



Rapport

October 2021

RTOERO District 15 Halton

RTOERO District 15

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**RTOERO –
 DISTRICT 15
 ZOOM PROGRAM
 EVENTS
 FALL 2021
 Click here!**

OTPP Reduces Carbon Emissions Investment Political Activism Successful - PAC Chair

On Thursday September 16, the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP) announced a reduction in their portfolio of carbon emissions intensity by 45% by 2025 and 67% by 2030.

This is a huge win for the environment and for members of District 15 who expressed concern about how our pension money is invested. It is irresponsible for teachers, trying to encourage their students to be aware of the impact of fossil fuels on the environment, and then find out that our pension plan is investing in those businesses.

"Shift - Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health" was brought to our attention through District 15 Halton members who shared their concern that OTPP was actively investing in fossil fuel pipelines and airports instead of in new green forms of energy, which are future focused employment opportunities.

Many Halton members wrote to OTPP ahead of the Annual General Meeting in April. They received over 500 messages in April.

It is very gratifying to see how quickly OTPP made changes and set new goals for investments. "Shift" is a project of MakeWay, a registered charity.

ShiftAction.ca is actively seeking both active and retired teachers to monitor how our pensions are invested. Please contact me at District15Halton@gmail.com subject line PAC.

Canada's top ten pension funds alone manage nearly \$2 trillion.



Political Advocacy Chair Claudia Stewart pleased with the reduction of Carbon Emissions Intensity in OTPP's portfolio.

How these funds invest your retirement dollars is a major factor in how quickly we can transition to a low-carbon economy while growing your pension in a warming world.

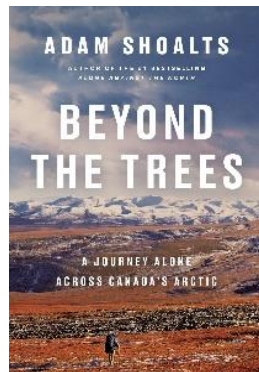
The decisions of pension funds influence whether businesses in Canada and around the world build electric cars and solar panels, or diesel engines and coal-fired power plants.

<https://www.otpp.com/news/article/a/ontario-teachers-releases-ambitious-interim-net-zero-target>

RTOERO - DISTRICT 15 ZOOM PROGRAM EVENTS for the FALL 2021

Journey Across the Arctic - Adam Shoalts

Please join us on Tuesday, October 26th at 11 A.M. for a compelling presentation from Adam Shoalts, a professional adventurer and national best-selling author.



Adam will be sharing his long solo wilderness journey to the Arctic. He has been described by the CBC, "as one of the greatest living explorers." Adam is best known for his long solo wilderness journeys, including crossing nearly 4,000 km of Canada's Arctic alone. His award-winning books include *A History of Canada in 10 Maps*, *Alone Against the North*, and *Beyond the Trees*. His brand-new book, *The Whisper on the Night Wind*, was released in October 2021.

Here is a link to the book page on his website for ordering books:

<https://adamshoalts.com/literature/>

Please Note:

For each of the presentations, a ZOOM link will be sent about a week before...please mark your calendars.

Time to Appreciate Ontario Wine - Ted McIntyre

Please join us on Wednesday, November 24th at 11 A.M. for an engaging and informative presentation: "Time to Appreciate Ontario Wine." Professional sommelier and wine expert, Ted McIntyre will be sharing his top picks for Niagara wineries and he will



introduce us to some Niagara winery owners. Ted will also demonstrate how to properly sip and taste wine.

Although Ted McIntyre is one of Canada's best-travelled and most award-winning golf writers and has edited most of the nation's leading golf publications over the past 25 years, he began to turn his attention to wine writing a decade ago and has annually produced a list of the 36 Best Wines for Under \$18.

Based in Oakville, ON, and bearing an honours degree in political science from McMaster University, he is on the invitation list for virtually every major wine event that comes through Toronto, including private lunches and dinners with some of the world's most famous winemakers, such as Italy's Alberto Zenato and Chile's Aurelio Montes. When Australia's famed Taylors Wakefield Wines launched their \$1,000 Legacy wine in Toronto two years ago, Ted was among the 20 people invited. But he is also a huge fan of Canadian wines, from the bold reds of the Okanagan Valley to the seductive Pinot Noirs and evocative Rieslings of Niagara. And he's a stickler for pairing the proper glass with a wine.

Website: <https://www.thelushlife.ca/>
or

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuGm8YP7TWS-zbYrBR1mRWQ>

President's Message

Hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful fall weather!

According to the Farmer's Almanac, temperatures are supposed to be about three degrees below average, but if we dress appropriately, it shouldn't stop us from enjoying walks during these crisp days.



With the election behind us, it is worth mentioning the amazing work of our **Political Advocacy Committee (PAC)** chaired by **Claudia Stewart**. Many times during the past elections, candidates would pick and choose issues and questions they would like to answer but, unfortunately, they did not always reflect our issues. RTOERO District 15 hosted two all candidates' meetings (ZOOM) before the election, focusing on the following ten questions:

1. What do you and your party think is the number 1 challenge in Canada now?
2. A national pharmacare program has been promised for decades, so how will your party implement national pharmacare?
3. A national child-care plan is essential to the well-being of children in this county and for the economic integration of women into the workforce. What is your party's plan to provide a quality early learning child-care system that is accessible, affordable, and inclusive for all families?
4. Concern about the lack of clean water, genocide of Indigenous children and murdered and missing women lead us to ask what your party's action plan is to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?
5. Currently Canada's long-term care plan fails elders in this country. What is your party's plan to create and implement a new and innovative model of care for Canada's elders, that incorporates home and community care and includes enforceable national standards?
6. How will your government design income security legislation and programs to guarantee no one - seniors, children, persons living with disabilities, women etc. - lives in poverty?

7. What strategies exist or are under development by your party to fully support the transition to a green economy?

8. Our first-past-the-post system is seen as anti-democratic. What plans does your party have for implementing a proportional representation system at the federal level?

9. Women workers in Canada earned 76.8 cents for every dollar earned by men in 2019 as reported by the Canadian Women's Foundation. How will your party ensure that the Federal Pay Equity legislation is implemented to close the gender gap?

10. In building a post COVID-19 Canada, the scale of youth unemployment and underemployment with its associated sense of betrayal and disengagement from society demands a strategy to increase accessibility to post-secondary education and training. What is your strategy to address this?

Although the answers were varied and relatively focused, it did reiterate to the candidates what is important to seniors in Halton and that we will continue to be an active voice!

We are looking at a provincial election this spring (probably June 2, 2022) and will once again, host local all candidates' meetings. Follow our PAC at <https://district15.rto-ero.org/committee-news/political-advocacy-committee>.

Our **Program Committee** continues to offer a variety of ZOOM presentations throughout the year. Please join us on Tuesday, October 26th at 11 A.M. for a compelling Zoom presentation by Adam Shoalts, a professional adventurer and national best selling author.

As well, please join us on Wednesday, November 24th at 11 A.M. for the engaging and informative Zoom presentation, "Time to Appreciate Ontario Wine", with Ted McIntyre.

All presentations are 45 minutes in length and time is allotted for questions at the end. More information is available in this issue of RAPPOR!

Every year, RTOERO polls all 51 Districts for feedback and direction as to what we see as important goals for the coming year. We continue to support the three (3) primary strategic goals:

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Goal 1: be the trusted voice for the broader education community- Continue to advocate and create partnerships with political and medical experts

- Focus on campaigns to all levels of government with regards to LTC staff, upgrading facilities and encourage the government to build more not for profit LTC facilities
- Provide training sessions for diversity, equity, and inclusion

Goal 2: Improve the lives of members and seniors

- Advocating on behalf of LTC homes and improving the conditions for staff and residents and dealing with isolation...more staff, sufficient PPE, and fair wages for the workers
- Focus on climate change and environmental sustainability
- Looking to enhance programs and services for members
- Ongoing training and support for better communications with members (Facebook, Webpage, ZOOM, etc.)

Goal 3: Broaden the membership base

- Encourage membership in the broader fields which have been established in the last few years and maintain the members that we have

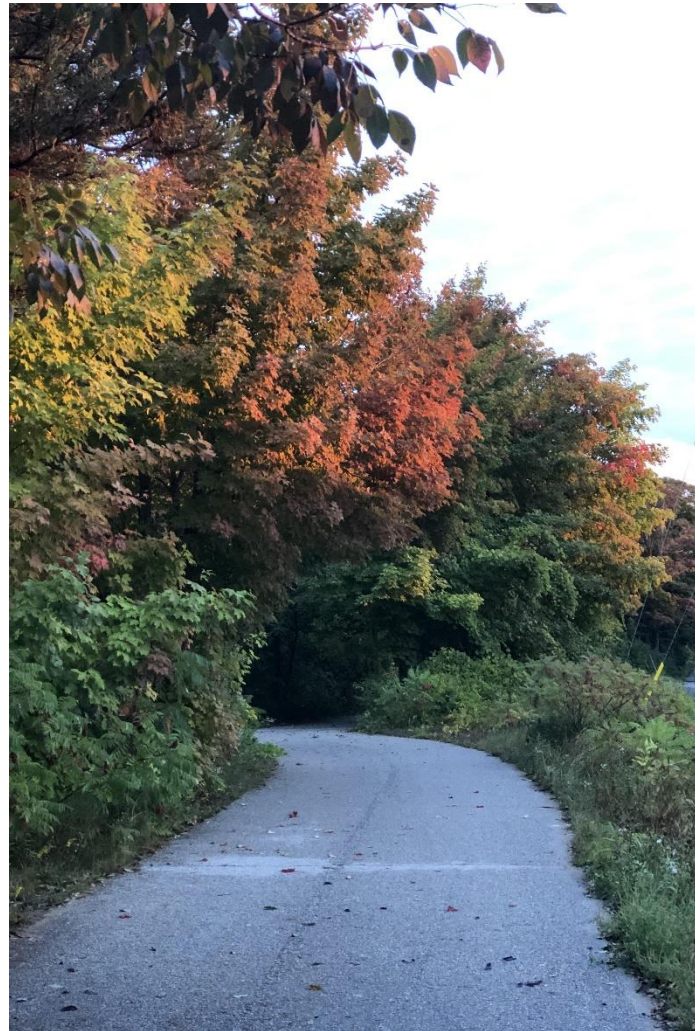
RTOERO also initiated and completed a **member survey** conducted April 2021. As part of the overall survey results, members agree that RTOERO:

- is an honest, ethical organization (86%)
- deeply cares about the future of retirees in Canada (86%)
- provides excellent customer service to members (79%).

As well, 88% of the members were likely to recommend the Extended Health Care plan.

On a local district level, 84% of our members read the district newsletters and 87% use Facebook. With that in mind, I would ask that you follow us on Facebook - RTOERO District 15 Halton. All our information is available on our website - <https://district15.rto-ero.org> ... please bookmark the address for access to information related to RTOERO, both local and central.

I would like to thank **Toni Pizzingrilli**, our **Goodwill Chair**, for the continued work her group does on behalf of our members, especially those 80+, to stay connected with them, primarily through phone calls and the sending of cards to celebrate special events or



Enjoying the fall colours along the Lightfoot Trail in Orillia.

dealing with a difficult situation in their lives. I would especially like to thank Judy Rose for her many years of service as a North Area Goodwill Convenor. Although she is moving to Vancouver to be closer with her children, she will be missed by all of us in Halton!

Have a great fall...and remember, life is a participation sport! Get out there and enjoy!

Jerry Powidajko, President
RTOERO District 15, Halton



You can find and stay in touch with us through our Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/RTOERODistrict15Halton

Like us to easily stay in touch with all that is happening at District 15 Halton.

Building an Eldercare System that Really Works

More than 350 people participated in the RTOERO webinar featuring Andre Picard, health reporter for the *Globe & Mail* and author of *Neglected No More the Urgent Need to Improve the Lives of Canada's Elders in the Wake of a Pandemic*.

Picard alerts us to the failings of Long-Term Care homes and the conditions uncovered due to the pandemic. Residents in LTCs were forsaken by the social safety net and died unnecessarily forcing us to confront hidden attitudes toward the elderly in our society. 150 reports have been written of the neglect suffered by elders in Canada; many died of loneliness. It's a systemic problem; Picard refers to it as Elder Apartheid.

-Universal Truths

1. Every Canadian should receive the right health care at the right time in their lives.
2. The healthcare system must facilitate each Canadian to live to their full potential.
3. Every Canadian has the right to live a good life in dignity to the end of life.

How do we achieve these goals?

- Stop talking! Take action! Change our attitudes to value elders and ensure that they remain a valuable part of society, living good lives among us not isolated and separated from society. Ensure that elders can live at home or in homelike settings for as long as possible.
- Of 400,000 people living in retirement communities 7% are over 65. ● LTCs were built with the look and feel of the prison system where everything happens on a schedule -not all elders wish to live that way. People are being funneled into places/institutions where they are unhappy and penniless due to the costs of LTCs. LTCs are warehousing the elderly, instead of providing a warm inviting homelike experience. Communities need to support elders staying in their homes, if possible. Find ways to deliver health care in non-institutional settings. Support smaller retirement homes near schools and daycares to prevent elders from being hidden in wards with no privacy or dignity.
- \$30 Billion is being spent on universal childcare and potentially the government could see its way to spending a similar amount on eldercare.

- 800,000 older women in Canada are spending over 50 hours a week caring for older men. Support this unpaid work by increasing respite care for elderly women caring for elderly men in their homes and improve access to community centred care. Give residents a voice in their care and find innovative ways to ensure they are having their needs met and living with respect and dignity.
- Everyone wants autonomy, respect, and dignity.
- Better public funding is needed. Picard does not agree with making LTCs go under the Canada Health Act, suggesting parallel legislation, which would be easier to undertake.
- Make eldercare a respected, honourable vocation with decent pay, benefits, sick leave, and community respect-like teaching!
- We should look to countries like Finland, Denmark, and Norway for models of care for elders, to model what works and how we can learn and improve on those models. In Canada, Sunnybrook Centre for Veterans care is a model of care that is working. We have Canadian solutions - just access them and expand the plan.
- NORC- Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, places where medical staff can be close at hand and build community in buildings with seniors.
- Create a Bill of Rights for essential caregivers.
- The standards for PSWs are unregulated as of now. This must not continue. There are good educational programmes for PSWs but regulation and updating best practices are important checks for a new system.
- Get the message out that the issue of Eldercare needs to be a BALLOT issue in the next provincial election. If we don't advocate for it, nobody else will, (certainly not the press).
- By building a network with other generations, children, grandchildren etc. to recruit them to advocate for our wellbeing. Young people are great advocates and want grandpa and grandma to live with dignity and good care if possible.
- Create a Ministry of Eldercare overseeing all the aspects rather than dividing up the portfolio into smaller pieces that no one person or team is overseeing: home care, acute care, chronic care, community care. Develop a new vision for what eldercare could be without expensive facilities for warehousing the elderly.



Oakville Burlington North (OBN) Riding All Candidates Meeting

A collaboration of District 15 Halton RTOERO, AWH Advancement Women Halton, and CFUW Oakville agreed to meet and discuss the possibility of holding a Zoom All Candidates meeting. Halton Environmental Network HEN had partnered with CFUW to do 100 Debates for the Environment on September 8th.

The format from this event was a great starting point to develop our own. CARP was contacted and invited to participate. CARP advertised and invited its members to participate. It was decided to hold an All Candidates meeting for 2 of the 5 Halton ridings as an experiment to see how many participants would attend and to develop a framework for future partnerships and future All Candidates meetings.

A list of questions was prepared and sent to each candidate prior to the meeting. A meeting format was developed to ensure fairness, a timer, a chat monitor, land acknowledgement, introduction of each organization represented. I agreed to be the moderator for this event. Jerry Powidajko and Jeannie Woodcroft agreed to host the Zoom aspect of the meeting. I invited all candidates confirmed with Elections Canada OBN office to participate.

Pam Damoff Liberal
Lenae Dupuis NDP
Gilbert Jupinville PPC
Hanan Rizkalla Conservative
Bruno Sousa Green

Jerry requested an eblast to go out to our members over the weekend to invite them to participate in the meeting. People were asked to register on the District15Halton@gmail.com website and were sent the link the morning before the event. They were invited to suggest questions for the candidates. Several candidates requested the link again prior to the meeting.

September 14 at 3-5pm. Hanan Rizkalla declined on the morning of the event. All others participated. We requested that all candidates enter the Zoom link at 2:30 to meet the moderator, timer, Zoom hosts, answer any questions and do a draw to establish the order of speakers. We held a dress rehearsal without the candidates on Saturday night to be prepared to handle any technical issues. We realized that we could/should have used the District 15 banner behind the moderator for visibility to the audience to ensure they knew the sponsor of the event, but we did not do that this time.

Each candidate had an opportunity to introduce themselves and explaining their reason for running for this position.

Here are the questions we asked:

1. What do you and your party think is the number 1 challenge in Canada now?
2. A national pharmacare program has been promised for decades so how will your party implement national Pharmacare?
3. A national childcare plan is essential to the wellbeing of children in this county and for the economic integration of women into the workforce. What is your party's plan to provide a quality early learning childcare

Candidates' Meeting from page 6

system that is accessible, affordable, and inclusive for all families?

4. Concern about the lack of clean water, genocide of Indigenous children and murdered and missing women lead us to ask what your party's action plan is to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

5. Currently Canada's plan of long-term care fails elders in this country. What is your party's plan to create and implement a new and innovative model of care for Canada's elders that incorporates home and community care and includes enforceable national standards?

6. How will your government design income security legislation and programs to guarantee no one - seniors, children, persons living with disabilities, women etc. - lives in poverty?

7. What strategies exist or are under development by your party to fully support the transition to a green economy?

8. Our first-past-the-post system is anti-democratic. What plans does your party have for implementing a proportional representation system at the federal level?

9. Women workers in Canada earned 76.8 cents for every dollar earned by men in 2019, as reported by the Canadian Women's Foundation. How will your party ensure that the Federal Pay Equity legislation is implemented to close the gender gap?

10. In building a post COVID-19 Canada, the scale of youth unemployment and underemployment with its associated sense of betrayal and disengagement from society demands a strategy to increase accessibility to post-secondary education and training. What is your strategy to address this?

Questions submitted by registrants

1. Are all the candidates double vaccinated?
2. What types of volunteer work have you performed in Burlington?
3. Does your family live in Burlington?
4. What are you/your party doing if elected to improve the quality of life for seniors, specifically pharma care,

in-home subsidization, elder care, support systems, in Halton?

5. What is your party's position on a capital gains tax on one's private residence?

The questions were answered in a respectful way. PPC candidate was vocal about the way the questions were framed and explained his party's platform. He was somewhat tone deaf to the audience's makeup.

There were 20 participants on the call, a disappointing number yet great training for future events. Thank you for participating emails were sent afterwards to each candidate.

Burlington All- Candidates Meeting

Maureen Weinberger, recording secretary for AWH (Advancement Women Halton) was the moderator for this event.

The Candidates were

Michael Bator PPC

Emily Brown Conservative

Jevin David Carroll Rhinoceros

Christian Cullis Green

Karina Gould Liberal

Nick Page NDP

- Emily Brown declined due to another commitment.
- Michael Bator declined due to a family emergency.
- Jevin Carroll did not provide an email address to receive the Zoom link.
- Team members questioned participation of some of the candidates due to prior experiences.
- 28 participants signed into the call.

Apologies were made to candidates for the date of the meeting as it was Yom Kippur. It was acknowledged that efforts should be made to respect religious practices in future. The quality of responses and preparation of the candidates for the meeting was impressive and appreciated.



RESULTS

https://www.elections.ca/enr/help/national_e.htm

IRPP Erosion of Democracy Webinar

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON PUBLIC POLICY



Couchiching Park in Orillia filled with fall colours.

RTOERO District 15 Grateful and Thanks Judy Rose

On behalf of the Goodwill Committee Convenors, the D15 Board Members and District 15 members, and with much gratitude, I say a huge thank you to Judy Rose for her many years of dedication, commitment, and hard work as one of the North Area Goodwill Convenors.

Judy and Sue Spencer have been the dynamic duo of the North Area for several years. Together, they have sent countless cards, made many phone calls and personal visits (Pre Covid) to the D15 members in their area. They have improved and touched the lives of so many members with all their outreach efforts.

Sadly, for us, Judy will be leaving her role as one of the North Area Convenors as she is moving from her home in Guelph to Vancouver to be closer to her daughter. To say Judy will be missed as a valued member of the Goodwill Committee would be a great understatement.

We wish Judy all the best in her new home in Vancouver and many happy experiences with her daughter and her family. We thank her immensely for being an exemplary Goodwill Convenor. Judy's care and compassion for D15 members are greatly appreciated!

The efforts of the Goodwill Committee Convenors have continued to focus on staying connected with our members aged 80+ primarily via phone calls and the sending of cards to celebrate birthdays, offer condolences or express a personalized thinking of you message for anyone who may be experiencing a difficult situation.

During this pandemic, some of the challenges Goodwill Committees in all Districts continue to experience are not being able to do in person visits particularly in retirement homes on LTC homes, having accurate and up-to-date mailing information for members and knowing when members are ill or deceased to be able to respond in a timely manner.

Well done to all who participated in making Jim Baker's 95th birthday a special one indeed. He was extremely appreciative of the card and gift and very pleased to see those who were able to attend.

As always, if you know of someone who is ill or is simply in need of a cheery call or card, please let the committee know.

Benefit Committee Report

Members should have received an email notifying them that the new claims portal is ready to use. I reminded them to register for "My insurance" to access the new claims portal at [Johnson.ca/benefits](https://johnson.ca/benefits).

Once registered they can access the claims portal by logging in at [Insurance.johnson.ca](https://insurance.johnson.ca) and selecting "group benefits". If they are having any problems, they can always contact Johnson Insurance by email at digitalsupport@johnson.ca or by telephone at 1-833-749-1324.

Members are reminded that if they are travelling to always take their Benefit card with them. In case of an emergency, all the contact information they will need is on the card.

There is an upcoming zoom Benefits workshop for Benefit Chairs on October 4 so I suspect I will have more to report at the next meeting.

Bonnie Cummings, Benefits Committee Chair



Better lives for Canada's education community retirees

Une vie meilleure pour les retraités du secteur de l'éducation au Canada