

Elements of a Formal Partnership

Background

Since its inception in 1968, RTOERO has enjoyed the benefits of many informal partners that provide programs, services and information to its members.

Some associations are long-standing, like Johnson Inc. that provides service in a variety of ways to members through a business agreement, and the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP) which deducts RTOERO membership fees from members' pensions, as per government legislation. Over the years, other associations with partners have been of a shorter duration, and are often in place for a specific purpose and for a limited time period.

Formal Partnerships as defined in this document, however, are intended to be for a longer term, and be part of an ongoing, evolving relationship with RTOERO that is aligned with the vision, values, goals and brand of the organization as outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Types of Formal Partnerships

Under a formal partnership, RTOERO normally would establish a relationship for one of two primary reasons:

- a) To undertake common advocacy on issues of importance to RTOERO and its membership; or
- b) To provide information on health-related issues that would be of interest to members.

Other “Partnerships”

As mentioned in the Background, RTOERO recognizes there are other types of “partners” with which it develops relationships to help meet the goals of the organization. These include:

- Business agreements for the provision of service such as with Johnson Inc., printers, vendors and suppliers.
- Legislative or contractual agreements such as with the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP).
- Casual relationships that benefit members such as with the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS), the College and University Retiree Association of Canada (CURAC), the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT), and the various teacher affiliates and education organizations.
- Preferred sponsorships whereby for-profit organizations provide products and/or services in an exemplary manner for members at discounted rates.

Definition

An RTOERO partnership exists when a formal written agreement has been developed. The agreement outlines the responsibilities of each organization, has been reviewed by their respective legal counsel, approved by the RTOERO Board of Directors, and signed by accredited officers from both organizations.

Criteria

To be considered by the Board for approval, the partnership must meet the following criteria, as appropriate.

The partnership:

- a) is mutually beneficial to each organization, advancing their goals and objectives.
- b) facilitates the sharing and receiving of information that would be of interest to our members.
- c) must align with and not contradict the following key components of RTOERO's Strategic Plan:
 - i) Vision – "Our vision is a healthy, active future for every member of the education retiree community in Canada."
 - ii) Values – Accountability, Community Connection, Giving Back/Making a Difference, Inclusion, Leadership/Vision, Service to Members, Wellbeing.
- d) must align with at least of one of RTOERO's brand pillars:
 - i) Insurance
 - ii) Member privileges and perks
 - iii) Social activities and support
 - iv) Community service
 - v) Advocacy
 - vi) Research
- e) must not jeopardize nor conflict with any of the following:
 - i) CNCA and other legislation such as the safeguarding of members' private information
 - ii) RTOERO By-Law and Policies
 - iii) RTOERO's not-for-profit status
 - iv) RTOERO's non-partisan status in terms of undertaking advocacy
 - v) RTOERO's key programs and services to members, such as the provision of health insurance to members
- f) must be based on an ongoing relationship and not on an isolated issue or task.
- g) furthers RTOERO's advocacy efforts by combining efforts to present a stronger viewpoint, and by amplifying our voices at the provincial and national levels.