

70th Annual NPF Convention, September 17-19, 2014

The 70th annual National Pensioners Federation Convention took place on September 17 and 19, 2014 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Members from across the country came out to take part in discussions on relevant political and cultural issues that pertain to Canadian citizens, and in particular to aging Canadians. Speakers included Adrienne Silnicki, Coordinator with the Canadian Health Coalition, Sheelah McLean, one of the founding members of Idle No More, Lynne Fernandez, the Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in Manitoba, NDP Member of Parliament – Seniors Critic , Irene Mathysen, Celia Sankar of Diversity Canada, and Garry Neil, Executive Director of the Council of Canadians.

Yearly conventions are instrumental in continuing to organize, listen, and discuss in order to effectively advocate the principles held by the NPF. Some of the major issues brought forward by attendees included improving government legislation on health care by renegotiating a new Health Accord with the provinces and increasing the federal funding of provincial health care costs to 25%, a national pharmacare program, increases in CPP, OAS and GIS, protection of pension income, living wage discussions, poverty reductions and a national housing policy.

NPF President Herb John would like to extend his thanks to all those who attended the convention, to the volunteers and committees that made the convention possible, in particular SSM for funding the very successful Meet and Greet, the Saskatoon Federation of Union Retirees for funding coffee and refreshments, and Pat Trask for providing delicious baked goods. A special thank you to Sheila Righi, who provided much leadership to the NPF, Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc, and others for many years; to Fern Height and SSAI for hosting; and to Jean Simpson for her ongoing work with NPF newsletters, booklets, and documents.