

NPF Resolutions 2014

Executive Committee Resolution #1

Whereas there has been some confusion at Conventions as to which general rules of order shall apply to our proceedings; and
Whereas our bylaws do not state which rules of order are applicable;

Therefore be it resolved

That wherever the standing rules of order of the National Pensioners' Federation are silent, Robert's Rules of Order shall apply to all proceedings of the NPF.

Health

1. Canada Health Accord

Whereas we believe that access to quality health care is a fundamental right of every Canadian resident, regardless of race, gender, disability, political belief, social conditions, or ability to pay; and

Whereas we believe that a system of public and non-profit health care, publicly administered and delivered on a not-for-profit basis, contributes to the economic welfare of Canada and provides its citizens with high quality health care; and

Whereas we believe that all levels of government have a role to play in the delivery of quality and accessible health care, and that the Federal Government should give strong leadership in enforcing national standards and providing coordination,

innovation, and federal transfers at a level that secures the integrity and reinforcement of the Canada Health Act of 1984; and

Whereas we believe that all Canadians should have equitable access to safe, affordable, and appropriate medications (many Canadians depend on medications for their very lives); and

Whereas we believe that Canadians should have the security of a continuum of community-based integrated services that includes a universal system of home care, home support and long-term care services, and hospice and palliative care; and that this continuum of services should be an integral part of a Canadian comprehensive health care system; and

Whereas we believe that a comprehensive national health care system includes education, diagnosis, counseling, and timely treatment:

Therefore be it resolved:

That the federal, provincial, and territorial governments be urged to negotiate a new Health Accord that protects, transforms and strengthens our National Health Care System to include adequate and stable financial resources (including at least a six per cent escalator), as well as a national seniors' health care plan and a national pharmaceutical strategy that will improve health outcomes for Canadians; and

Be it further resolved:

That this meeting of the members of the National Pensioners' Federation ask other seniors organizations and individuals to join us in declaring our commitment to use all democratic means before us to ensure that the above proposals are implemented in a new Canadian Health Accord.

Submitted by: The Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of BC;
BC Retired Teachers' Association; BC Forum; BC Government
Retired Employees Association

2. Canada Health Accord

Whereas the Canada Health Accord provides provinces and territories with stable health funding and set national standards (a 10 year negotiated plan running from 2004 until its expiry on March 31, 2014); and

Whereas the Accord provided stable funding after deep cuts in the 1990s by the federal government's cash share of 20% to 10%; and

Whereas the Prime Minister and Premiers recommitted to the Accord and its requirements, public administration, universal access, comprehensive coverage, accessibility without extra charges or discrimination, and portability across Canada; and

Whereas Prime Minister Harper doesn't want even loose goals, he's refused to negotiate another Accord, this abandonment will lead to 14 different and weaker health care systems;

Therefore be it resolved:

That the National Pensioners' Federation demand from the Harper Government a commitment to the Canada Health Accord Act, including a continuing care plan that integrates home, facility-based long-term respite and palliate care, universal public drug plan, and stable funding.

Submitted by: Unifor Windsor Essex Chatham Kent Area Retired
Workers Council

3. National Pharma Care

Whereas the cost of drugs continue to rise and is a burden on seniors and retirees; and

Whereas seniors have to make a choice between getting the drugs they need to live or pay rent, buy food, or pay for utilities; and

Whereas buying drugs in bulk would be cheaper for governments;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation demand a National Pharma Care Plan for all Canadian seniors immediately.

Submitted by: Unifor Windsor Essex Chatham Kent Area Retired Workers Council and Club#407 – Local 444 Retirees, Windsor

4. Drug Costs

Whereas increasing drug costs and dispensing fees are causing many (particularly seniors) to forego essential medication or go without other necessities; and

Whereas the pharmacists' dispensing fees need to be examined with a view to reducing them – if necessary by government control;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge both the federal and provincial governments to advocate on behalf of the public by exposing (where found) the pharmaceutical industry's exploitation of the sick to contrive higher drug costs.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

5. Medicare

Whereas Medicare, as we have it today, is very important to all Canadians; and

Whereas Medicare is being attacked by the BC Supreme Court case by Dr. Brian Day to have it changed so that "for profit" clinics can bill their patients for services; and

Whereas Medicare , as it is now, is being supported by the BC Health Coalition and Doctors for Medicare;

Be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the federal and provincial governments to maintain Medicare as it now stands and to make it known that we are in support of the groups fighting to maintain Medicare.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

6. Canada Health Act.

Whereas the federal government is planning the restructuring of the Canada Health Act; and

Whereas the federal government is planning to curtail or cease funding for health categories presently allocated to the provinces;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the federal government to rethink this path of proposals and rescind those parts of planned legislation which is detrimental to the overall existing National Health Care provisions.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

7. Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement

Whereas the government clearly sees the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) as a way to further deregulate and privatize the Canadian economy while increasing corporate power and undermining Canadian and European efforts to address the climate crisis; and

Whereas if signed, CETA could unfairly restrict how local governments spend money and ban “buy local” policies; and

Whereas the agreement will add hundreds of millions of dollars to the price of drugs, create pressure to increase privatization of local water systems, transit and energy, and much more; and

Whereas the secret negotiating process, as well as the overall corporate agenda behind these next generation deals, are an affront to democracy on both sides of the Atlantic;

Be it resolved

That the Government of Canada negotiate a new exemption to the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) that reads: *“Nothing in the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement be construed to apply to measures adopted or maintained by a party with respect to health care, health services or health insurance.”*

Be it further resolved

That the Government of Canada remove all matters related to pharmaceutical patents from the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) and from all future trade and investment agreements.

Submitted by: The Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of BC

8. Free Trade Agreements

Whereas the Harper Government is still negotiating free trade agreements in secret back rooms, without any consultation with the Canadian people; and

Whereas many free trade deals have not created jobs, attacking workers' rights here and around the world, causing more environmental concerns around the world, lowering safety standards and working conditions and climate change; and

Whereas the investments and market conditions are left in the hands of corporations with no regulations and sense of justice for the conditions they create, profit the only motivation and citizens discarded, standards lowered;

Therefore be it resolved:

That the federal government open the doors to all the secret meetings, allow citizen input into all trade deals and allow parliament to be involved in debating the issues; and

Be it further resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation demand accountability to the citizens of Canada on free trade talks and public hearings on issues which have lasting effects on living standards.

Submitted by: Unifor Windsor Essex Chatham Kent Area Retired Workers Council

9. Accountability Within Health Care Facilities

Whereas the population is growing at a rapid rate and the incidence of dementia is also increasing and medical incidences within care facilities are also on the rise; and

Whereas there must be accountability for reporting any changes in the resident's status' and

Whereas inappropriate placement issues are occurring within residential care facilities at an increasing rate, making accountability even more important for this vulnerable population of seniors; and

Whereas accountability is lacking in management, representatives of both federal and provincial governments, and even police for victims and/or victims' families who attempt to seek justice for those suffering abuse while in care;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the federal and provincial governments to require increased accountability and transparency from all those entrusted with the lives of vulnerable seniors while they are in care.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

10. Smoking

Whereas lung cancer is a leading cause of illness and even death; and

Whereas second hand smoke from those who smoke is also a leading cause of illness and death; and

Whereas if we can prevent youth through educating them of the dangers of smoking and second hand smoke there would be less of a burden on the health system;

Therefore be it resolved

That this NPF Convention call on all levels of government to initiate educational programmes that will discourage and prevent youth from starting to smoke.

Submitted by: Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

11.Oral Health Care

Whereas good oral health care is vital for Ontario Senior Citizens and poor dental care can cause many serious health problems; and

Whereas all senior citizens are on a fixed income and many find it difficult to afford even the basic living requirements; and

Whereas the bacteria caused by poor dental hygiene has been proven to cause many serious illnesses, e.g. heart disease, diabetes, strokes, etc., which are the leading causes of death in Canada, the United States and England; and

Whereas all these conditions cause a serious strain on our health system:

Therefore be it resolved

That the NPF Convention call upon Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health and Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long Term Care, to include at least basic dental care for Ontario senior citizens under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

Submitted by: Unifor Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

12.Home Care

Whereas the provision of, and access to “Home Care” is not covered as a guaranteed service provided and funded under the Canada Health Act; and

Whereas , when asked, seniors and retirees say that they want to remain in their own homes for as long as they can and the provision of “Home Care” would allow them to live independently for much longer; and

Whereas independent living for seniors and retirees in their own homes would ease the demand for senior accommodations in hospital, nursing home, and institutional facilities;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners’ Federation lobby the federal government to add the provision of “Home Care” to the guaranteed services provided and funded under the Canada Health Act.

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees

13. Pharmacare

Whereas prescription drugs continue to increase at a rate of 12-15% per year; and

Whereas medication costs for seniors/retirees on fixed incomes, as well as low-income families and the general public has become a financial burden;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation lobby the federal government to phase in a national prescription drug strategy, which would begin with coverage for key catastrophic drug costs with gradual expansion of coverage as finances permit, until the plan is universal in application; and

Be it further resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation lobby the federal government to phase out the "evergreening" of patent drugs so cheaper generics are available, saving money for the health care system, patients, hospitals, and provinces; and

Be it further resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation lobby the federal government to ban the direct-to-consumer advertising of pharmaceuticals so there is less unnecessary prescribing of drug therapies.

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees

14. Primary Health Care

Whereas "the ultimate goal of primary health care is better health for all, the World Health Organization (WHO) has identified five key elements to achieving that goal: reducing exclusion and social disparities in health (universal coverage reforms); organizing health services around people's needs and expectations (service delivery reforms); integrating health into all sectors (public policy reforms); pursuing collaborative models of policy dialogue (leadership reforms); and increasing stakeholder participation"; and

Whereas the “Primary Health Care Model” is defined by Health Canada as “an approach to health and a spectrum of services beyond the traditional health care system and includes all services that play a part in health, such as income, housing, education, and environment. Primary care is the element within primary health care that focuses on health care services, including health promotion, illness, and injury prevention, and the diagnosis and treatment of illness and injury” and often includes “prevention and treatment of common diseases and injuries; basic emergency services; referrals to/coordination with other levels of care (such as hospitals and specialist care); primary mental health care; palliative and end-of-life care; health promotion; healthy child development; primary maternity care; rehabilitation services; and

Whereas the “Primary Health Care Model” of health care delivery is well suited for rural and remote areas with a focus on early intervention, health prevention and promotion with a holistic, patient driven, team work approach to the delivery of services; and

Whereas the “Primary Health Care Model” is a more efficient delivery model offering comprehensive and accessible services under one roof as a cost saving measure for the health care system;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners’ Federation lobby the federal, provincial and territorial governments to support and promote the “Primary Health Care Model” of health care delivery across the country.

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees

15. Caregiver Training

Whereas many individuals care for terminally ill, elderly or disabled family members or friends in their own homes; and

Whereas caregivers often find themselves in the role not by choice, but by accident as a result of a financial, medical or housing crisis; and

Whereas life does not necessarily prepare individuals to be good care givers; and

Whereas non-professional personal caregivers should be offered the opportunity to obtain the skills needed to help them better care for those in their charge;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation lobby the federal, provincial and territorial governments to provide free or low-cost community based training initiatives for individuals on the needs and care of older adults.

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees

16. Long Term and Personal Care Home Standards

Whereas there will be a rapid increase in long term care and personal care facilities in the next decade; and

Whereas there are currently no standards of care for long term care and personal care facilities; and

Whereas long term and personal care homes should be publicly administered through an accreditation body, which includes

licensing to ensure basic standards of care and conditions exist;
and

Whereas an accreditation body should be able to investigate and obtain remedies for complaints;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation lobby the federal, provincial and territorial governments to establish a publicly administered body to implement standards, accreditation, regulation and supervision of care in long term care and personal care facilities.

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees

17. Unsafe Health Care Staffing Levels

Whereas successive years of financial cuts by federal and provincial governments to health regions have left the most vulnerable retirees, seniors and the disabled at risk; and health care workers struggling to manage in an underfunded and unsafe system; and

Whereas it is the goal of health care workers to provide caring, timely attention to the residents in their long term care facilities but their efforts are falling short due to low, unsafe staffing levels;
and

Whereas the Saskatchewan government recently released a comprehensive review of long-term care in the province that showed that all health regions face a similar challenge of maintaining safe staffing levels; and

Whereas the voices of many residents in long term care and their health care providers clearly identified the challenges associated with the delivery of hands-on care in a safe manner where staffing levels are inadequate; and

Whereas health care workers have been dedicated in reporting incidents where they are constantly being required to work under unsafe staffing levels, which in turn has been shared with the health regions, and ministers of health;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation lobby the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to act immediately to restore funding and safe staffing levels in the health care sector.

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees

18. Health and Wellness Programmes

Whereas it is proven that an active mind and body extends life expectancy and reduces the strain on health care delivery; and

Whereas activity programmes should be set up in communities, especially outside major population centres, with special emphasis on encouraging seniors and retirees to maintain and active life style;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation lobby the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to make health and wellness programmes for seniors and retirees a priority; and

Be it further resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation lobby the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide tax incentives for seniors and retirees who participate in health and wellness programmes.

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees

Income

1. Old Age Security Eligibility

Whereas the Harper government, without talking to seniors, raised retirement age from 6 to 67, delaying implementation until 2023; and

Whereas seniors have a moral obligation to keep the pressure on the federal government to reverse its decision;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation support the fight against the Old Age Security changes and coordinate a mass mobilization in Ottawa of seniors and retirees.

Submitted by: Unifor Windsor Essex Chatham Kent Area Retired Workers Council

2. Living Wage

Whereas the recent increase in Ontario minimum wage leaves the province's lowest wage earners 16% below the poverty line; and

Whereas the items in the fixed income basket of commodities used to track prices and to determine the Consumer Price Index are out of reach financially for low wage earners; and

Whereas items low income Ontarians must buy are much more prone to price increases, e.g. shelter, heat, hydro and transportation;

Therefore be it resolved

That the NPF Convention 2014 call upon Premier Kathleen Wynne, the Department of Labour, and Statistics Canada to take a hard look at “the fixed basket of commodities” used to determine the CPI and to use more realistic goods and services items to come up with a Consumer Price Index fairer to all Ontarians; and

Be it further resolved

That minimum wage be boosted to a sufficient amount to be a living wage.

Submitted by: Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

Housing

1. Safety in Seniors’ Residences

Whereas the devastating fire in a seniors’ residence in L’Isle-Verte, Quebec, resulted in the deaths of thirty elderly people because of an absence of sprinkler systems in part of the building; and

Whereas there continues to be an absence of smoke detectors and/or sprinkler systems in many seniors' residences in Canada;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the federal and provincial and territorial governments to accelerate plans to ensure that all seniors' residences are equipped with the necessary systems and adequate staff in order to provide an efficient and timely evacuation; and

Be it further resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to ensure that any residences constructed in the future have a method of closing off sections of a building when fire occurs (i.e, a fire wall) as well as adequate staff on duty, especially during the evening hours so as to assist in a speedy evacuation.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

2. Financial Options for House

Whereas Ontario seniors are encouraged to stay in their homes longer and offered limited assistance; and

Whereas the majority of seniors in Bancroft are widows/widowers living on fixed incomes, with cost of living increases which are far less than increases in expenses to stay in homes (e.g. hydro, insurance, fuels);

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation request the federal and provincial governments to assist with financial options to allow seniors to be able to afford to stay in their residences.

Submitted by: Club #580 – Bancroft Seniors Club, Bancroft

3. Federal Income Programmes

Whereas retired people, the working poor, and people on fixed incomes; and

Whereas these people do not get a cost of living increase to help them financially; and

Whereas the cost of food, utilities, and rent keep on rising; and

Whereas many people through the winter could not afford heating fuel or food; and

Whereas many seniors had to resort to using food banks;

Therefore be it resolved

That the government increase the amount of CPP, OAS and other monies so that the people who are on fixed incomes and the working poor can live in their homes comfortably.

Submitted by: Club #690 – The Winchester Golden Years Club, Winchester

4. Federal Pensions

Whereas seniors and retirees are unable to purchase food necessary to provide a balanced diet, health issues associated with lack of adequate nutrition are common and the use of food banks is more prevalent; and

Whereas seniors are experiencing financial difficulties maintaining a home and the cost of food, clothing and hydro continue to increase; and

Whereas many seniors are unable to pay for dental care, hearing aids, eye glasses and drug prescriptions. Prevention and treatment of health related issues and in some cases impossible due to inadequate pensions; and

Whereas much of the increased burden on our health care system is directly related to the financial inability to maintain good health; and

Whereas seniors have earned the right to be able provide shelter, clothing and health care than an adequate pension would provide;

Therefore be it resolved

That the Old Age Security Guaranteed Income Supplement and Canada Pension Plans be significantly increased with an improved cost of living protection formula for the OAS and GIS.

Submitted by: Club#407 – Local 444 Retirees, Windsor

5. Cost of hydro

Whereas the cost of hydroelectric services has placed a financial burden on seniors;

Be it resolved

That the provincial and federal governments act to remove the HST from Hydro and the “debt retirement charge” for seniors.

Submitted by: Club 920 – Eagle Place Seniors, Brantford

6. Necessities of Life

Whereas I pay my hydro bill, my gas bill or eat is the question. I can't do all three above on my fixed income. I am a senior citizen.

Therefore be it resolved

That the federal and provincial governments increase funding for seniors to pay for the necessities of life and have an improved quality of life.

Submitted by: Club #587 – Warsaw Seniors, Warsaw

7. Gasoline Taxes

Whereas seniors, the working poor, people on fixed incomes; and

Whereas out of necessity in rural areas need their vehicles; and

Whereas seniors, the working poor, and people on fix incomes have not seen a raise to keep up with the high cost of gas for their vehicles;

Therefore be it resolved

That the government decrease the amount of tax that is imposed at the gas pumps.

Submitted by: Club #690 – The Winchester Golden Years Club, Winchester

8. Low Income and Affordable Housing

Whereas there is limited affordable housing available in many communities for people who most need it; and

Whereas current housing and rental rates are above what most people, particularly low income families, students seniors and retirees can afford; and

Whereas , in the absence of rent controls and with vacancy rates less than 1% in many communities, renters are at the mercy of landlords who can gouge renters for exorbitant rental prices;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation lobby the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to create more low-income and affordable housing unites across Canada; and

Be it further resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation work with other national and provincial senior/retirees organizations to lobby federal, provincial, and territorial governments to increase and support low-income and affordable housing units; and

Be it further resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation work with other national and provincial seniors/retirees organizations to lobby federal, provincial, and territorial governments to implement rent controls in provinces and territories where there are currently none in place.

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Federal of Union Retirees

Transportation

1. Automobile Safety

Whereas automobile manufacturers have had to make sure that headlights on automobiles come on automatically; and

Whereas this practice has proven to cut down on accidents; and

Whereas the weather patterns in the province of Ontario have changed and now we have more snowstorms, fog, rain, freezing rain, etc.; and

Whereas when driving in these conditions it is easier to see a car with head lights on, but it is very hard to see the car in front with no tail lights on;

Be it resolved

That the government should make it mandatory that car manufacturers also make sure that tail lights are lit as well.

Submitted by: Club #690 – The Winchester Golden Years Club,
Winchester

2. In-car Cellular Service

Whereas many car manufacturers build in cellular phone service and antennae in their vehicles which is made available to purchasers for a free introductory period and at the end of the free period an expensive package is necessary to maintain; and

Whereas many people carry portable cell phones and do not need the phone service this is only usable in the vehicle and decline the offer; and

Whereas in medical emergency or accident, the easily accessible emergency button in the vehicle can provide a vehicle location and access 911;

Therefore be it resolved

That in-car cellular service providers be mandated to offer a **minimal cost** (less than \$5/month) access to 911 service to customers whose vehicles are so equipped; and

Be it further resolved

That vehicle manufacturers be mandated to equip vehicles such that the 911 emergency service through the in-car cell phone be automatically activated in the event of the air bags being deployed.

Submitted by: Club#826 – Mountain Seniors Club, South Mountain

3. Gasoline Prices

Whereas within a driving time of one-half hour, the price of gasoline can vary by a 10 cent a litre difference on a regular basis; and

Whereas in rural and northern areas of the province there are no public transportation alternatives to driving a private vehicle;

Therefore be it resolved

That the federal and provincial governments enact regulations to ensure fair and equitable gasoline prices throughout Ontario.

Submitted by: Club #1269 – West Parry Sound Seniors Club,
Parry Sound

Additional Resolutions

1. Canada Post

Whereas Canada Post's plans to eliminate door-to-door mail delivery and drastically increase the cost of stamps and bulk mailings with the result that five million urban homes will lose home mail delivery; and

Whereas this irresponsible cut will unfairly impact the most vulnerable people in our communities, including seniors, persons with disabilities and people with poor health and will eliminate up to 8000 middle class jobs for postal workers; and

Whereas drastic increases to postal rates will make life even more expensive for families, small businesses, and charitable organizations which are already struggling with rising costs and a volatile economy; and

Whereas Canada Post has been profitable for 16 of the last 17 years and during the years of profitability Canada Post returned over \$1.5 billion to the federal government in the form of dividends and income taxes; and

Whereas we recognize there has been a decline in letter mail volumes, we believe that Canada Post should be looking at innovative ways to expand service and generate new revenue rather than dismantling a public service that Canadians value and depend on; and

Whereas there are more on-line purchases which have resulted in a surge of parcel delivery volumes and thus additional revenue; and

Whereas a significant portion of postal revenue in a variety of countries (including the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Switzerland and New Zealand) comes from the banking and other financial services they provide; and

Whereas banking and financial services would help expand access to those services in communities that are not well-served by Canada's banking services; and

Whereas there are practical options to expand service and revenue, Canada Post should be considering those alternatives; and

Whereas Canada Post has refused to engage in any real public consultation or dialogue with key stakeholders (including postal unions) in respect to various alternatives; and

Whereas it is outrageous that such major cuts and rate hikes are being pursued without any real public consultation; and

Whereas the federal government is set to review how to handle out public postal service with a review of the Canadian Postal Service Charter in 2014;

Therefore be it resolved:

That this meeting of the affiliates of the National Pensioners' Federation urge the federal government to stop the drastic cuts and rate hikes proposed by Canada Post and instead use the Postal Service Charter review to consult with the public and key stakeholders about alternatives – such as expanding parcel post delivery and providing banking services at post offices that would generate new revenue and ensure a financially viable and service-oriented postal service for the future.

Submitted by: The Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of BC

2. Postal Service

Whereas Canada Post has announced that it will be cancelling door-to-door mail delivery in the near future and has in fact already done so in a few areas; and

Whereas Canada Post CEO Deepak Chopra announced this was being done after consultation with Canadians who were “invited” to meetings across the country (their report says the meetings in British Columbia were held in Vancouver, Coquitlam, Nanaimo and Kamloops, hardly representative of the whole province); and

Whereas absolutely no consideration appears to have been given to the needs of the disabled, seniors who are shut-ins who live in parts of the country where winter weather can be a major factor; and

Whereas in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia alone there have been multiple problems with the security of community mail boxes;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation insist that the federal government require Canada Post to put current plans, not only for the cancellation of door-to-door mail delivery, but for the closure of Canada Post offices, on indefinite hold until more research has been completed with input from all of the citizens of Canada.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

3. Canada Post

Whereas the recent decision by Canada Post Corporation and the federal government to phase out home delivery and to increase the process of stamps leaves many Ontario citizens without means of communication; and

Whereas many citizens, due to age, disability or infirmity, etc., are unable to have easy access to community mailboxes; and

Whereas the exorbitant increase in the price of stamps will make life even more difficult for cash-strapped families, small businesses and charitable organizations; and

Whereas this decision will result in major job loss and further devastation of communities;

Therefore be it resolved

That the NPF Convention call upon Prime Minister Steven Harper and Canada Post Corporation to look at innovation rather than job

cutting and increased prices as a way of making the Corporation profitable; and

Be it further resolved

That Canada, like every other country in the world, continue home delivery and search for ways to save money without impacting people.

Submitted by: Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

4. International Day of the Older Person

Whereas in 1999 the United Nations designated October 1st as the “International Day of the Older Person, the Harper Government finally recognized this day a few years ago to garner support from seniors; and

Whereas the Harper Government has made it more difficult for seniors by cutting benefits, increasing old age to 67, cutting health care, closing offices for veterans affairs, placing more public services at risk or eliminating services for all Canadians;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners’ Federation demand that the federal government live up to its responsibility for all of its citizens and recognizes the sacrifices of seniors, retirees, our veterans, and members of the public services; and

Be it further resolved

That the National Pensioners’ Federation, our allies, and all good citizens recognize October 1st, 2014, and on October 1st, 2015 have a mobilization of seniors in large numbers to let the

government know seniors matter and vote to make changes for the betterment of all citizens October 15, 2014.

Submitted by: Unifor Windsor Essex Chatham Kent Area Retired Workers Council

5. National Seniors' Conference

Whereas there are many seniors' organizations, provincially and nationally, lobbying for issues that are of great concern to seniors – pensions, health care, the economy, and environment to name a few; and

Whereas governments meet with many of these seniors' groups but never seem able to get their issues and concerns resolved;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation approach and drive seniors of all walks of society and like-minded seniors' organizations, to hold a conference in Ottawa to plan and act on the many concerns of seniors.

Submitted by: Unifor Windsor Essex Chatham Kent Area Retired Workers Council

6. National Protest

Whereas older persons in Canada have found themselves under attack by cutbacks in pension benefits and health care; and

Whereas the United Nations has designated October 1 as the international Day of Older Persons; and

Whereas a federal election must be held by October 19, 2015;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners Federation join with the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada and other seniors groups to hold a national day of protest on issues that affect seniors such as pensions, homecare, and the need for a national pharma care programme to be held October 1, 2015.

Submitted by: Congress of Union Retirees of Canada
and Club #407 -- Local 444 Retirees, Windsor

7. Fair Elections Act

Whereas the Harper Conservatives did not consult with Elections Canada, does not want it to have investigative powers on voter suppression in fraudulent robocalls during the 2011 elections; and

Whereas the bill closes loopholes to big money by raising donation and spending limits; and

Whereas proposed legislation wants to tighten voter identification rules putting many citizens on losing their right to vote, First Nations, students, people in poverty and the homeless;

Therefore be it resolved :

That the National Pensioners' Federation support all efforts to stop the Fair Elections Act, demand the Harper Government consult with all Canadians and have a fair debate in parliament; and

Be it further resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation and its members lobby all Conservative MPs stating our opposition to this bill – that

denying Canadians their right to vote is not the right thing to do. Elections belong to us, not politicians.

Submitted by: Unifor Windsor Essex Chatham Kent Retired Workers Council

8. Fair Elections Act

Whereas the purpose of election reforms should be to educate voters and to encourage them to participate in the democratic process; and

Whereas the Fair Elections Act appears to do the opposite and has been criticized by many across the country, including present and past chief electoral officers, both provincial and federal, and the former Canadian Auditor General; and

Whereas the |Act as presented would eliminate vouching at the polls, thus disenfranchising many who actually do vote and removes much of the current authority of the Chief Federal Electoral Officer;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation insist that the federal government withdraw the Fair Elections Act as presented and, if indeed a new elections act is needed, entrust the writing of a new "Fair Elections Act" to a neutral party e.g. possibly a committee of the provincial and federal chief electoral officers, to ensure that the Act is crafted for the good of democracy.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

9. Aboriginal Women Prone to Violent Death

Whereas there have been many native women raped and/or murdered in Canada it is time for all of Canada to call out for justice for all aboriginal women; and

Whereas the Violence Against Women Act needs to be a law with consequences not just a piece of legislation to placate those who need protection but an enforceable law with full judicial enforcement with ramifications for all who violate the law; and

Therefore be it resolved

That the NPF demand that the Canadian Government launch a full and open inquiry into these crimes against aboriginal women and to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law those who have committed these crimes.

Submitted by: Ajax, Oshawa, Peterborough and Area Council
and

Club #3 – Unifor Local 222 Retired Workers, Oshawa

10. Victims of Crimes

Whereas the victims of crimes are not duly recognized for the trauma that follows the crime; and

Whereas the accused are often let off with a very light penalty, e.g. community service, letters of apology, or a light sentence which means absolutely nothing to the victims and their families that have to endure the trauma for the rest of their lives;

Be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the justice system (both federal and provincial) that more recognition should be provided and support given to the victims of the crimes.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

11. Affordable Legal Services

Whereas over the past several years there have been significant cuts in monetary support for legal aid services, with the consequence that many people are now finding it very difficult to access legal services; and

Whereas the effects of the difficulty of finding a legal representative at any affordable cost often leads to those living in untenable situations to remain in said situations and lead to further hardship(s); and

Whereas those affected by lack of legal representation are often either unwilling or unable to represent themselves, making access to justice nearly impossible for vulnerable citizens;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge both the federal and provincial governments' Ministers of Justice to consider a provision of free legal services for those earning under a certain income and offered in a reasonable sliding scale for those with greater means.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

12. Veterans

Whereas the federal government is closing down Veterans' Offices; and

Whereas Canadian veterans are now being treated poorly, with benefits taken away or reduced;

Be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the federal government to re-examine its policies and start treating veterans as they deserve and show appreciation for the services of the men and women on the front lines.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

13. Food Product Labeling

Whereas many seniors are now more concerned about their health; and

Whereas Canadian food products do not have clear and precise information on labels regarding additives and nutritional value;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the federal government to require the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to work toward standardizing all food labels, with all clearly stated additives and nutritional values.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

14. One Stop Shop Agency

Whereas at this time there are so many different agencies which handle seniors' inquiries that it is often confusing for

seniors to locate and/or contact the correct agency for assistance with a problem (one agency for pensions, another for taxes; another for medical benefits, etc.); and

Whereas many seniors have no access to computers or have no working knowledge of computers, forcing many different calls to many different agencies in order to obtain relatively simple answers to problems;

Be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the federal and provincial governments to set up an agency for seniors which will provide access to federal/provincial/territorial information and assistance. and

Be it further resolved

That this agency should provide "ONE STOP SHOPPING" for seniors, enabling them to visit "ONE" office will all of the answers or the ability to obtain those answers and thus simplify life for many seniors and save governments dollars as well as eliminating some bureaucracy.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organizations

15. Dementia Buddy Programme

Whereas the population of seniors is growing at a rapid rate and the incidence of dementia is also increasing; and

Whereas the "Dementia Buddy Programme" already exists and has been adopted by medical schools in the United States after being pioneered at Northwestern University, USA;

Be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the federal, provincial and territorial governments to encourage development and implementation of the "Dementia Buddy Programme" in medical school curriculums and approval for the first year medical students' participation in this programme across Canada.

Submitted by: BC Pensioners' and Seniors Organization

16. Fracking

Whereas fracking is the process of fracturing shale deposits to release small pockets of natural gas; and

Whereas this practice has caused wide scale pollution where it has taken place; and

Whereas this practice has caused sickness and death in humans and livestock; and

Whereas the downside to the environment far outweighs the benefit; and

Whereas this practice has now spread to Canada in a big way;

Therefore be it resolved

That the Canadian and provincial governments ban this practice.

Submitted by: Club #39 – Local 200 Retirees, Windsor

17. Pesticides

Whereas bees are dying due to exposure to pesticides; and

Whereas bees are required for the pollination of a large number of crops;

Be it resolved

That the federal and provincial governments mandate a ban of use of the identified pesticides that are killing off bee colonies.

Submitted by: Club 920: Eagle Place Seniors, Brantford

18. Enbridge Pipelines Inc.

Whereas Enbridge Pipelines Inc. has been approved by the National Energy Board to transport diluted tar sands bitumen ('dilbit') and fracked oil across Southern Ontario using Line 9, which is a 38 year old pipeline, that runs through 99 towns and cities, including highly populated centres such as Toronto, Sarnia, Hamilton, London and Kingston, and

Whereas this pipeline also crosses many ecologically sensitive areas including dozens of major rivers draining into Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, putting the drinking water of millions of Ontarians at risk; and

Whereas tar sands dilbit is more corrosive than regular crude and has to be transported at higher temperatures and pressure, therefore the likelihood of a spill is higher than regular oil pipelines; and

Whereas tar sands dilbit sinks to the bottom of water and is therefore much harder to clean up than regular oil and the effects are much longer lasting; and

Whereas according to |Enbridge’s own reports , the company is responsible for over 800 spills between 1999 and 2010; and

Whereas an international pipeline safety expert (Richard Kuprewicz) with over 40 years of experience in the energy sector says the probability of Line 9 rupturing is “over 90%”;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners’ Federation agree that the National Energy Board stop the use of the pipeline immediately and order an environmental assessment; and

Be it further resolved

That the National Pensioners’ Federation lobby local, provincial and federally elected officials to put an end to the sue of Line 9 and force Enbridge Pipelines Inc. to look for safer ways to transport dilbit.

Submitted by: Club #3 – Unifor Local 222 Retired Workers, Oshawa

19. Parking Fees

Whereas hospital parking fees are exorbitant and add an unacceptable burden on people who are already ill, under stress and at the most vulnerable; and

Whereas the collection of high parking fees from people who are sick, aged, chronically ill, disabled and are frantically worried is totally unacceptable; and

Whereas hospital parking fees are no a coveted part of hospital revenue, budget shortages should not be shouldered by the patients;

Therefore be it resolved

That the NPF Convention call upon Roma Ambrose, Ontario Provincial Minister of Health to cease using the same global lump sum approach as in the 1960's and to move to a model which allows a hospital to run efficiently and without a need to charge for parking fees.

Submitted by: Unifor Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

20. Horse Racing in Ontario

Whereas the Ontario government's decision to end the slots at the racetrack programme is effectively destroying a profitable industry for Ontario; and

Whereas the plight of the workers in this industry is not unlike that of the automotive workers and deserves government intervention, similar to the government intervention in the Ontario automotive industry; and

Whereas the present slots at the racetrack programme annually sends \$1.1 billion to the province; and

Whereas the uncertainty created is resulting in major job losses and hardship and euthanizing of perfectly healthy animals; and

Whereas the provincial government's decision to make \$400 million available on an application basis is barely sufficient:

Therefore be it resolved

That the NPF Convention call upon the provincial government and the Ontario Lottery and Gamin Corporation to reintroduce the Slots at the Racetrack Programme; and

Be it further resolved

That changes should not be made to the Criminal Code to allow provinces to operate sports betting in direct competition with the horse racing industry.

Submitted by: Unifor Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

21. "Idle No More"

Whereas the federal Conservative government and "Big Oil" are working together to restrict or remove many of the limited environmental and social protections in place in Canada; and

Whereas the resurgent indigenous rights movement "Idle No More" has been one of the only opposition forces able to throw Big Oil and the Stephen Harper government off this path of destruction; and

Whereas First Nations, because of their location and constitutionally recognized rights over resource development areas have strategic leverage other populations do not; and

Whereas a broad coalition of First Nations, environment groups, community based organization, labour groups and grassroots activists have banded together with "Idle No More" to fight the Harper agenda;

Therefore be it resolved

That the National Pensioners' Federation encourage its members to support (where possible) "Idle No More" organizers to further their environmental protection and indigenous rights activities.

Submitted by: Saskatchewan Federation of Union Retirees