



# ADRP

Association of Dalhousie Retirees & Pensioners

Here For You

ADRP Board of Directors' Meeting  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 2:00 p.m.  
Zoom

In attendance: Heather Schellinck (Interim President), Randy Barkhouse, Lynn Johnston, Marilyn Klein, Ed Leach, Linda MacNutt, David Tindall, Jenny White  
Regrets: Wendy Fletcher

1. The meeting was called to order by Heather Schellinck at 2:00 p.m.
2. Adoption of the Agenda
  - A. The agenda was accepted on a motion from Marilyn, seconded by David.
3. Previous Minutes – January 20, 2026
  - A. The minutes were approved as circulated on a motion from Marilyn, seconded by Linda.
  - B. Matters arising
    - a) Heather notified Michael Bradfield and Sid Sodhi that they were selected by the Board as Honorary ADRP Members; they were pleased to learn this. Mike is unable to attend the April AGM but Sid will.  
**Action:** Heather to inquire where Sid lives and we will see if someone can offer him a drive to the AGM.
    - b) Marilyn has created the Honorary Member certificates. It was suggested that they be circulated to the Board to make sure there are no errors.  
**Action:** Marilyn to send drafts of the certificates to Board members for review.
    - c) Heather informally spoke with some SCANS Board members regarding SCANS allowing 5 ADRP members to attend one SCANS on-line course for free each year as a thank you for our donation towards their new equipment. She reported that one of them voiced strong opposition to this, one reason being that it would have a negative financial impact on SCANS. It was suggested during our meeting that this reciprocation from SCANS may actually be good advertisement for them and draw in new ADRP members to SCANS. Heather was asked to send a formal request to SCANS, as not all their Board members may feel the same.  
**Action:** Heather to formally make a request in a letter to SCANS that it allow 5 ADRP members to attend one on-line SCANS course each year.
    - d) Lynn has updated the Media & Communications policy and Treasurer's job description.
    - e) Lynn has prepared the proposed By-Laws modifications for approval at the AGM and updated the Vice-President's job descriptions.
    - f) A call for applications for financial support to attend the 2026 CURAC conference was sent out in a February 4th bulletin. There have been no applications thus far. Lynn noted that the meeting is 3 months away and there may yet be some applications. Heather thought Robin Whyte might be interested in attending CURAC.

**Action:** Lynn to include a reminder of the application for financial support to attend the CURAC conference in our next bulletin.

**Action:** Heather to contact Robin Whyte regarding attending CURAC.

- g) Heather reported that David Zitner informed her that CURAC covers expenses for its own Board members to attend the CURAC conference and he does not anticipate needing financial support from ADRP. Ed and Randy confirmed that CURAC pays its Board member's conference expenses.
- h) RBAC terms of reference were forwarded to Jenny.
- i) An in-person RBAC meeting is scheduled for March 9th in the Office of People and Culture Boardroom in the Henry Hicks Building.
- j) Linda has just received quotes from Dal Print shop for producing the ADRP history, which were felt to be rather expensive. It was suggested that quotes be obtained from Staples before a decision be made. It was noted that a final decision also needs to be made on what formatting we want (e.g. black and white, colour, type of paper) before placing the order.

**Action:** Marilyn and Lynn make a recommendation on formatting the history and Linda and Randy obtain additional quotes once they have the relevant details (format and number of copies).
- k) Marilyn reported that while there is no cost to having a Google account, recognizing that US corporations are obligated by law to provide U.S. authorities access to data stored on their servers, we will not pursue obtaining an account for ADRP.
- l) The contact email on the ADRP website's home page has been changed from [adrp@dal.ca](mailto:adrp@dal.ca) to [info@theadrp.ca](mailto:info@theadrp.ca) and is directed to Heather as Interim President.
- m) Heather has notified Christine Jamison to direct new membership forms to her.
- n) Heather acknowledged sending a slightly dated membership to Randy.
- o) Randy has heard from Board members who do not plan to re-offer.
- p) Susan Holmes has provided Heather with venue and catering details for the April AGM.
- q) Communications Survey Report - (report provided)

Lynn provided an overview of the survey results, referring Board members to the report in the meeting package. In terms of level of interest in specific topics, there is a high or medium level of interest for pension (96.3%), health benefits (84.1%), and non-health benefits (90.6%). Almost all respondents (97%) find the frequency of communication from ADRP about right and 90% have high or medium interest in the newsletter. Most written comments viewed the website positively or had no improvements to suggest. Marilyn and Lynn considered all suggestions for improvement to the website and made changes where they understood what the suggestion was and website logistics allowed the modification. In terms of the Newsletter, most of the comments were positive and had no suggestions to make. There were some suggestions to include more information about what is happening at Dal, in Nova Scotia, in education; members recommendations on such things as where to eat, travel, and events they like to attend; comparisons with other university retirees; and opinion pieces. Lynn noted that the inclusion of such items would require member contributions, which while requested in almost every newsletter are rarely received without an expressed ask of an individual. The plan is to provide a report of the survey findings and actions taken in the Spring Newsletter.

Non-communications comments were 1) whether more benefits/perks could be solicited for ADRP members (brought to the attention of the Benefits Committee Chair) and 2) a desire that more events be outside of Halifax or on Zoom, to accommodate those who live outside of downtown Halifax or have transportation difficulties (brought to the attention of the Board for consideration of the merits of rejuvenating a social committee).

- r) It was agreed that the ADRP Terms of Reference and Job Descriptions be posted on the website. The importance of maintaining up-to-date versions on the website was noted.

**Action:** Lynn to put the Terms of Reference and Job Descriptions on the website.

#### 4. President's Report – Heather Schellinck

- A. Heather reported that she was asked whether ADRP would like to have some time to present at Dal's Annual Retiree Seminar. It was suggested that the time allotted and objectives of the ADRP component be clarified before deciding who should present. If the intention is to have a session on how to approach retirement life, Sue Hutchinson would be an ideal speaker. However, if it is a session to give an overview of ADRP and what it does, someone who has Board experience might be better suited for the session. Heather was reminded to have retirees' attention brought to our website and the link to "Why Join the ADRP".

**Action:** Heather to clarify what the time allotment and focus for the ADRP session at the Retiree Seminar are meant to be in order to identify who will speak at the session.

- B. Heather noted that she had not yet taken action on the motion passed at the December General Meeting to approach the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) regarding membership on their Board and was not sure how best to approach it. It was suggested that she should check the December meeting minutes for the exact wording of the motion. Randy indicated that this is a request for an observer position, not a voting position. It was suggested that some of the supporting reasons for the request could be our longstanding relationship with the DFA and our reliance on them for the specifics of some of our benefits. At the same time, having our experience and viewpoint may benefit them as they consider benefits that they would like to see for themselves as future retirees. It was also noted that there would be benefit to formal relationships with the other Dalhousie unions.

**Action:** Heather to get the General Meeting minutes to guide her written communication with the DFA president regarding the motion's direction (and in preparation for the Annual General Meeting).

**Action:** Heather to contact other Dalhousie union presidents to explore establishing formal links.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report – Linda MacNutt (written report provided)

- A. Linda noted that the savings account with \$1811.51 cannot fall below \$1200 as the credit card is linked to it and that \$8500 was approved by the Board in December for CURAC travel. She confirmed that the investment accounts, which include our \$50,000 contingency fund, total ~\$57,000. One GIC will come due in May 2026. Grace Paterson has started working on the audit of the financial statements to be presented at the AGM in April.

- B. Linda provided a written office report, noting recent purchases of a whiteboard and basic office supplies.

## 6. Other Reports

### A. Benefits – Jenny White

- a. As brought to our attention by Marilyn in an email, there has been a change in provider for the Retiree Emergency Medical Travel Benefits from SSQ to Medavie Blue Cross, effective April 1, 2026. Jenny reported that several Maritime universities worked together to obtain what looks to be a better plan and that retiree associations were not part of the discussion. More information should be forthcoming to the ADRP at the RBAC meeting in March. Jenny reassured us that she has been told that the benefits are at least as good as what we had with SSQ and the plan less expensive. She said all retirees received an email with this information, although Marilyn reported that her husband had not. Given the discrepancy in information about retirees receiving an email about the change, we will send out a Bulletin notifying members of the change and the need to make sure their contact information is up-to-date in order to receive new travel cards and plan details.

**Action:** Lynn to send a Bulletin within the week notifying members of the change in Emergency Medical Travel Benefits provider. Marilyn and Jenny to proofread the draft Bulletin for accuracy and clarity.

### B. Pension – Randy Barkhouse (written report provided)

- a. Randy brought our attention to the actuary's finding during the valuation data review that payouts for 100 pensioners did not match expected payments, likely due to application of incorrect retirement dates in the catch-up indexation calculations. Adjustments are being made to those affected, who will be notified by mail of this situation. The RTF investment performance has lagged behind the fund benchmark, explained by investment differences between the RTF and benchmark. The Pension Stabilization Fund is sufficient to cover amortization payments over the next couple of years.

### C. Communications Committee - Lynn Johnston and Marilyn Klein (written report provided)

- a. Two bulletins have gone out since the last Board meeting, with >99% delivery rates, ~ 25% opening rates, and 12% (January) and 2% (February) click rates. This is on par with previous, except the low click rate in February. The website in January had 798 views and 262 unique visitors, with the Newsletters and Bulletins getting the most views. The next Bulletin will be in late February and the next Newsletter in late March/early April in advance of the AGM.
- b. Marilyn noted the invitation from the Saint Mary's University Retirees' Association (SMURA) to attend their upcoming presentations. Lynn noted that SMURA has been inviting us to their events for some time and it would be nice if ADRP would reciprocate. She also suggested that forging a relationship with SMURA might bring other opportunities for collaboration.  
**Action:** Lynn to extend an invitation to SMURA to attend our AGM meeting and/or social in April.

- c. Marilyn also noted that essentially all mass Dalhousie communications that are sent to Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Students do not mention Retirees, despite

being told that retirees are welcome to participate in the events and opportunities. This continues despite the issue being raised with several different Dalhousie staff in an effort to rectify the situation. One explanation is that different Dal sections and departments have their own communication personnel and practices. If we cannot find a solution for this problem, it may need ADRP President to University President (or delegate) communication, similar to how we arrived at the memorandum of understanding.

**Action:** Marilyn to work on identifying contacts to rectify the exclusion of retirees from Dal mass communications that go to Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni.

D. Membership – Heather Schellinck

- a. There are currently 875 members. There were several recent deaths of members, which will be noted in the next Newsletter.

**Action:** Marilyn to make note of recent ADRP member deaths in the April Newsletter.

E. Nominating Committee - Randy Barkhouse (written report provided)

Randy reported that Linda MacNutt, Grace Paterson, and Donna Meagher-Stewart have joined him on the Committee. New recruits to Director-at-Large include Laurie Creelman, Sue Hutchinson, and Keith Taylor. There have been no new recruits found yet to fill Vice-President and Secretary openings. Their work continues.

F. Social Director - Heather Schellinck for Susan Holmes

- a. "Mad Madge" was cancelled due to performer illness; an alternate date will be offered. The lunch was well attended. Heather has agreed to provide a review of the play for the next Newsletter.
- b. The next event will be "Come From Away" on April 8th at 7:30 p.m. for which ADRP has purchased 16 tickets. Ed offered to host a pre-show dinner at Moxie's provided he is able to obtain a ticket for the play.

8. New Business

- A. NetID as an ADRP benefit. While access to NetID is listed as an ADRP benefit, it appears that not all ADRP members have the same access to this benefit. For instance, certain applications of NetID are available only to retired Faculty. It was suggested that our website have clear information on benefits and perks available to members and that we seek equity in ADRP member benefits.

**Action:** Jenny 1) review the listed benefits (health and non-health) and perks on our website for accuracy, including where they may differ for DFA and non-DFA retirees, and suggest corrections and links as required and 2) clarify the NetID activation issues that have been identified for non-DFA retirees.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Submitted by Lynn Johnston

**Next Meeting March 17, 2025 2:00 p.m.**

**Zoom**