

ARAS Weekly Newsletter

Association of Retired Academic Staff



February 2nd, 2026

CURRENT AFFAIRS SALON



The next meeting of Current Affairs Salon will take place at 2.00 pm on **Thursday, February the 5th**. The topic is "Alberta's"

clean up of abandoned oil and gas properties: are polluters paying"

The Zoom coordinates for this meeting are

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83008835534?pwd=aKONPxDaAeyyCLw9KTUnzqlRf365Z.1#success>

Meeting ID: 830 0883 5534

Passcode: qn35hU4h

BOOK CLUB



The next meeting of the Book Club takes place on **Wednesday, February 18th** at 2:30 pm in Room 1-46 of University Terrace (8303 112 Street). The discussion of *Playground by Richard Powers* , will be led by Jan Murie. Members may participate either in-person or online. Beverley O'Brien (bo1@ualberta.ca) will send a Zoom link beforehand for those wishing to join virtually. If you wish to join the group, please contact Vivien Bosley at vbosley@ualberta.ca . Please note that University Terrace is locked but there will be someone to meet you at the door when you arrive.

CURAC

AROHE has provided a webinar series of talks on charting the journey to a fulfilling retirement. The dates and titles of the talks can be accessed by clicking the link below

<https://www.arohe.org/page-1827074>

CURAC/ARUCC Event

February 10th (2026) at 11am MT

Sign up now for CURAC's Retiree Associations Conversation with our Affinity Benefit partners – how to sign up:

- Send your name, email address, and the name of your local retiree association to cllenave@ucalgary.ca

The Zoom invite is: <https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/92991247091>

Meeting ID: 929 9124 7091

Professors Emeriti Network Zoom Meeting on Wednesday,

February 18, 2026, 9am- 11am MST

Linking groups of retired academics across nations and beyond

To attend the meeting, please register at Joze.Gricar@UM.si.

Those registered will receive a link to the meeting

Co-chairs

[Dr. Eric Hockert, University of Minnesota Retirees Association](#) (Past President FY24). [Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education – AROHE](#) (President-elect), United States. [Big Ten Retirees Association \(BTRA\)](#) 2026 Conference Planning Group Chair. [University Retirees Volunteer Center](#) (Past Board Chair), [Office for Technology Commercialization](#) (Retired), EHockert@Alumni.UMN.edu

[Dr. Walter Archer, Professor Emeritus](#). University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. [President, College and University Retiree Associations of Canada – CURAC](#). [Book Review Editor, Canadian Journal of Higher Education](#), WArcher@UAlberta.ca

Panel Members: To be indicated

Technology provided by [Dr. Aleksandar Erceg, Professor](#),
Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Economics and
Business, Croatia. [International Center for Entrepreneurial Studies
\(ICES\)](#), Aleksandar.Erceg@EfOs.hr

Links to video recordings of the [Professors Emeriti Network](#) Zoom
meetings are posted at [You Tube Emeriti Network](#).

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The *Registered Participants List* will be posted.

Online webinar on Aging

Title: Vision Changes After 55: What's Normal, What's Not, and
What to Do About It

Date: Tuesday, **February 24, 2026**

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: Online webinar, hosted on Zoom

Registration: This online event is free for all attendees. [Click here to
register.](#)

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Apply before **March 31st, 2026**.

*If you have already registered to the travel site, all you need to do is log in [HERE](#) using your email address and the unique password that you created.

More information about the contest will be included in the attachment.

For any other questions or requests for any trip, please contact Trip Merchant by email info@tripmerchant.com or call 1-800-481-9739 » Extension 0.

Humanities and Social Sciences

Big Thinking Summit 2026: Inflection Point

June 9 to 11, Edmonton Convention Centre, Edmonton, Alberta

The Federation's Big Thinking Summit: Inflection Point will bring the humanities and social sciences (HSS) to the forefront. Together, we must draw on historical, linguistic, cultural, and practice-based perspectives to open new possibilities for a Canada at the crossroads. Questions of legitimacy — who produces knowledge, whose voices are amplified, and how authority is recognized — are pressing to the fore. As public trust in postsecondary institutions is tested, shifts in cross-sector partnerships must reshape how research connects with policy and community priorities. Innovations in teaching, inquiry, and knowledge sharing must redefine scholarship and how it circulates across all of society.

Calling on academics, community partners, and policymakers from across Canada to forge new collaborations and tackle these critical questions at the Big Thinking Summit: Inflection Point.

[Register](#)

The McMaster Optimal Aging Portal has provided a video on “better sleep without pills”. You can access the video below through the link

[Watch the video!](#)

OFFICE ASSISTANT

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February 9th, 2026

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LUNCH WITH...



The next Lunch With...event will take place at 11:30 am on **Wednesday February 25** in Room 1-38 of University Terrace. The speaker will be Alison Criscitiello whose topic will be "The Canadian Ice Core Lab Recent Drilling Expeditions". She will be talking on how Ice Cores are used to reveal a detailed record of attic climate reaching back to the last Ice Age . The event will be catered by Upper Crust and the cost of the lunch will be \$25. If you plan to attend, please inform ARAS at emirhse@ualberta.ca. Payment in advance via INTERAC transfer would be appreciated although payment at the door will be accepted.

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Ice Core Lab Recent Drilling Expeditions". She will be talking on how Ice Cores are used to reveal a detailed record of attic climate reaching back to the last Ice Age .

Lunch will be catered by Upper Crust at a cost of \$25; payment in advance by INTERAC transfer would be appreciated, but payment at the meeting will be accepted. Paid parking will be available in College Plaza and is accessible from 112 Street by turning onto 83 Avenue and driving east until turning right into the parkade. Room 1-38 is at the far east on the first floor of University Terrace. If you have a OneCard which authorizes you to enter University Terrace, you can park in the parkade under University Terrace (paid parking). Someone will be at the front door to greet you and let you in. You should be targeting an arrival time of 11:30 am with lunch to begin at around 11:45 am and the speaker starting his presentation at around 12:15 pm.

DINING OUT



Peggy has booked our next dining out for **Thursday, March 5** at 6:30 pm at Bahubali. The restaurant is at 4208 Calgary Trail. It is directly south of the Earl's restaurant that is at the corner of Calgary Trail and the Whitemud freeway. There is a large parking lot with free parking right in front. The restaurant offers South Indian

cuisine. If you wish to come, please let Peggy know by **Tuesday, March 3** at peggyallegretto@gmail.com so that Peggy can confirm our number with the restaurant . Peggy looks forward to seeing you there.

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February 23rd, 2026

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CURRENT AFFAIRS SALON



The next Current Affairs Salon will take place via Zoom at 2:00 pm on **Thursday March 5** at 2:00 pm. The topic will be the recently announced Alberta budget.

The Zoom coordinates for this meeting are

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Meeting ID: 830 0883 5534

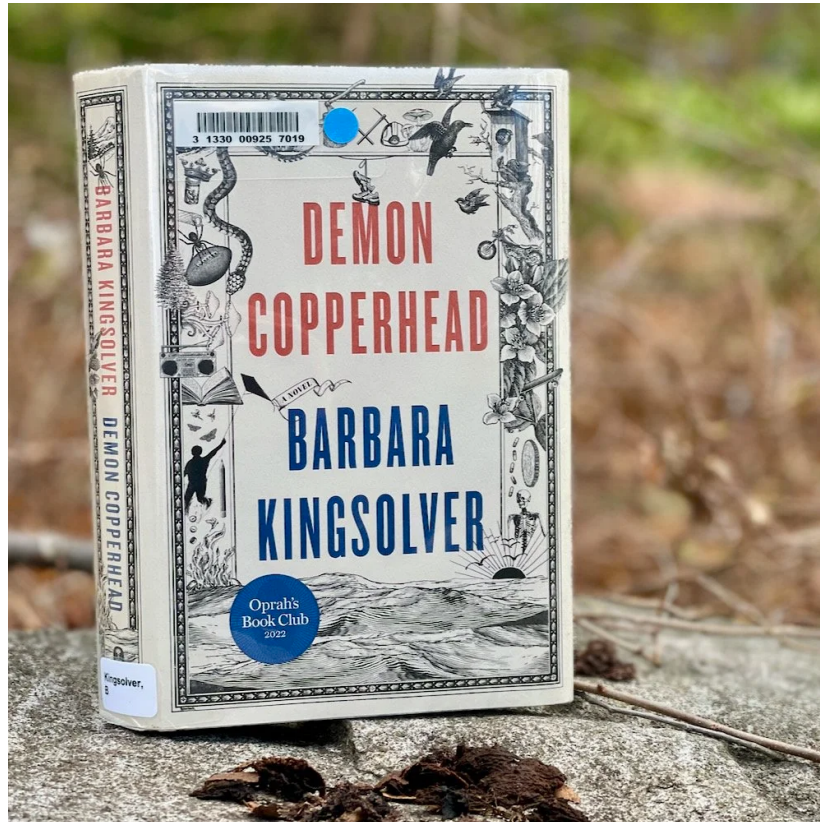
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