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New Brunswick Senior Citizens Federation

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2024 AGM The NBSCF has a new (returning) president!

On Tuesday May 7th, 2024, the New Brunswick Senior Citizens' Federation held its 56th Annual General Meeting. Under the presidency of Mr. Percy Huntington, this assembly took place at the Legends Room of the Moncton Coliseum with close to 130 members in attendance.

Shawn Crossman, deputy-mayor of Moncton, wished everyone a warm welcome to the region. Jean-Eudes Gaudet, K.C., discussed wills and powers of attorney which brought in lots of questions from the crowd.

The Standing Committee Reports painted a positive picture of the Federation:

Management: An administrative assistant, Anne Daigle, was hired part-time. She works 6 hours/week and usually on Wednesdays. The office phone system has been replaced with VOIP and everything is working well. What a discount! We now pay \$125/month rather than \$521/month with Bell Aliant.

Marketing and Revenue Generation: The \$60,000 Covid loan acquired during the pandemic was repaid before the end of 2023, allowing us to keep \$20,000 of the amount. We also applied for and received the Community Services Recovery Fund

from the Red Cross and the Government of Canada, a grant of \$42,201.60. Lise had originally applied for \$50,000.

Government Relations: The 2023 Resolutions approved at last year's AGM have been sent to the provincial government, along with those from previous years which have remained unresolved. The committee met with Kathy Bockus, Minister responsible for Seniors, on August 30th, and Bruce Fitch, Minister of Health, on November 7th. They have been productive meetings so far and both were open to seeing us again. They explained that the process is a bit complicated. When we bring concerns to ministers, they then have to present our ideas to a committee, which can take some time.

Programs and Services: In November 2022, Lise Guignard, our office manager, had applied for a \$25,000 project from the New Horizons for Seniors program entitled: Gatherings to Learn and Socialize. She also applied this fall for another \$19,000 New Horizons project, this time for: Rekindle the Arts. Activities for this project will begin in September.

Louise Belliveau, accountant, presented a very positive 2023 financial report. Business is going well and our employees,

Lise Guignard and Anne Daigle, are doing an amazing job of running the office.

The four 2024 Resolutions: 1. Provide the 2-dose Shingrix vaccine, 2. Property Tax Allowance, 3. Affordable Ozempic Diabetes Medication, and 4. RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) vaccine were all accepted, with a few wording changes.

Coming into the AGM, there was only one candidate for president, Percy Huntington, who had agreed to take on a second term, but in an interesting turn of events, Alphonse Dionne, former president from 2019 to 2022, was nominated from the floor and he accepted. The delegates present elected Alphonse Dionne as provincial president for a 2-year term.

The Board of Directors had a quick meeting right after the end of the AGM to plan their first official meeting for September 24th 2024. The new executive, to join Alphonse Dionne as president and Percy Huntington as past president, will be voted in at that point.

We would like to thank the Legends Room staff, JCB Interpretation, Sonic Image, our volunteers, and all participants who helped to ensure that the day ran smoothly. We wish everyone health and happiness in the coming year!

“This article shows that some of our concerns are moving in the right direction. This was among our 2023 Resolutions, presented by Board second vice-president and Maple Leaf zone president Doris Pauley, and was discussed with both the Minister responsible for seniors and the Minister of health in their meetings with our Government Relations Committee.”

Horizon’s Family Presence - Designated Support Person Initiative

Family presence is more than just a concept at Horizon Health Network; it’s a fundamental approach to healthcare that recognizes the valuable role of family involvement in a patient’s healthcare journey. This evidence-based practice not only enhances patient well-being but also contributes significantly to positive health outcomes.

Designated Support Persons (DSPs) are fundamental in implementing the family presence approach. They are individuals identified by the patient or the patient’s Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) to be involved in the patient’s care and are considered essential partners in care. DSPs assist the patient in various ways such as providing physical and or emotional support, ensure changes in health

information are communicated and offer decision-making assistance. DSPs also have 24-hour access to the patients, even during outbreaks, contributing significantly to patient well-being.

Patients are permitted to identify multiple DSPs, with two individuals allowed at the bedside. Additional accommodations are made for end-of-life patients, allowing for more individuals where space permits.

It is up to the patient or the SDM to identify who the DSPs will be. Once this is determined, the patient/SDM and or healthcare worker will be responsible for providing the DSP with the information needed to complete the required online education and ensuring they register

as a DSP before visiting.

DSPs are different from social visitors in several ways. DSPs are essential members of the healthcare team and require education and registration, ensuring they understand their roles and responsibilities within the healthcare setting. In contrast, social visitors have limited involvement in patient care and are restricted to visiting hours, with no access during outbreaks.

Family presence and the involvement of DSPs at Horizon Health Network reflect a commitment to patient-centered care, and improved health outcomes. For more information or to become a DSP, contact the toll-free number at 1-833-625-1653.

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