

# RALU News



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### **CURAC/ARUCC Conference & AGM 2012 Victoria, B.C.**

The 2012 Conference/AGM will be hosted in part by the UVIC Retirees Association. As the member of CURAC representing all retirees' interests, your association, RALU, plans better communication to coincide with the conference. This year we plan a more interactive approach to communicating the content of the presentations to members. Although RALU will be represented by David Kemp, RALU President, any and all are encouraged to attend.

Complete information is on the CURAC site.

[http://www.curac.ca/?page\\_id=70](http://www.curac.ca/?page_id=70)

### **Democracy Under Threat: The Harper Government Lobotomizes Library and Archives Canada/Bibliothèque et Archives Canada (LAC/BAC)**

CAUT reports that unfolding moves in Ottawa demand our close attention and appropriate action to save a basic element of our democracy, our national archives and libraries. "Badly conceived restructuring, a narrowing of its mandate, and financial cutbacks are undermining LAC's ability to acquire, preserve and make publicly available Canada's full documentary heritage," Dr. James L. Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers said.

<http://www.caut.ca/pages.asp?page=1037>

As is a trademark with this government all is accomplished without public debate. Even watching closely, we are basically left picking up clues long after the fact. The moves are being conducted by a new wave of non library educated and trained functionaries with looming disaster for the wider society. Budgets have been cut by 20% and there has been a

moratorium on acquisitions. Details are sketchy, but instead of the intake of publishing from the country as a whole, that will be “selective” in future, following the lifting of the current moratorium, that is. So questions to be answered are selection conducted by whom? According to what guidelines? Stockwell Day perhaps.

LAC/BAC, the National Library as it was known for many years is a bulwark of our freedom as the library of deposit for the output of Canadian publishers. While modernization of LAC/BNA would be positive, moves that are being instituted have the potential for introducing into our society and nation a new dark age. There is evidence that the Harper Government is building a cult of personality not seen in this country in its history and controlling debate and information to a degree unheard of. Can a book burning be far behind? This move potentially has consequences for RALU in that we rely on the National Library to preserve this newsletter.

Find out more. Get involved.

<http://www.savelibraryarchives.ca>

This fight concerns every Canadian and requires courageous academics who understand the situation to lead the charge.

Ian Dew

### **The Institute of Italian Studies Delights and Informs with a Three Lecture Series on *La Divina Commedia***

To celebrate 150 years of Italy as a nation state, the Institute of Italian Studies presented on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2011 as part of its speaker series, three lectures on Dante Alighieri by Dr. Elio Costa of York University. Dr. Costa is a life-long Dante scholar; an engaging and enthusiastic speaker, who gave the three lectures all in one day (!) Over his right shoulder on the chalkboard is his map of the pathway taken by Dante and his companions in the year 1300 and the places to which they journeyed, after they lost their way in the forest. They are a pit in the centre of the Earth (Inferno), a mountain (Purgatory), and the summit of the mountain (Heaven). The professor interwove the text and commentary to give the rhythm and metre of the original

language. He explained that Dante wanted us to believe that it was a real journey rather than imaginary one.

By way of a preamble to reading in Italian and commenting on the poetry, he set the stage by talking about the parallels in his own life with that of Dante, specifically the role of exile. He told us how being an émigré, in a sense an exile, had affected his own life.



**Dr. Elio Costa**

This major cultural event is the latest in a series of lectures presented by the Institute that has brought luminaries like Nino Ricci to Thunder Bay and given Northwest Ontarians another literary feast. He also spoke of the place of popular readings and explanatory performances in history: begun by Boccaccio and continued most recently by Roberto Benigni. In the second lecture, Dr. Costa focused on the text of Canto VIII of the *Purgatorio*, which he told us is the crucial balance point of the entire Divine Comedy. Your editor was only able to take in the second of three dealing with widely disparate aspects of the classic. Dr. Costa must surely have been exhausted after this energetic performance. Stay in touch with events of the Institute of Italian Studies <http://www.iislu.com/> *Grazia a tutti!* Thank you to everyone involved and the institute. BRAVO!!

Ian Dew

**Proposed Changes to the Constitution of RALU**

These proposed changes were approved by the Dec 2011 meeting of RALU Executive. They are intended to make the association more welcoming and accessible to new members, and to make nominations more spontaneous. They will be debated at the next general meeting. So please have your say: remote people feel free to put your \$0.02 cents worth in too: write to your favorite member of the Exec.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

...These objectives include, but are not limited to:

Maintaining an association between the University and its academic, administrative and staff retirees, their spouses and others.

[removes the “non-academic staff”]

**COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE**

There shall be an EXECUTIVE of the Association composed of:

1. President
2. Immediate Past President
3. Vice President
4. Corresponding Secretary
5. Membership Secretary
6. Treasurer
7. Chairs of Standing Committees.

**NOMINATIONS**

Nominations from other members shall be accepted at a General Meeting provided they are nominated and seconded, agreed upon by the nominee, and are submitted to the Secretary at least seven (7) days before the Annual General Meeting. Nominations from other members shall be accepted at a general meeting, provided they are seconded, and the nominee(s), being present, agree(s) to allow their name(s) to stand.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE AND ITS MEMBERS**

The CORRESPONDING SECRETARY shall send

notices of Executive Committee meetings, make Executive Committee meeting arrangements, keep and distribute minutes of Executive meetings, receive and respond to email and postal mail from outside parties on behalf of the Association and be responsible for the archives of the Association.

The MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY shall receive membership applications and maintain records

The TREASURER shall take charge of, keep records of, and provide statements on the finances of the Association. She/he will issue receipts and mail cards to members.

[changes reflect actual evolution of the association’s functioning].

**LU Professional Pension Plan News Notes on Meeting of Executive and Pension & Benefits Committee RALU February 7, 2012**

There was a discussion of the response from Christa Matz at FSCO. It was agreed that we would not post the Ogilvy-Renault (O-R) submission to FSCO of May 20, 2011 to our website.

It was agreed that David would notify Christa Matz, that we give our permission for O-R to have a copy of our submission from the FSCO. Moved by Bonny, seconded by Tony.

It was agreed we would hold a meeting of the membership at which member Ernie Epp would speak.

Please make an effort to attend the next meeting of the Pension Board, Friday, March 23 9 am. in ATAC 3004, Thunder Bay Campus.

Ian Dew

**Our Wolves****Lakehead University****Thunderwolves****Lakehead Thunderwolves Basketball**

The men's basketball team is playing in the CIS Championship being held in Halifax March 9-11th. The games, the biggest event in athletics for many years, will be shown online on SSNcanada (Sports Streaming Network) <http://www.ssnCanada.ca/media/index.html> Complete schedules can be found on the CIS Website.

<http://english.cis-sic.ca/championships/mbkb/2011-12/releases/20120304-seed>

The Wolves advanced to the CIS Nationals by way of a wild card. Lakehead won the OUA Cup last year and went to the Nationals and we are hoping for great things! They have a talented team with three of their players landing spots on the 2011-2012 OUA Men's Basketball West Division All-Stars. We wish them the very best of luck!

**Lakehead Thunderwolves Hockey**

The Thunderwolves end-of-season form was heaven and hell. The hell of being behind the eight ball: sitting in the box for acts of indiscipline followed by the heaven of smooth, fluid and aggressive team play, which is followed by inevitable goal scoring.

The TWolves made it as far as the second round in the playoffs this year losing out to the Windsor Lancers in overtime in their final game. Congratulations to four of our players who were selected to OUA All-Star teams. We will look forward to a new and challenging season in the Fall. Hope to see some of our RALU members there to cheer them on!

It should be appreciated that these kids are pure amateurs, who participate for the love of the sport. Here they differ from our American cousins in the NCAA, who have scholarships and Title IX funding. They keep alive the dream of amateur sport and give us amazing sport. BRAVO!!

Margot Ponder

**Travellin' goes to Oz. Part Two of Bev's Sojourn in Australia, Sep. 2011**

On to Augusta, the most south-westerly point in Australia, to visit the lighthouse perched over the confluence of the Indian and Southern Oceans. We gazed across endless water, the Indian Ocean on our right and the Southern Ocean at our nose, in awe that no land stood between us and Antarctica. Spring winds off both Oceans buffeted our all-weather jackets reminding us that "wind-proof" doesn't necessarily mean warm!

Eastward, slightly inland we came to Pemberton where our host spent his childhood. A small village set amid eucalypt forests, and barely clinging to its forest-based industries, it welcomes tourists to an excursion on narrow-gauge railway into the surrounding stands of towering karri trees. Here we learned that the basic amenities of small-town accommodation have not much changed since our 1992 visit. The hotel had no breakfast area or restaurant. For an additional AUS\$7.50 pp over room-cost of AUS\$90 one could have a mini-box cereal, two slices of white bread, a pat each of butter and jam, a small tetrapack each of orange "drink" and milk, plastic utensils, styrofoam dishes, and the choice of a packet of instant coffee or a tea bag. This was delivered to our room early evening through a trap door similar to milk delivery cubicles of the 40's. In-room electric kettle, toaster and mini frig completed the do-it-yourself breakfast. Cost for Internet access, which we learned as we continued our travels was the standard, would be AUS\$7 for 20 minutes or any part thereof.

After our wholesome breakfast, we were off to the Gloucester and Bicentennial Trees several kilometres apart along the Karri Interpretive Trail. Each of these commemorative Karri giants

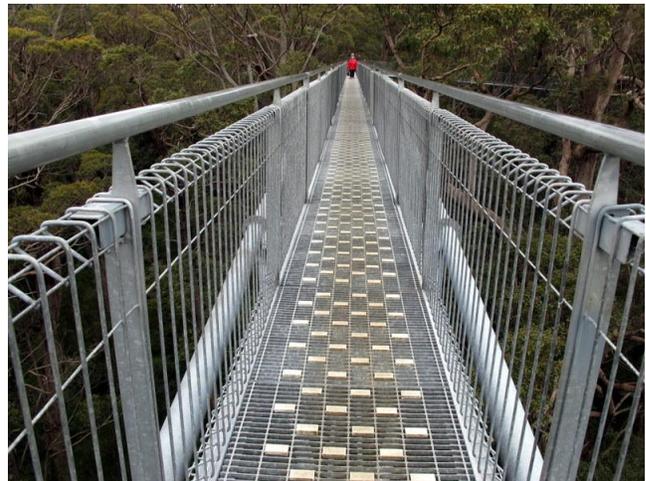
has a viewing platform near the top accessed by a spiral staircase, with chain banister and steel rod steps.



### The Bicentennial Tree

The tree commemorates 200 years of European settlement in Australia and stands 75 metres tall. To reach the top, one climbs 130 “steps” to a platform weighing 2 tonnes which, in high winds, sways 1.5 metres in either direction. Those hardy and brave enough to head for the top are rewarded with a radial view for 40 kilometres. The Gloucester Tree, in comparison, reaches only 60 metres. It commemorates no event, but is value-added for anyone doing the Interpretive Trail and wanting a lesser climb. Though Matt was game for tackling one climb or the other, the day was misty and the “stairs” wet. A sign warned against climbing in wet or windy conditions, or if you had heart or lung problems (really??). Judy, in jest, insisted that the small print also said Canadians were prohibited from the climb, no doubt because she was not thrilled with the remote possibility of evacuating Matt from the site on a stretcher!

Mid-afternoon we were at the Valley of the Giants to stroll the cleverly constructed steel “Tinker Toy” series of walkways 40 metres up in a beautifully forested area of Red Tingle trees, and appropriately billed the “tree-top walk”. Walkways are suspended by massive supports between small platforms, and swing slightly while one walks.



### Treetop walk

I don’t do heights, but the area was beautiful, the trees splendid and the opportunity rare, so I couldn’t chicken out. Vigilance to being alone or with no more than one calm person on a span averted vertigo. What an incredibly serene, almost spiritual experience! Everyone was, it seemed, as appreciative of the serenity; and silence was broken only by the occasional low creaking of the spans moving in their supports or the barely discernible whisper of air through the tree-tops.

Safe descent and back to the coastline to view the Elephant Rocks – another natural phenomenon sculpted by the force of the Southern Ocean. Forty-five million years Australia and Antarctica were joined along this southern coast. This shoreline matches a stretch of Northern Antarctic shoreline, near the Windmill Islands, like pieces of jigsaw but Australia continues to slip away from its southern neighbour, approaching Southeast Asia, at the rate of 5 cm per year. We ventured down to water level and were moseying along the sandy beach, focussed (no pun intended) on getting just the right photo of these remarkably life-like rock mammoths, when we became aware of wet feet (ours). We were surrounded by escarpment and granite “elephants”, and the tide was coming in! Photo ops were abandoned as we skittered back up the 80 stairs.

Eastward, Albany is situated on the shores of the magnificent Princess Royal Harbour and King George Sound. This is the oldest settlement in Western Australian. Because of its natural harbour, Major Edmund Lockyer, who raised the

Union Jack here in 1826, proposed it as an ideal capital of the state. The Crown, however, disagreed. Instead, Albany matured as a whaling town and is still redefining after the close of the whale hunt in the mid-1970s. The remaining infrastructure of the whaling station, now a tourist site, has been re-assigned to provide an informative overview of the whale hunt and the unloading of the whaling ships. Should one's imagination be lazy or incapable, a small museum displays graphic photographs in grisly detail of dismembering and preparing the whale for market, and of the implements used for harpooning the whale, hauling it to shore, and slicing it up.



### Flensing a Whale (Archive photo)

Whalers were unable to buy life insurance because their work was considered too dangerous. The benefit, if one could call it such, was that their wages were three times the highest paid jobs in town. But it was evident that this was a thoroughly unpleasant and messy career.

Near the city, the coastline serves up yet another incredible landscape fittingly called The Gap and Natural Bridge. An area carved over the eons by the force of water has produced a narrow sluiceway which continues to feed on the thundering breakers. One views The Gap from a smooth rock plateau and a protected platform some metres above. The plateau extends to where a natural rock bridge joins a small protected overhang under a craggy outcropping. The unending roil and boil of the waves as they crash inward and the precariously smooth surface

on which one walks for the viewing should be sufficient warning for visitors. However, once or twice a year authorities need to engage in body recovery of a tourist who edged a little closer, slipped and died being tossed against the rocks like a rag doll.

Albany's Princess Royal Harbour was the departure point for convoys of the Australian forces enroute to Gallipoli. For those who never made it back, this -- the lush green hills, white sandy beaches and rugged cliffs -- was their last sight of home. Near the city, atop Mt. Clarence sits the ANZAC war memorial to these troops as well as a lone pine tree which is said to be descended from the last tree standing at ANZAC cove. The beautifully sculpted memorial, its lonesome setting high above the city surrounded on three sides by expanses of ocean, accompanied only by the lone pine, makes for a moving visit.

The city boasts mightily of its green energy electricity. A major windfarm project, complete with interpretive trail, stretches nearby along the hills of Torrindirrup National Park towards Flinders Peninsula. Turbines are powered by wind as low as 7 km/h and, to prevent damage, shut down if the wind reaches 120 km/h. The great expanse of Southern Ocean swells and seethes off the rugged coastline beyond the towers allowing an average of only 7 days a year when there is not enough wind to turn the turbines.

Albany's small restaurants featured fine food, the people were especially interesting and welcoming and a lot of history seemed restlessly scattered throughout the small city. It helped that our B & B for the two-night visit provided our first indoor warmth since we left Perth five days earlier. Central heating and insulation are foreign to Western Australia and spring temperatures at night throughout the southern part of W.A. hover in the low-to-mid single digits. Here, however, there was the alternative of a plug-in radiator heater in addition to the ubiquitous dual-control electric blankets. We slept comfortably. Albany was lovely and we wished we'd planned a longer visit.

(Continued in next newsletter: the road back, and leaving, Perth)

Bev Stefureak

Photos courtesy of Bev Stefureak.

## Events

### March 9-11. CIS Basketball Championship.

Halifax. If you can't be there, the games will be shown online on SSNCanada (Sports Streaming Network)

<http://www.ssnCanada.ca/media/index.html>

Complete schedules can be found on the CIS Website.

<http://english.cis-sic.ca/championships/mbkb/2011-12/releases/20120304-seed>

We wish them the very best of luck!

### March 19 Monday. Thunder Bay International Fine Arts Association.

8 pm. At the Association Offices. Regular monthly meeting. For more information write: Thunder Bay International Fine Arts Association, 97 Algoma Street South, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 3B7.

<http://sites.google.com/site/tbifaa/>

### March 23 Friday. Pension Board for Lakehead University Professional Pension Plan.

9 am. \*Agenda not available to non Board members.

ATAC 3004, Thunder Bay Campus.

### March 27 Tuesday. RALU Special Meeting on Lakehead University Professional Pension Plan.

7.30 pm. Meeting Room. Fifty Five Plus Centre (55+ Centre) River Street, Thunder Bay. Pick up your membership.

Member Ernie Epp will fill us in on events.

### April 24 Tuesday. RALU General Meeting.

Dr. Livio DiMatteo, Professor of Economics, Lakehead University, will give a lecture on the economy of Thunder Bay. The Business meeting will cover constitutional amendments, so please come out and give us your \$0.02 worth.

7.00 pm. RC 1001, Regional Centre, Thunder Bay Campus.

Bring a guest.

**Giant Digital Photography Workshops** at Sleeping Giant, Kakabeka Falls and Pigeon River provincial parks! Early bird pricing now Available. Buy any 3 or more workshops per person and get a camera accessory as a free gift!

Barbara A. Rees  
Natural Heritage Education/Marketing Specialist  
Ontario Parks - Northwest Zone  
435 S. James Street, Suite 221D  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S8  
T: 807-475-1482  
F: 807-475-1499  
barb.rees@ontario.ca  
[www.OntarioParks.com](http://www.OntarioParks.com)

**Thunder Bay International Fine Arts Association.** Watch for notices. The Association invites all artists and would be artists to the regular monthly meeting. For more information write: Thunder Bay International Fine Arts Association, 97 Algoma Street South, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 3B7.

<http://sites.google.com/site/tbifaa/>

### CURAC/ARUCC CONFERENCE & AGM 2012 Victoria, B.C.

**The 2012 Conference/AGM will be hosted in part by the UVIC Retirees Association.**

The conference will be held at the University of Victoria, April 18-20, 2012.

<http://www.curac.ca>

### The Garden

Right now it is only a few days past Groundhog Day, but it never too early to start planning your garden. If you are wandering back from the Sanders Fieldhouse, you can see that the garden looks like this, but this is changing daily. Bring your own umbrella when you come for lunch. Rumour still persists that a few trees will be planted...

*Marmota Monax* is alive and well and living in Thunder Bay. You have to wonder what they are up to right now. I am reminded that it is never too early to begin planning and dreaming of the new garden. The groundhog is only one of the critters with whom you will become acquainted as a gardener in the boreal forest.

It is never too late to begin planning how to outwit the wily groundhog. If anyone cares to keep score, it's groundhogs 100 gardeners no score



### The Garden in February

A little bird told us that there are still a few garden plots. Food Security Research Network (FRSN).

<http://www.foodsecurityresearch.ca/index.php?pid=89> You can watch as your garden grows; eat wonderful, healthful food; enjoy the serenity of the garden; discover your neighbour gardeners and learn, learn, learn about growing things and sharing.

**For more information contact Campus Garden Coordinator Lee-Ann Chevrette at [leeann@foodsecurityresearch.ca](mailto:leeann@foodsecurityresearch.ca)**

### More Good News? LU To Join Academic Freedom Fund?

At last there are indications on development in an issue keenly felt by everyone in the university community. Is the Faculty Association at LU finally joining the fight for academic freedom in Canada? A special characteristic of LU for the past years has been that of all institutions in Canada that call themselves universities, from the giant University of Toronto, that kicked in \$100,000, down to the College of Cape Breton, which somehow found \$11,000 to contribute to this cause, LU withheld its support and its money.

Even the new University of Ontario Institute of Technology, which arguably is not an academic but a technical institution, found \$500. Will it at last shrug off its rogue status and contribute to the academic freedom fund of Canadian Association of University Teachers? This is after holding out for years and years until it seems like nobody believes it could happen. If the answer to that question is "yes", then the next question is how much? Let's face it: the association can afford it, after the détente with the administration over the past decade.

<http://www.caut.ca/pages.asp?page=365&lang=1>

Nowhere does Lakehead University appear.

### In Memoriam

This late winter of 2012 has been a time of loss when two dynamic women passed from the scene in our community: Eleanor "Dusty" Miller and Dr. Helen Smith.

Dusty is remembered in her own right and as the other half of Tom Miller, the person who carried the torch for the arts at Lakehead during the earliest days.

### \*Remembering Helen\*

Lakehead University mourns the death of Dr. Helen Smith, an Associate Professor in History and Women's Studies. A graduate of Lakehead University, Dr. Smith joined the University as a full-time faculty member in 1992.

With Dr. Smith's appointment to the Department of History came new areas of study for students at Lakehead. She had a passion for Medieval, Reformation, and Renaissance History, and she developed the University's first undergraduate courses in Canadian and European Women's History. At the graduate level, she pioneered the study of gender history in the department. Because of her strong interdisciplinary gender studies background, she was cross-appointed to Women's Studies, where she, along with Dr. Pam Wakewich, laid the foundation for what is now a vibrant Women's Studies Department at Lakehead University.

Dr. Smith was renowned for her dedication to students. Her door was always open to them; she lent them books from her own considerable library, and she fueled their spirit of inquiry through her constant encouragement to find and explore the contextual questions that needed to be asked. Both within and outside the classroom, she taught students to "think historiographically" - to pay close attention to the ways in which historians construct their understandings of the past. Her students have said how they always wanted to "continue the conversation" after class – a fine tribute to her talent for inspiring a love of learning.

Dr. Smith was an active and award-winning researcher. With long-time collaborator Dr. Wakewich, she published numerous articles in national (*Labour/le travail*) and international journals (*Oral History*, *Gender & History*) and book chapters from her SSHRC-funded archival and oral history research project on Canadian women's wartime work and identities. She was the recipient of The Riddell Award from the Ontario Historical Society in 2000 and the JP Bertrand Award in 2001.

In addition to being a dedicated researcher and teacher, Dr. Smith believed strongly in the importance of building community and influencing change through service. At the University, her contributions included being Chair of Women's Studies and History, sitting on Senate, being elected many times to the Promotion, Tenure and Renewal committee,

and serving on the LUFA bargaining team. Her devoted service to the Thunder Bay Museum was recognized in 2007 with a Volunteer Service Award from the Province of Ontario. Dr. Smith was also a long-time member of the Thunder Bay Symphony Chorus.

A memorial service for Helen Smith was held at the Avila Centre on Saturday February 4. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lakehead University toward a student award in Helen's memory.

\*Please send your donation to:\*  
The Helen Smith Award in Women's Studies  
Lakehead University Office of Advancement  
955 Oliver Road Thunder Bay ON P7B 5E1

You can also donate online at:  
<http://donate.lakeheadu.ca>  
Donations can also be made to a charity of your choice.

From LU website

### **COM TEAM**

The Communications Team gains a new member, Margot Ponder. Margot has been our sports writer over the past years, following the exploits of the Wolves. [mponder@shaw.ca](mailto:mponder@shaw.ca)

**Membership in RALU**

**Membership is \$10 annually or \$25 per individual per three years, with equal status of membership for retirees, spouses and partners. Annual membership is from Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to Aug 31<sup>st</sup>.** You are encouraged to support the association by joining us, even if you live far from Northwestern Ontario. Complete the membership form and return with a money order or cheque made out to the Retirees’ Association of Lakehead University to Membership Secretary, 2717 Government Road, Thunder Bay, ON P7G 1V4. For further information please contact RALU President David Kemp, [panddkemp@shaw.ca](mailto:panddkemp@shaw.ca) Please note that there is a new area for expertise, contribution. Tell us how you want to assist RALU, for example, by contributing to the newsletter, giving us a presentation on your expertise, and so on. The Association is inclusive and its membership is open to all retirees of the university.

**RETIREES’ ASSOCIATION OF LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY  
Membership Form – Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 to Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

**First Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Surname** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Expertise, contribution**  
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# RALU News



RALU News

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[http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/201/300/ralu\\_news/index.html](http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/201/300/ralu_news/index.html)

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