

Minutes
Association of Dalhousie Retirees & Pensioners
General Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2025: 1:00 – 2:15 pm
Holiday Social 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Old Ashburn Golf Club Ballroom
3250 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax

NOTE: For a full understanding, please refer to the Power Point slides when reading the minutes.

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement – Heather Schellinck, President

1. Adoption of the Agenda

- a. Robin Whyte/Randy Barkhouse

In Memoriam

The President read the names and led attendees in a moment of silence in honor of the following: William Birdsall, Bill Charles, Graham Day, Marcus Kienast, Spencer Lee, Peter Perina, David Wilson.

2. Previous Minutes

- a. Approval of minutes of April 15, 2025
Robin Whyte/Patrick Ryall

3. President's Report

- a. Terms of Reference and job descriptions for Board Members and Committee Chairs have been approved by the Board, based on the current By-Laws.
- b. There have been several social events since the April AGM, including a 25th Anniversary celebration and play from Shakespeare by the Sea that had 40 ADRP members and guests in attendance.
- c. ADRP made a donation to DFA during the strike.
- d. A gift of \$73,000 was made to the ADRP Bursary Fund from the Rodger's estate.
- e. We need new board members to replace interim President and interim Secretary roles.

4. Treasurer's Report – Ed Leach & Linda MacNutt (See slides)

- a. Linda MacNutt introduced herself as interim Treasurer. She is learning the requirements of the role with the help of Ed Leach, Grace Paterson, and David Tindall. Ed Leach then continued with the report.
- b. Details include our Contingency Fund of \$56,305 and the Rodger Estate Donation to the ADRP Bursary Fund of \$73,000, making the current market value of the Bursary \$172,557.
- c. A Guaranteed Investment Certificate matured on November 27 and was renewed for 2 years at 2.85%.

- d. Ed served as Treasurer for 4.5 years and noted that having experience navigating the University systems helps. Linda brings that to the position of Treasurer. She is in the ADRP office Tuesday mornings. The role of Treasurer takes considerable time and effort—an honorarium of \$1,000 per year has been approved by the ADRP Board for this position.
- e. Randy Barkhouse reported on the contribution of \$5,000 to DFA during the strike. Our donation is just a small token of what they have done for our membership. ADRP many years ago had been battling with Dal administration about overpayment of premiums. Philip Welch led the 4-year fight to receive repayment to ADRP members to the tune of ~\$800,000. It was also discovered that early retirees were owed \$200,000 for overpayment of dues, with which the DFA assisted.
- f. Jerry Singleton stated that he was retiree-in-training when President of DFA and reminded executive of need to safeguard benefits for retirees.
- g. SCANS, started by the ADRP, holds its lectures at Hope Church in a long room with only one screen that can be difficult for all attendees to see. In response to a request from SCANS to contribute to the cost of a two-screen setup, the ADRP made a donation to SCANS of \$4000. This was in addition to our usual annual \$500 SCANS donation.
- h. A CURAC 2026 Conference Travel Fund of \$8,500 was approved by the Board, consistent with last year's allocation.

Question posed after the Treasurer's Report: Is there a way for ADRP to serve on the DFA Board?

MOTION: That ADRP President write to DFA President asking if ADRP could be represented in some form on Board of DFA.

Robin Whyte/Oriel MacLennan

Discussion:

With challenges filling positions on the Board of the ADRP, do we have the person-power? This discussion has been around for many years; is it going to go anywhere?

Will ADRP be asking for observer status on other union boards? ADRP has observer status already on Dalhousie University pension and benefits boards.

Vote: For 11. Against: 4 Several abstentions. PASSED

5. Other Reports

A. Benefits – Jenny White (absent)

- a. See slides for report.

B. Communications – Marilyn Klein, Lynn Johnston

- a. We are missing email addresses on our MailChimp database for about 100 ADRP members.
- b. The ADRP website was modified by Phil O'Hara several years ago. Lynn and Marilyn met with a web consultant to receive guidance in making improvements to the website. In essence, there is little we can do without making major changes, which are probably not worth the substantial time and effort that would be required.
- c. The Communications Committee would benefit greatly from more members, especially with technical expertise.
- d. Please let us know about your events - Mocean Dance was of interest to CURAC and published across Canada in their newsletter.
- e. Overview of survey:
ADRP members expressed high interest in hearing about our pension and health benefits in the Newsletter, such as the reports over the years by Paul Huber, Randy Barkhouse, and Peter Wallace, and moderate interest in hearing about ADRP social events. People are generally happy with what we are communicating and when. There were some suggestions for improvement to the website, such as creating a calendar of events, but that would require making links to the events themselves and people have reported not liking too many links to access for information. We have or will make suggested changes where feasible. There were good suggestions about things to include

in the Newsletter, but that would require contributions from people outside of the Communications Committee to fulfil. We plan to share the results of the survey and our actions in a Newsletter. Suggestions for the website, bulletins, and newsletters are always welcome.

f. The draw for Tims gift cards for completing the communications survey took place.

C. Pension Advisory Committee (PAC) - Randy Barkhouse

ADRP has two observers: Randy and Faye Woodman. The PAC meets three times per year with special meetings for events such as the Triennial Valuation.

Randy updated members on the actuarial valuation now underway. A continued surplus of \$49 million has been estimated for the Retirees Trust Fund, but a \$76 million deficit for the Pension Trust Fund (PTF) for a net deficit in the Pension Plan of about \$27 million. If verified, up to half the RTF surplus can be awarded by the RTF trustees for catch-up indexation to reduce the 10.36% of missing indexation. Each 1% of catch-up costs about \$7 million so a total catch-up of about 3.5% is possible.

The trustees will be judging the outlook for the RTF as well as its status at the June 30 valuation date. An automatic pension increase of 1.86% will be awarded in January based on the 3-year average return in the RTF. It could have been about double that based on the returns to June 30 but is capped at the 1-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) as of that same date.

Returns in the RTF have been high for the past three years and many investment experts forecast a market correction (decrease) soon. A decision by the RTF trustees by February on catch-up indexation will indicate their outlook.

While the RTF has a strong surplus the PTF has an even larger deficit of about \$76 million. That deficit must be amortized over 10 years starting next July 1 at a cost of nearly \$2.5 million annually. That increased charge to Dalhousie's operating budget may be another factor in any decision on catch-up indexation that would increase the combined Plan deficit.

D. Nominating Committee – Randy Barkhouse

- a. The Committee is required to recruit new Board members.
- b. The Committee needs two non-Board members to serve on it in addition to two Board members, including the Nominating Committee Chair. Its work involves determining vacant Board positions, making calls to fill the positions, and reaching out to find people to volunteer for the positions. We hope some members in attendance today will serve.

E. Membership - Heather Schellinck

We currently have 876 members.

40 are non-payroll members. Heather reminded non-payroll members to indicate their name in their e-transfer membership fee payment.

F. Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS) – Susan Holmes

Nancy Pitts had been the ADRP Board member responsible for reporting on SCANS activities until she left the Board last April and continues as Truro Chapter representative to SCANS. Susan is now a SCANS Board member and will report on its to ADRP. The Winter course information session is on January 5, 2026. Eleven current or former Dalhousie professors taught SCANS courses in 2025. (See slide for names.) Many Dalhousie retirees take advantage of the variety of courses offered.

G. College & University Retiree Associations of Canada (CURAC) – Susan Holmes

The 2026 Annual Conference will be May 20-22, hosted by Simon Fraser University in New Westminster. Conference theme: Making Connections. Funding is available from ADRP to support members' attendance at the conference.

H. Social Events - Susan Holmes (See slides)

Highlights included: Cheverie Hike followed by Oktoberfest buffet at Flying Apron.

Coming up: January 31, Gahan House for lunch followed by Mad Madge at Neptune.

Ideas for social events are always appreciated. A guide is needed for a tour at Beaty Centre for Marine Diversity—any retired volunteers?

6. New Business - none

7. Adjournment and Holiday Social

ADRP Annual General Meeting: April 21, 2026