



# Canadian Pacific Pensioners Association of Calgary

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## *Message from the President, Year End 2025*

Dear Calgary Pensioners,

As 2025 comes to an end, for me the year stands out as a truly remarkable one as I come up on twelve months as your President of the Canadian Pacific Pensioners Association of Calgary. Your board of directors and volunteers did a remarkable job preparing and serving food, organizing events, managing financials, securing sponsor gifts and fostering friendships. That would not have been possible without each of you and the camaraderie and commitment to the Club that we share. I would like to recap 2025.

Last winter and spring, Arthur secured permission from CPKC to play the previously unreleased CPKC 50-minute video "Pulse of the Continent" about the Final Spike Steam Tour of the Empress 2816 Steam Locomotive and the historic 76-day trip from Calgary to Mexico City and back. The film was released to the public on September 20<sup>th</sup> and has been nominated for two Alberta Media Production Industries Association (AMPIA) Awards in 2024: Best Original Musical Score and Best Overall Sound for a Documentary.

In April, we started preparing for the triennial conference for the National Council of Canadian Pacific Pensioners Association (NCCPPA) that was held in Calgary in June. Also in April, we held a special meeting to discuss and finalize pension resolutions (changes to the pension plan rules) that were to be presented at the NCCPPA conference in June.

On June 5-6-7 we hosted the conference and elected a new President and Secretary for the NCCPPA. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, CPKC hosted a wonderful lunch in the RCP Pavilion. This was followed by tours of the business cars, the CPKC Police Headquarters building, and the Training Centre which included operating a locomotive and a train on a simulator. What a remarkable event and we are so grateful to Keith Creel, James Clements, Toby Poloway, Keri Cumiford and their staff at CPKC for hosting these events on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, we held our last meeting before summer break and capped that off with a BBQ lunch.

Besides our regular monthly meetings, on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we held the bowling event at Toppers Bowling. It was attended by twenty-three members and spouses. We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon, and judging by all the laughs we had a lot of fun.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, we raffled three sets of 4-pack tickets for the Calgary Wranglers game on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we are so thankful to management of CPKC who donated the tickets for the game. The seats were in the CPKC Box inside the Saddle Dome.



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On November 11<sup>th</sup>, I was honoured to attend the CPKC Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph and lay a wreath on behalf of the nearly 18,000 pensioners and survivors across Canada.

Finally, on December 9<sup>th</sup>, we held our last meeting for the year. We were so fortunate and are extremely thankful that Spolumbo's prepared and delivered our meal free of charge. All the proceeds collected for the meal, the Club's portion of the 50-50, and the whiskey bottle raffle were donated to the Veterans Association of Calgary Food Bank totalling \$845.00. In addition, two full boxes of food stuff was donated.

We were saddened by the loss of six members of our Calgary Club in 2025 and well as many Calgary retirees. This included Kelvin Palmer, Laurie Rupert and Bill Benner. We were fortunate to have family members of Kelvin and Bill come to the club and make a beautiful tribute. Laurie's funeral was very well attended by members of the Club, and it was a wonderful service. We extend our condolences once again to all the families of all club members and retirees lost on 2025. On the other hand, we gained seventeen new members this year and I hope they enjoy attending Club functions.

For 2026, I look forward to the AGM on January 13<sup>th</sup> and continuing our efforts to make the Pensioners Club a meeting place to make new friends, share stories and have some laughs. As the holiday season arrives, we hope you take time to celebrate with your family and friends. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy holiday season – and we look forward to an exciting 2026!

Warmest Regards, your President

*Joseph Dragani*

