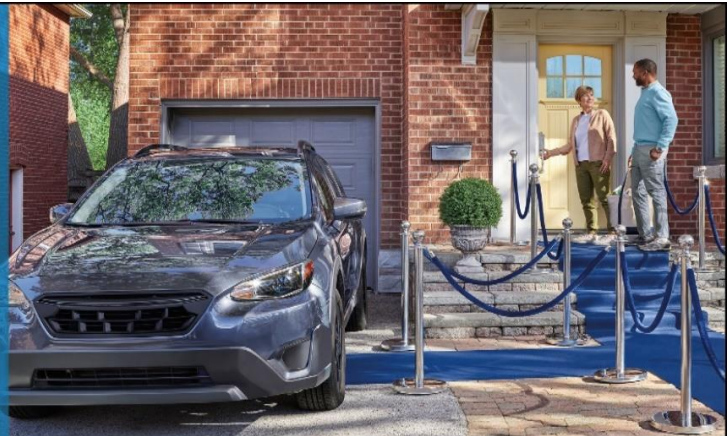
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