

Bulletin - APRUO

Janvier/January 2023

<https://apruo.ca/fr> <https://apruo.ca/>

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Note from the President

On behalf of all board members, I wish to express my very best wishes for the New Year. May it be filled with serenity and peace and good health. I also offer these same wishes for the whole University of Ottawa community.

Over the past two years, because of the pandemic, we had to change the frequency and the format of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), but we will be going back to our usual schedule and will hold our next meeting in the Spring of 2023. The date, the format and the details will be communicated later this winter. Those of you who could not attend the last AGM held last September can visit our website (apruo.ca under the heading *About APRUO* and then *Annual General Meeting*) where the draft minutes have been uploaded.

I wish to thank sincerely all our colleagues who renewed their APRUO membership. Your trust and loyalty give us the support and energy to fulfill our mandate: which is to promote your interests and represent you at the University, the APUO, and the APAR. At the same time, I invite those of you who have not have the opportunity to do so, to visit our website at <https://apruo.ca/membership/become-a-member> and renew your membership online. It's simple and takes only few minutes.

I especially want to thank all members who replied to the survey sent in December 2022. Rest assured that we will analyze the data with great interest and that it will feed our thinking about how better to meet your expectations.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with us at apruo@uottawa.ca if you want more information on the Association, or send us a message using the “Contact Us” information at the bottom of our website Home Page.

Sylvie Lauzon,
President

Pension Indexation for 2023

The Human Resources Service at the University of Ottawa has announced the pension plan indexation increase for 2023. This year, beginning with the January 2023 pension payment, the amount paid will increase by 5.33%.

The announcement can be accessed by clicking on the link below, which will take you to the "Pension Plan Publications Page." The announcement is filed under the "Pension Indexation" tab as a PDF document, which you can download. <https://www.uottawa.ca/about-us/faculty-and-staff/human-resources/pension-plan-publications>

The HR announcement explains how the pension indexation percentage is calculated, using a formula that takes into account CPI changes in the twelve months ending on 30 September 2022. A record of previous indexations can be found on the APRUO website at: <https://apruo.ca/pension-benefits/pension-indexing>

In 2022, APRUO members also received a “catch-up” indexation increase of 0.21 per cent, applied to a previously unpaid portion of the 2019 indexation increase. In any year when the indexation increase is more than 2%, the amount of the increase that is between 2% and 3% is not automatically awarded. From time to time, the Board of Governors has acted to approve catch-up increases in these cases, as it did in this instance.

Elfriede Ognanovic Bequest

Professor Elfriede Ognanovic, who passed away in 2021, has left a generous bequest to the APRUO valued at over \$125,000. She taught psychiatric nursing at the University of Ottawa in the 1970s. The Treasurer of the APRUO has received the first installment of the

bequest, in the amount of \$105,000, with a smaller, final disbursement expected this year.

The Administrative Committee is considering how this bequest can be put to use to further the objectives of the APRUO, but as a first step, \$75,000 has been added to the endowment fund for the APRUO Scholarship, which is awarded annually to eligible students at the University of Ottawa.

APRUO Scholarship Winners for 2023

The APRUO sponsors an endowed scholarship funds for eligible students at the University of Ottawa. The terms of reference for the scholarship specify that “students who are the children, grandchildren or dependent children of University of Ottawa employees (active or retired)” are eligible to apply for financial assistance. (For the scholarship terms of reference, see the following web link: <https://apruo.ca/scholarships/terms-of-reference> .)

In recent years, the APRUO has awarded several scholarships each year, and in 2023 four awards of \$2,000 each will be offered. Profiles of past awardees are featured on the APRUO website. Details about our scholarship winners for 2023 will be available on our website soon.

Access to Computer Software after Retirement

From time to time, APRUO members have raised the question of access to University licenced software after retirement, particularly access to Microsoft 365, which includes Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Outlook. The University’s policy regarding “M365 Eligibility” is spelled out on the following web page: <https://www.uottawa.ca/about-us/information-technology/services/software/m365/eligibility> . According to this policy, only emeritus professors currently have access to this software and then only its online use. Other retired professors and support staff retirees have no access at present.

This means that APRUO members who wish to have the full use of a downloaded copy of Microsoft 365 must currently buy an annual subscription, which costs approximately \$80, plus tax. Microsoft does offer an educational discount to eligible individuals. Those who

wish to access the educational discount (approximately \$55 annually, plus tax) must verify their eligibility at the following web page, and proceed from there: www.microsoft.com/en-ca/workplace-discount-program .

The Administrative Committee of the APRUO is planning to look into this issue to see if access for retired University employees to Microsoft 365 can be improved in future. We will report back to our members on this issue in the future.

News from CURAC

CURAC/ARUCC is happy to announce that the 2023 Annual Meeting and Conference will be held at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, May 31 - June 2. The meeting will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of CURAC/ARUCC and will be held in a hybrid mode. If your travel plans take you in that vicinity at that time, it would be an exciting opportunity for you to attend the conference in person. More information will be shortly available on the CURAC/ARUCC website at www.curac.ca.

APRUO Membership Renewal

The key to our effectiveness as an Association is the support we receive from our membership. This month and next, we will be following up on our annual membership campaign to reach out to those of colleagues whose membership in the APRUO has recently expired. If your membership has recently lapsed or if you have not previously joined the Association, we'd like to encourage you to sign up.

To renew your memberships very easy:

- Go to <https://apruo.ca/user/signin/?goto=membership%2F renew-membership>
And follow the instructions for existing users ("Renew Membership") or for new members ("Become a Member").
- Or**
- Send an "INTERAC" transfer of \$25, \$50 or \$75 (1, 2 or 3 years) to treapruo@uottawa.ca
- Or**
- send a cheque to APRUO in one of those amounts to:
Treasurer APRUO
University of Ottawa
141 Louis Pasteur

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In the days to come we will also be sending out reminder notices as a follow-up, to members who have not renewed as yet for 2023.