

SUMMER 2025

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CHAPTER 13/16 NEWSLETTER

ARM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Iain Beaton, President District, 13/16

As I write, summer is about to officially begin, and a heat wave is imminent. The political climate is pretty hot, too. National Indigenous Day will coincide with the passage of bill C-5, it appears, and combined with Ontario's Bill 5, the Truth is that there is very little evidence of Reconciliation by either the provincial or federal governments.

Orangehead's early departure from the G7 confirmed he has no interest or ability in being a global statesman. Crises continue to exist around the world, both caused and worsened by his tweets - I mean, his social media statements (and his sycophantic staff, too, I guess). It's hard to look forward to the summer when parts of the world will be, literally, burning due to climate change and military carnage.

But we need to find time to relax, cool off, and get refreshed for the many challenges that face us. At the convention of the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC), Charlie Angus gave a heartfelt, angry, but inspiring Elbows Up address to the delegates.

Maybe it's possible for us this July to both sip beer on the dock AND protest at the First Ministers summit in Muskoka.

Perhaps I am sounding this way because I have been spending a lot of time in meetings this June: OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Council June 6, ARM Council and the Biennial conference June 9-11, the Chapter 13/16 AGM June 17, the CURC convention June 18-19 - and an online meeting of the OFL's new Retired Workers Committee June 23. Speakers on education and the economy, on human rights and health care and on various issues in between, have filled me with despair but also determination. I hope I will be able to share some of the material presented at these meetings in the coming months, to use as tools against the misinformation and inflammatory rhetoric that has poisoned our public discourse. In fact, the slide presentations from the ARM Biennial are all posted and available on the [ARM Council](#) website. There are reasons to feel hope, but only if we educate ourselves and take action.

There are items in this issue that ask you to take action. There is the Shadow Summit in Muskoka, organized by the Ontario Health Coalition and others. Also, an OSSTF petition calls on school board trustees to pressure the government to provide adequate funding. Your signature, your voice, your

presence at a rally can contribute to co-operative efforts to improve our world. This includes standing up for Canada - but a Canada that is inclusive, based on legal protections, and does not use economic "emergency" as an excuse to trample on the rights of its inhabitants. So, on Canada Day, celebrate the things that make this country so worth defending - but also acknowledge the flaws, and be aware that what threatens Canada does not just come from beyond our borders.

Once again this year, Chapter 13/16 donated to a number of community organizations, most of whom we have given to in the past. In Durham region, we gave \$500 each to Community Care Durham, North House, and Feed the Need in Durham. In York region, donations of \$500 were made to Blue Door shelter, 360 Kids, and the Markham Food Bank. There may be photos recording these donations elsewhere in the newsletter.

Have a healthy and safe summer!



Canada
<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/canada-day/toolkit.html>

CHAPTER 13/16 AGM

By Iain Beaton

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ARM Chapter 13/16 was held on Tuesday, June 17 at Main's Mansion in Markham. Eleven members attended the meeting and we all enjoyed lunch after the meeting.

The selection of next year's Executive took place, with the existing members of the Executive being acclaimed. The Chapter 13/16 Executive for 2025-26 is: Iain Beaton, President; John Pownall, Treasurer; Cyndie Jacobs, Communications Officer; Cristal Diemer-Ewles and Mike Atkins, Members-at-large. In addition, Karen Jagoe agreed to continue as layout editor for the ARM Chapter 13/16 Newsletter.

Other members have represented Chapter 13/16 in activities during the past year. Dianne More has attended District 16 CPAC (Communications & Political Action Committee) meetings. Rita More (no relation!) attended the Ontario Health Coalition Action Assembly and was a delegate at the ARM 2025 Biennial conference.

In addition, the office managers in the District offices have been quite helpful. Daniela Miele at D16 helped with the Chapter phone tree that we held in their office and helped us to contact new retirees. In D13, Ruth Leone continued to handle the Chapter account, and was supportive in many other ways. She is retiring this summer, and we wish to send her our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for a happy retirement.

ARM/MRA: OSSTF/FEESO

Report On Home Care In Ontario

By Rita More

Whether or not you were in a position to complete the survey that ARM sent out in 2023 about home care in Ontario, you will likely be interested in the report that has recently been published by OSSTF/FEESO with the results of that survey. The qualified researcher who has compiled the results, along with background information, has provided a very readable report with charts that make the answers to questions easily read. The background explains the serious gaps in services for patients needing home care as well as the lack of support for caregivers, both paid and unpaid. The report also includes a clear synopsis of recent legislative changes, highlighting concerns about the lack of public accountability in new structures both in for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

As retired people, many of us are aware of just how quickly life can get complicated when we or one of our family members needs care at home. This report is useful for those of us in that position now or for any of us concerned about the care of vulnerable people in our communities.

The report is available on the ARM Council page of the OSSTF/FEESO website and can be found [here](#). It is labelled "ARM Home Care Report 2025".

The report also suggests the following advocacy organizations for keeping informed:

- [The Ontario Health Coalition](#)
- [Care Watch](#)
- [Canadian Association of Retired Persons](#)

Tell The Trustees To Push The Government To Provide More Funding For Better Schools

By Iain Beaton

OSSTF/FEESO has a petition that is being presented to school board trustees across the province. This petition identifies the needs for better funding, and calls on the trustees to pressure the Ontario government to increase funding. Studies show that real dollar investment in public education has declined drastically since the Ford government took office, neglecting to adjust for inflation and increased enrolment.

You can add your name to the petition by going to the [Better Schools, Stronger Communities page](#) online. Both Districts - 13 and 16 - will be presenting the petition to local school boards early in the coming school year.

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

May 21, 2025: Golf Day



Paul Kossta (Chapter 12), organizer of the event, at left, along with participants from OTIP.

From L to R:

Wayne Milliner (Chapter 13/16), joined by Dominic Bellissimo (Chapter 12), Gary Fenn (Provincial CPA), and Randy Banderob (retired, Provincial office).



Chris Aslanidis (Chapter 12; second from the right) and friends.



May 24, 2025: The education rally at Queen's Park - photo submitted by Rita More.

June 12, 2025: Karen Jagoe presenting an ARM donation cheque to Markham Food Bank on behalf of ARM.



June 19, 2025: Presenting an ARM donation cheque presentation to North House in Uxbridge by Cyndie Jacobs.

June 17-19, 2025: ARM delegates had their Elbows Up after Charlie Angus's speech to the CURC [Congress of Union Retirees of Canada] Convention. Note at far right, Julia McCrea and Iain Beaton of Chapter 13/16, and fourth from right, Charlie Angus.



UPCOMING EVENTS

[Shadow Summit, Car Cavalcade & Mass Rally](#) Outside Council Of The Federation This July

From the Ontario Health Coalition website

This event is hosted by the Canadian Health Coalition, Ontario Health Coalition & the Ontario Federation of Labour.

All the provincial and territorial leaders from across Canada will be in Huntsville for the annual meeting of the premiers hosted by Doug Ford this year at Deerhurst Resort just outside Huntsville near Algonquin Provincial Park from July 21 to July 23.

At the same time, the Health Coalitions from across Canada will join together to hold a Shadow Summit just down the road. The nurses' associations and unions will gather and hold meetings with the premiers and join us. The federations of labour from each province will gather next door. Other groups too, will have a presence. Usually, the Assembly of First Nations has a presence as does the Council of Canadians. The National Union of Public and General Employees will be meeting there. The Canadian Health Coalition will join us to host a rally attended by everyone. It is a significant opportunity to come together, share information, connect with one another and raise key health care issues on the local, provincial and national stage.

Monday July 21 - Shadow Summit

Hidden Valley Resort, 1755 Valley Rd, Huntsville, ON P1H 1A8 (next door to Deerhurst Resort where the Premiers are meeting).

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Opening plenary

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Workshops (choose one on the [registration form](#)):

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lunch

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Workshops (choose one on the [registration form](#)):

4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Closing plenary

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Bonfire on the front lawn, close to the beach

Tuesday July 22 - Rallies outside the Premiers' Meeting, Car cavalcade, Roadside action on Highway 60, Leafletting

9:00 a.m. For those already up in the area: Leafletting at the park gate, Algonquin Park on Highway 60

12:00 p.m. Car Cavalcade & Rallies - Gather at the parking lot of the Hidden Valley Resort at 12 p.m.

Rally outside Deerhurst (shortly after 12 p.m.) where the Council of the Federation is meeting, the car cavalcade down Highway 60, through Huntsville, and back up Highway 11 to final very visible rally at corner of Highway 11 & Highway 60 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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[President's Message; Chapter 13/16 AGM; Tell the Trustees to Push the Government to Provide More Funding for Better Schools]

Rita More, Chapter 13/16 Member [Home Care Report in Ontario]

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In the summertime...

