

**Minutes – Convention 2016
Richmond, B.C.
September 28 & 29, 2016**

Note: “**MSC**” within these minutes indicates that a particular item was Moved, Seconded, and Carried.

President Herb John called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., September 28, and welcomed all delegates and visitors to the NPF’s 72nd Annual Convention. A quorum was present.

Debbie Sparrow of the Musqueam First Nation welcomed all present on behalf of her people.

MSC That the agenda for this Convention be adopted as presented.

The singing of “O Canada” was led by President Herb.

The Senior’s Prayer was read by NPF Secretary Pat Brady.

The delegates observed one minute of silence in honour of our departed colleagues.

At this time, Mr. Chak Au, Acting Mayor of the City of Richmond, welcomed all present to the city of Richmond and brought greetings on behalf of the Richmond City Council and the residents of Richmond.

Gudrun Langolf, First Vice President of The Council of Senior Citizens Organization of BC thanked Mr. Au for his attendance and remarks.

MSC That the following committees and the membership of those committees be approved:

Resolutions:

Douglas Edgar (Chair)
Pat Brady (Executive Liaison)
Alma Johnson-Tynes
Katarzyna Kaminski

Registration and Credentials: Jean Simpson (Chair)
Mary Forbes (Executive Liaison)
Donna Sutherland
Tony Sisti

Elections: Bob Crane (Chair)
Bernie LaRusic (Executive Liaison)

Tellers: Toni Sisti
Marie Pinto
Army Vieira
Virginia Crane

MSC That the minutes of NPF Convention 2015 be adopted as circulated with one correction.

The correction to the minutes was in the listing of a member of the Resolutions Committee which should have read Kathy Kaminski rather than Nancy Kaminski.

MSC That the financial report presented by Treasurer Mary Forbes be approved.

Credentials Report

Jean Simpson reported on delegate representation by province:

B.C.	44
Sask.	2
Ont.	27
N.S.	4

and Guests 3

MSC That the credentials report be received.

At this time, President Herb John gave his report as President to the delegates, visitors and guests.

Note: Herb's remarks, in the main, were printed in documents distributed to the meeting attendees.

On the conclusion of his remarks, Herb was given a sustained round of applause by the meeting.

A representative of the BC Health Coalition was invited to give the delegates a review and update of a court case initiated in BC by Dr. Brian Day. Dr. Day seeks permission through the courts to (in effect) see the establishment of a two-tier public/private health care system in Canada. Comments and questions followed this presentation.

Pat Brady introduced and later thanked JoAnn Lauber, Past President of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers who addressed the convention in respect to *A Declaration Concerning a National Health Care Strategy for Seniors*.

MSC That the NPF endorse the document *A Declaration Concerning a National Health Care Strategy for Seniors*.

Mary Forbes introduced Lisa Hansen, a representative for Johnson Insurance, who spoke to the delegates in respect to the MEDOC insurance package and other insurance plans available to NPF members. Mary thanked Lisa for her presentation.

Resolutions

MSC That the voting on resolution 16.6.1 (NPF Conventions) be postponed until Thursday, Sept. 29, at 1:35 p.m. and further that resolution 16.6.2 be considered immediately after the vote on resolution 16.6.1.

Debate proceeded on resolution 16.6.1 until the meeting recessed for lunch.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by President Herb and the chairing of the meeting was turned over to the Chair of the Resolutions Committee.

MSC That this convention support the *National Pharmacare Strategy* outlined on pages 36 & 37 of the convention resolutions booklet.

MSC That the NPF endorse the *National Pensioners Federation Housing Committee Report of 2016* and the action plans included in that report.

MS That the National Pensioners Federation meet every second year with its next convention being held in 2018.

Debate commenced.

The meeting recessed for a 15 minute break.

Mike Kaminski, 2nd Vice President of NPF, introduced and later thanked Mr. John Lawford, Executive Director and General Counsel for the Public Interest Advocacy Centre. Mr. Lawford spoke on the topic of broadband and net neutrality.

A vote was not taken on the motion on the floor in light of the decision to vote on Sept. 29.

MSC That the rules of order be amended for this convention to limit speaking time on resolutions to 2 minutes per speaker.

Resolutions:

MSC That the NPF urge the Canadian, provincial, and territorial governments to fund dental services, particularly for those low income Canadians without any dental coverage.

MSC That the NPF urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to fund residential care homes to a level sufficient to provide recommended standards of individual care hours that will reduce the need for over-medication and that this care be culturally sensitive.

MSC that the NPF and its clubs work with interested groups to meet with all levels of government to ensure that the recommendations of the Krever Commission report are adhered to and no paid plasma and/or private blood clinics are allowed to operate in Canada.

MSC That the NPF call upon the government of Canada to refuse to issue or approve any license to Canadian Plasma Resources or any other private, for profit, donor-paid blood products company to operate in Canada and implement legislation which ensures that no for-profit donor-paid clinics will be allowed to operate in Canada.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Thursday, September 29

The meeting was called to order by President Herb John at 9 a.m. with a quorum present.

Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, was introduced by President Herb and addressed the convention. On conclusion of her remarks, Ms. Barlow responded to comments and questions.

President Herb, on behalf of all present, thanked Ms. Barlow for her timely and informative address.

The meeting recessed for a scheduled break.

President Herb introduced and welcomed the participants in a panel discussion on pensions.

Members of the panel:

Susan Eng, NPF Counsel

Bernard Dussault, Former Chief Actuary, Canada Pension Plan

Ron Stipp, Canadian Labour Congress, Pacific Region

On conclusion of the panel's remarks, the delegates were afforded an opportunity to make comments and pose questions to the panel members. Discussion followed.

President Herb then thanked the panelists for their participation and the information which they shared with the meeting.

Dr. Cara Tannenbaum, Director of the Canadian Deprescribing Network (CaDeN) and Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) was introduced by the NPF President.

Dr. Tannenbaum's address was directed toward the circumstances surrounding the deprescribing of drugs and the over-medication of people and, in particular, of seniors.

Following questions and comments from the delegates, Dr. Tannenbaum was thanked for her address by NPF 3rd Vice President Bernie LaRusic.

The meeting recessed for lunch.

The meeting was called to order and received a report from the Credentials Committee:

Delegates Present:

B.C.	45
Sask.	2
Ont.	27
N.S.	4

Guests over the two days of this convention:	15
Guest speakers over the two days	10

Resolutions

MSC That further consideration of Resolutions 16.6.1 (holding our conventions every two years) and 16.6.2 (bylaw changes to enable holding our conventions every two years) be postponed to the 2017 NPF Convention.

MSC That the NPF Executive strike a task force of 5 members with equitable representation to report out at the 2017 NPF Convention regarding:

- a) Finances (such as year-end financial statements/budget)
- b) Location of conventions
- c) Membership information/data
- d) Membership fees

MSC That the NPF urge the federal government to require genetically modified organism labelling on all GMO products sold in Canada.

MSC That the NPF urge the federal government to require Vitamin D testing as recommended by the Vitamin D Council and informed MD's when conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, rickets, cancer, cardiovascular disease, asthma, cognitive impairment in the elderly, depression, colorectal cancer, multiple sclerosis, bone loss or gut disorder, and lupus are identified, helping to prevent disease conditions and consequences to patients, families and costs to the healthcare system.

MSC That the NPF call upon the federal government and all federal political parties to reject the idea of selling off our current assets in order to fund future ones.

MSC That the NPF urge the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to properly fund volunteer income tax clinics in the community including the provision of paid coordination at the sites where the services take place.

MSC That the NPF urge the federal government to start new public reviews on all pipelines and overhaul Canada's environmental assessment processes.

MSC That the NPF consider all the issues faced by older adults in Canada with a "Visible Minority" lens; and
That the Board of NPF submit an annual report to the members highlighting the issues and steps taken by NPF with the appropriate authorities to address them.

Bernie LaRusic introduced (and later thanked) Jonathan Sas, Research Director – Broadbent Institute for Jonathan's address on "Democratic Renewal Through Proportional Representation". Discussion followed Jonathan's remarks and he responded to numerous questions from the delegates.

Elections

Bob Crane, Chair, NPF Elections Committee conducted the elections. The following were elected:

President (2 year term)	Herb John
1 st Vice President (1 year term)	Barry Thorsteinson
2 nd Vice President (2 year term)	Mike Kaminski
Secretary (2 year term)	Pat Brady
Member-at-Large (2 year term)	Doug Edgar

Bob Crane then administered the oath of office to those elected.

Resolutions

MSC That the NPF Executive focus on special efforts to enlist multicultural senior-serving organizations and service agencies as members of NPF; and

That such efforts be concentrated on populations centres such as Metro Vancouver, Greater Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Halifax.

MSC That the NPF Executive invite experts on issues of the day affecting multicultural older adults to offer solutions and come up with the necessary recommendations to the NPF for further action.

MSC That the NPF undertake a national campaign on the TPP with the goal of influencing Members of Parliament not to ratify the deal as proposed and to promote an alternative vision for a fair trade agenda in Canada; and

That through this campaign, NPF engage with activists, local leadership and interested members across the country, encouraging them to play a leading role in this campaign at the community level; and

That NPF work in close collaboration with both traditional and non-traditional allies, both nationally and internationally, to stop the ratification of TPP.

MSC That the NPF demand that the federal government of Canada reject the European Union-Canada CETA and Trans Pacific Partnership deals that further entrench corporate privilege in favour of trade that is truly fair.

MSC That the NPF chapters across Canada write letters outlining concerns to the Minister of International Trade; lobby local MPs on areas of concern; demand that the TPP agreement not be ratified as it has consequences for Canada's sovereignty and the national government's ability to pass laws in the best interests of its citizens.

MSC That NPF endorse a *Made in Canada Proportional Representation (PR)* electoral system to make every vote count, to be in place by the next federal election; and

That the NPF national and regional affiliates actively campaign by launching an educational programme, a legislative and media campaign advocating for electoral reform and PR within our membership; and
That the NPF continue to support and work with *Every Voter Counts Alliance* to develop the broader civil society public response.

MSC That the NPF urge the federal government to repeal the so-called Fair Elections Act and replace our broken first-past-the-post system with a more democratic model of proportional representation which ensures **every** vote counts.

MSC That the NPF send a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister of Democratic Institutions, Maryam Monsef, to fulfill the Liberal's commitment to electoral reform within eighteen months of the October 2015 election.

MSC That the NPF urge the federal government to appoint a Minister for Seniors.

MS That the NPF urge the federal government to establish an official registry – similar to The Sexual Offenders Registry – where convicted abusers' names be recorded so that these abusers are committed to avoid and desist from their acts of financial, mental and/or physical abuse of the vulnerable and elderly in long-term or other established care facilities.

Defeated

MSC That the NPF call upon the federal government to work toward re-establishing a publicly-owned and operated basic banking service programme accessible to all Canadians under the purview of Canada Post.

MSC That the NPF and its coalition urge the federal government to reinstate postal banking services in those communities that have a very obvious need to maintain postal services by augmenting other services associated with postal banking.

MSC That the NPF present a brief to the review of Canada Post which focuses on postal banking, services to seniors, and opportunities for our public postal service to show leadership on environment and change.

MSC That the NPF urge Canada Post to make a special arrangement for disabled seniors to receive mail.

MSC That the NPF urge the House of Commons to resolve to return to the use of the Bank of Canada to fund the nation's infrastructures and establish and control a new monetary policy that meets the needs of Canada and Canadians.

MS That the NPF urge the federal and provincial governments of Canada to increase all forms of taxation on wealthy Canadians; and That these governments increase corporate tax as well.

MSC That this resolution be referred back to Unifor Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter for clarification and rewording.

MSC that NPF Convention 2016 affirms our demands on the Liberal government of Canada to support and renew Canada's public Medicare system.

MSC That the NPF and affiliates continue to advocate and mobilize our members and communities for a renewed Health Accord and to hold federal, provincial and territorial ministers accountable to the constituencies in the year ahead to renew our public health services.

MSC That the NPF and its affiliates lobby provincial Finance Ministers to support the Canadian Labour Congress' proposal for an enhanced Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan.

MSC That the leadership of the NPF make representations to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) as well as lobby government:

That broadband as part of *basic telecommunications service* is vital for everyone but particularly seniors;

Access must be made universally available and affordable in ALL communities across Canada

The minimum speed for such service must be 10 Mbps (megabites per second) download and 1 Mbps upload.

MSC That the leadership of the NPF make representations to the CRTC and lobby government to ensure that the federal government and Members of Parliament are informed about our concerns regarding the importance of regulations supporting net neutrality and support of citizens.

MS That the leadership of the NPF make representations to the CRTC and lobby government to ensure that the federal government and Members of Parliament are informed about our concerns regarding the importance of regulations and support of citizens, not just favouring the corporations/industry.

MSC That this resolution be referred back to Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC.

MSC That the leadership of the NPF arrange for educational materials about the relevance of *Broadband and Net Neutrality* and the implications of zero rating be compiled and made available to member organizations.

MSC That the NPF call upon the federal government to introduce legislation which will consider retired workers' benefits packages to be vested similar to the vesting of pension benefits.

President Herb John thanked the convention delegates for their attendance and participation; the many volunteers who worked to make the convention a success (before and during the meeting); and the hotel staff for their involvement and assistance.

MSC That the meeting be adjourned.

