



# Canadian Pacific Pensioners Association of Calgary

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## Message from the President

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I am sure you are wondering who is this guy that just became the Club's new President. My name is Joe Dragani. I started my career at Canadian Pacific Railway in March 1977 at Ogden Shops. I hired on as a labourer while waiting for the apprentice machinist position to open. As an apprentice I worked in several areas in Ogden and made many friends. I went to Alyth in October 1978 as part of my rotation and decided to stay. After completing my apprenticeship, I worked the night shift for 11 years and moved through several front-line supervisory positions. In 1990 I found myself in the position of training instructor replacing the wonderful Bill Benner. The 1993 reorganization led me to the position of Manager, Technical Training in the Mechanical Department and in an office back at Ogden Shops in the Steel Car Shop. This was a position held by Ken Brown and Allen Brander in the past, so I knew I had extraordinarily big shoes to fill. In 1995 we moved to head office in Gulf Canada Square. In 1997 I found myself moving to Labour Relations and then finally to Manager, Research and Strategy in 2001. I am grateful for the opportunities I was given at CPR. I am even more grateful for the wonderful people I met and worked with during my career. What is even more gratifying is the friendships I developed over the years that continue to this day.

Next, I would like to thank Cathy Cowie and Peter Tsatas for nominating me at the January 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. I was quite happy coming for a meal and enjoying everyone's company each month so when nominated, I was very reluctant. After thinking about it, I found myself getting more excited. So, my pledge to you is to represent the interests of this association, to uphold the aims of the Bylaws, to keep the members informed and to build on the foundation created by the Past Presidents and Directors. In particular, I would like to thank Past President Laurie Rupert for all his past service and for graciously welcoming me into the Club last year.

Finally, a big thank you to Arthur for arranging the 50-minute video on January 21<sup>st</sup> of the history, overhaul, and final spike journey of the Royal Hudson 2816. There were about twenty members in attendance watching the video. Keith Creel, President of CPKC spoke in the video and compared this event to the nation joining 1885 driving of last spike while this journey and event joined three nations north-south. There were thousands of people at Ogden Shops on April 24, 2024, and crowds of people at all stops along their route. This demonstrates the public interest in the heritage and nostalgia of the steam train era and the importance of this event.

Joining the Club has let me reconnect with some people I haven't seen in a long time and I look forward to seeing everybody at upcoming lunch meetings and events!

*Joe Dragani*