

## National Pensioners Federation 2021 Virtual Convention

October 5,6 & 7, 2021

### “Access and Equity for seniors”

#### Minutes of meeting

Note: “**MSC**” within these minutes indicates that a motion was moved, seconded and carried.

Daniel Chai our technology advisor gave a “tech talk” 5 minutes before the meeting each day and was available for questions and troubleshooting.

#### Day 1 - October 5, 2021

President Trish McAuliffe called the meeting to order; thanked Daniel and the planning committee; welcomed the delegates and guests; then asked Sandy Carricato to acknowledge that the meeting is being held on traditional first nations ancestral lands.

Trish McAuliffe thanked Sandy for her spirited fight and leadership.

The delegates and guests heard the reading of the NPF’s seniors prayer and then observed a minute of silence dedicated to those who had passed on since our last convention.

**MSC** That the agenda for this 76th convention be adopted.

Trish McAuliffe introduced the keynote speaker - Dr. Kiran Rabheru, Chair of the board, International Longevity Centre Canada

#### Strengthen & Promote the Human Rights and Voice of Older Persons

Dr. Rabheru gave a history of the development of UN human rights

Conventions since 1945 and addressed the need for the human rights of older persons to be protected in the new UN Convention.

Trish McAuliffe thanked Dr. Rabheru for his leadership.

**MSC** That the minutes of convention 2019 be adopted.

**President McAuliffe announced the appointment of committees.**

Resolutions committee

Lance Livingston (chair)  
Lyle Hargrove  
Pamela Strong

Registration and credentials committee

Jean Simpson (chair)  
Mary Forbes  
Maria Pinto

Elections committee

Jean Simpson (chair)  
Donna Sutherland

The chair of the registration and credentials committee reported on attendance.

Delegates

Total	57 with 54 voting
British Columbia	18
Nova Scotia	1
Ontario	29
Quebec	1
Saskatchewan	4

**MSC** Adoption of the credentials report.

**2019-2021 Financial report, Mary Forbes, Treasurer**

The financial report was circulated and Mary highlighted the reduced income and

expenses. It was clarified that only members get a hardcopy of the newsletter. It is on the website.

**MSC** Support for the financial report.

### **NPF President's address – Trish McAuliffe “NPF Going Forward”**

Trish McAuliffe expressed her gratitude to all who worked to support the organization including affiliates. She also thanked the 2019-2020 executive for their service during the past two years. The members and delegates were thanked for their committed leadership.

Trish emphasized the importance of NPF keeping strong at the national level partnering with advocacy groups such as; the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC); Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA); the Canadian Federation of Pensioners (CFP); the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Health Coalitions.

Trish outlined the current NPF affinity programs and urged the delegates to communicate their needs to members and get their support to provide and hope for better times in the future. ( Full report available in presentation deck on the web site, Convention Tab)

Stretch Break

**Kathleen Jamieson introduced guest speaker, Chris**

**Parsons – Nova Scotia Health Coalition**

#### **Virtual Care/Privatization**

Chris Parsons is a writer and researcher and currently the Coordinator of the Nova Scotia Health Coalition, one of seven active provincial health coalitions across Canada. Like other provincial health coalitions, the Nova Scotia Health Coalition does not seek or accept corporate or government funding and exists to defend, strengthen, and expand public health care in Canada.

Chris's presentation focused on: a) the growing threat of privatization of health care through well-financed initiatives by large and small private companies and, linked to that b) the growth of telehealth and virtual care, when that is or is not appropriate and

what we can do to ensure that we protect the Canadian health care system and that everyone receives equitable, high quality health care services in Canada.

Barb Mikulec thanked Chris Parsons.

Sheila Pither was wished a happy birthday.

### **Kathleen Jamieson gave NPF Health committee report. (avail on web site)**

For the last 18 months, NPF health care advocacy has focused on six key issues:

- 1) Long-term care and the development and implementation of national standards for long-term care;
- 2) Supporting the development and implementation of a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons;
- 3) Advocating for the implementation of National Pharmacare;
- 4) Implementation of the Patented Medicines Prices Review Board regulations;
- 5) The growth of virtual care;
- 6) The privatization of the health care system.

These are all issues of ongoing concern to NPF.

**The chair of the resolutions committee took the chair of the meeting and outlined procedures in respect to the consideration of the resolutions.**

### **Commencement of 2021 resolutions:**

#### **EQUALITY**

**21.6.1 MSC** that the national pensioners federation support a Canadian and international initiative to hold governments accountable for seniors human rights through a UN Convention on the human rights of older persons that is currently under development, **and**

That the National Pensioners Federation lobbies all federal political parties in support that Canada be a signatory of that convention.

## **HEALTH**

### **21.4.1 IMPLEMENT A UNIVERSAL DENTAL COVERAGE**

- ALREADY NPF POLCY

### **21.4.2 IMPLEMENT A UNIVERSAL PHARMACARE SYSTEM**

**MSC** that the National Pensioners Federation continue the campaign with the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada and other seniors and retirees organizations who are calling for a universal pharmacare program, **and**

That the National Pensioners Federation push the federal government to institute a pharmacare system, that is universal, comprehensive, accessible and public. It will have a clear timeline for implementation, in order the make drugs more affordable and accessible to all seniors and retirees, **and**

That the National Pensioners Federation call on the federal government to begin the process to implement universal drug coverage under the Canada Health Act and that the federal government increase funding to provinces and territories by at least 5.2% per year as part of the health transfer program.

### **21.4.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF AMENDED PATENTED MEDICINES REGULATIONS AND PMPRB GUIDELINES**

**MSC** that the National Pensioners Federation call upon the federal government to delay no further on the implementation of the amended patented medicines regulations and Patented Medicines Prices Review Board guidelines which are issued pursuant to subsection 96(4) of the Patent Act.

### **21.4.4 & 21.4.5 & 21.4.9 Combined**

#### **LONG TERM CARE REFORM**

**MSC** that the federal government should put an end to for-profit long-term care homes and bring long-term care under the Canada Health Act and make it federally regulated, **and**

#### **CONDITIONS OF CARE - LONG TERM CARE**

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge:

1. That the federal government collaborate with the provinces and territories to develop national standards for long-term care that provide for relational care of four hours of

care per resident per day, that support a well-paid, full-time work force, that support in-house provision of dietary, cleaning and laundry services and minimize contracting out, that address building design, and that these standards be funded with federal funding tied to accountability by the provinces to adhere to regulations, regular unannounced inspections, and enforcement, **and**

2. That the provinces and territories support family and resident councils at the local, regional and provincial level to provide direct feedback to the provincial ministers of health regarding conditions of long-term care that need to be addressed; **and**
3. That principles of care be developed to respect the basic human rights of older adults whose residence is a long-term care facility; **and**
4. That representatives of organized seniors groups and family/resident councils be directly involved in these developments, **and**

That the National Pensioners Federation [NPF] calls for a nation-wide transformation of long-term care by incorporating the following essential steps:

[a] long-term must be brought into the public system and regulated under the Canada Health Act.

[b ] provide dedicated and conditional funding for long-term care through the Canada Health transfer.

[c] remove private for-profit businesses from the long-term care sector.

[d] implement evidence-based national standards of care that are tied to funding, including a minimum four [4] hours of daily care per resident.

[e] raise wages and benefits, including paid sick leave, for long-term care workers to properly recognize the value of their work.

#### **IMPROVING LONG-TERM CARE IN CANADA**

That the National Pensioners Federation [NPF] calls for a nation-wide transformation of long-term care by incorporating the following essential steps:

[A] Long-term must be brought into the public system and regulated under the Canada Health Act.

[B ] Provide dedicated and conditional funding for long-term care through the Canada Health Transfer.

[C] Remove private for-profit businesses from the long-term care sector.

[D] Implement evidence-based national standards of care that are tied to funding, including a minimum four [4] hours of daily care per resident.

[E] Raise wages and benefits, including paid sick leave, for long-term care care workers to properly recognize the value of their work

**The meeting was adjourned for the day at 2:30pm EST.**

## **Day 2 – October 6, 2021**

### **Convention resumes**

**Bernie LaRusic introduced Jeffery Hodgson, global stakeholder affairs, and CPP, CANADA pension plan**

### **Investment & Stability of the Canada Pension Plan**

Jeffrey Hodgson outlined the history of the Canada Pension Plan. The plan is sustainable well into the future. (Presentation deck available on Convention Tab on the web site)

Trish thanked Jeffrey Hodgson and suggested a panel on this matter in the future.

### **The chair of the registration and credentials committee reported on attendance**

#### **Delegates**

Total 56 participants – 4 non voting and 2 guests

British Columbia 19

Nova Scotia 1

Ontario 29

Quebec 1

Saskatchewan 4

**MSC Adoption of the credentials report.**

### **Income and pensions committee report – Mike Powell**

Mike discussed the status of pension legislation and what the next steps should be; support moving pensions up in the priority in the case of bankruptcy and strengthens the coalition with other national groups. Protecting pensions could reduce the demands on other programs. (Presentation deck available on Convention Tab on the web site)

Trish thanked Mike for his report.

**The chair of the resolutions committee proceeded with resolutions.**

## **FINANCE**

### **21.3.1 CANADIAN OLD AGE SECURITY PENSION (OAS) FOR AGE 65 PLUS**

**MSC** That the national pensioners federation call on the federal government to take immediate action to institute a lump sum payment and a permanent increase in Old Age Security (OAS), so that all current seniors 65 and over, can receive much needed financial assistance: **and**

That the National Pensioners Federation call on federal government to take immediate action to increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), to improve the lives of many low income seniors; **and**

That the National Pensioners Federation ask for the support of all group of seniors and all organization of retirees to organize a national campaign to fight and to obtain equality for all seniors in Canada and to ensure that this government doesn't create a two-class system of our seniors based on age.

### **21.3.2 INCREASE TO CANADA PENSION PLAN (CPP) SURVIVOR BENEFIT**

**MSC** That the National Pensioners Federation continue to advocate for and call on the federal minister of finance and all provincial finance ministers to support a significant increase to the Canada Pension Plan survivor benefit.

### **21.3.3 IMPLEMENT A GUARANTEED LIVABLE BASIC INCOME**

**Moved and seconded** That the National Pensioners Federation call on the federal government to reconsider its stand on the concepts of the failed motion m-46 and work with the other levels of government to implement a guaranteed livable basic income throughout Canada.

**Motion to refer back to submitter**

### **21.3.4 CHANGE THE DISABILITY TAX CREDIT**

**Moved and seconded** That the National Pensioners Federation pressure the Canadian government to change the disability tax credit from a non-refundable



tax credit to a monetary payment that universally helps all people with disabilities.

**Motion to refer back to submitter**

As there is conflicting information; NPF will host a session to help understand our benefits and how they work with CERB etc.

**21.3.5 & 21.3.6 (combined) ELIMINATE MANDATORY RRIF WITHDRAWALS**

**MSC** That the National Pensioners Federation call upon the federal government to eliminate the mandatory withdrawal from Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF) to protect the financial security of our seniors, **and**

That the National Pensioners Federation call upon the federal government to improve the financial security of our seniors by removing the mandatory withdrawal of funds from RRIF accounts.

**21.3.7 OLD AGE SECURITY INCREASE**

**MSC.** That the NPF urge the federal government to allocate the funds to all seniors from the age of 65, for the one-time payment, as well as the increase in the Old Age Security payments.

**PENSIONS**

**21.8.1 BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION OF PENSION AND BENEFITS FOR FORMER WORKERS AND RETIREES**

**Moved and seconded** That the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal government to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (BIA) and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) as follows;

To extend super-priority to any unfunded pension liability, placing pensioners ahead of creditors to be paid if a company goes bankrupt; **and**

That the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal government of Canada to enforce a requirement for companies to continually maintain their pension liabilities fully funded.

**It was ruled by the resolutions committee that this was existing policy with the added friendly amendment**

**MSC** That this resolution be amended by the addition of the following words “that employers shall maintain group insurance programs that provide benefits to or in respect of its employees or former employees”.

**The resolution was then carried.**

### **Stretch Break**

**Trish McAuliffe introduced guest speaker-John Lawford,  
executive director and general counsel,  
Public interest Advocacy Centre  
Seniors advocacy makes a difference**

John Lawford outlined the projects that PIAC was working with the NPF; such as the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications commission (CRTC) the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC); the Commission for Complaints for Telecom-television (CCTC), a free service for individual complaints. (Presentation deck available on Convention Tab on the web site)

Trish thanked John for his networking.

**The chair of the resolutions committee proceeded with resolutions.**

### **POLITICS**

#### **21.9.1 TAX THE ROBOTS**

**MSC** That the National Pensioners Federation call upon the federal government to create a federal registry, with an annual registration fee, for all automation devices and AI control units used in manufacturing, service and communications industries in Canada, **and**

That the registry monitors the automation and AI trend and that the data gathered be used to aid in the formation of future fees and for taxes on such devices to benefit displaced workers with compensation including paid re-training for replacement jobs.

#### **21.9.2 SERVICE CANADA**

**MSC** that the NPF oppose the privatization of Service Canada call Centres to Gatestone a call Centre corporation based in the USA, **and**

Work with allies, including but not limited to the Public Service Alliance of Canada to oppose the privatization of Service Canada call Centres and to advocate for better and improved publicly run service by Canada call Centre services.

### **21.9.3 EXPAND CANADA POST SERVICES**

**MSC** That the National Pensioners Federation reiterates their support for the delivering to community power plan calling on Canadaost to;

- Provide postal banking services;
- Provide check in services allowing seniors to stay in their own homes;
- Provide a wide range of services;
- Become environmentally sustainable.

### **21.9.4 WHY REGULATE NEW DRUG PRICES?**

**MSC** That the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal government to put the public good first and implement the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) regulations immediately.

### **21.9.5 PLAN WITH SENIORS, NOT FOR SENIORS**

**MSC** That the NPF urge the federal/provincial/territorial governments to ensure policy tables and consultations have as members, representatives from key seniors organizations.

**The meeting was adjourned for the day at 2:30pm EST,**

**Day 3 - October 7, 2021**

**Convention resumes.**

Trish McAuliffe greeted delegates and thanked them for messages and congratulated the resolutions committee.

The slide presentations from presenters will be on the NPF website.

Delegates were encouraged to view the website.

Delegates wished a Happy birthday to Donna Sutherland.

**Barb Mikulec introduced guest speaker Marika Albert policy director, BC Non-Profit Housing Association.**

**Action on National Housing for seniors**

Marika Albert gave an overview of affordable housing in British Columbia and programs and voiced her concern that the number of seniors that are homeless is growing. (Presentation deck available on Convention Tab on the web site)

**Barb thanked Marika and introduced Manfred Merkel the chair of the NPF housing committee.**

Manfred Merkel reviewed the report from the last convention, gave an update on current achievements and outlined the positions of each political party.

The committee recommended the following action plan;

**Action:** NPF we are holding all political parties (outside of the people party) to their election promises.

**Action:** The NPF is asking all federal parties to pull together and work at all government levels (federal, provincial and municipal) towards affordable housing.

**Action:** Have the federal government take a lead role in overlooking the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to help build affordable housing for all disadvantaged groups in society and prevent private sector taking massive amounts of rental units off the market for higher end development.

Trish McAuliffe thanked Barb and Manfred for their work.

Affiliates and members were encouraged to join NPF committees.

The chair of the registration and credentials committee reported on attendance.

Delegates

Total 54 participants – 4 non voting

British Columbia 15

Nova Scotia 1

Ontario 28

Quebec 1

Saskatchewan 4

Alberta 1

**MSC** Adoption of the credentials report.

**The chair of the resolutions committee proceeded with resolutions.**

## **HOUSING**

### **21.5.1 PRIMARY RESIDENCE TAX EXEMPTION**

**MSC** That the NPF supports the retention of the ‘primary residence tax exemption’ when a homeowner sells the home or on their death, **and**

That the NPF strongly urge the federal government not to implement taxes on the capital gain on a primary residences upon the sale of the homes.

### **21.5.2 ENABLING SENIORS TO LIVE LONGER AT HOME**

**MSC** That the NPF endorse the measures of the federal **Age Well at Home Initiatives** funding to support services enabling seniors to live longer at home, and publicize this program.

### **21.5.3 CUTTING RED TAPE FOR AFFODABLE HOUSING**

**Moved and seconded** That the NPF urge the provincial/territorial/federal governments to respond with action to enable affordable/accessible housing units to be built with less red tape, to respond to the urgency of the need for seniors housing.

**MSC to refer back to submitter** for clarification.

(FYI: The notes from the resolution committee said that this resolution did not define red tape in the argument of whereas. The action required of the NPF therefore has no definitive or desired context to act upon. Secondly, we (the resolutions committee) challenge ourselves to agree with cutting red tape and the parameters that are necessary for safety and environmental standards that may be in our best interests.)

### **21.5.4 PERMANENT HOUSING PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS**

**Moved and seconded** that the NPF urge all governments to identify senior populations at risk of homelessness and take action, diverting them from shelters into permanent accessible housing, **and**

### **21.5.5 TAX CREDITS FOR SENIOR’S HOME ADJUSTMENTS**

That the NPF support programs which enable accessibility changes to seniors’ homes to be funded through tax measures which reimburse seniors for payments

to enable ramps, wider hallways and accessible bathrooms to be funded through tax credits.

**MSC** That this resolution be referred back to submitter

#### **21.5.6 HOME INSURANCE RATE GOUGING**

**MSC** That the NPF support the intervention of governments into the escalating costs for condo insurance for seniors who may find the increases are stretching their budget, by implementing a government insurance plan that will control huge financial gains through cost increases in insurance policies.

**The following 5 health resolutions are referred to the NPF executive with power to act:**

### **HEALTH**

#### **21.4.6 TELE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY**

**Be it resolved** That the National Pensioners Federation:

- speak out about the growth of telehealth/virtual healthcare
- educate its members about the problems and dangers with telehealth/virtual healthcare
- work with its allies to better understand the consequences of the corporatization of health care through virtual care and telehealth platforms.

#### **21.4.7 REMOVING AGEISM IN THE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS**

**Be it resolved** That NPF work with its national counterparts to develop clear criteria to enable doctors and health care workers to judiciously provide medical treatment for patients without bias regarding age.

#### **21.4.8 ESTABLISHING INFECTION SECURITY**

**Be it resolved** That NPF work with its national counterparts to work with the Federal Minister of Health and provincial counterparts to establish infection security facilities and practices at the entrances to all long-term care, nursing home, seniors care and hospital facilities across Canada.

#### **21.4.10 MENTAL HEALTH**

**Be it resolved** That the NPF urge the federal government to implement funding for on-going support to non-profit groups for socially connected Seniors' Wellness Initiatives.

#### **21.4.11 THE USE OF ANTIPSYCHOTIC, ANTI-DEPRESSANT, AND ALZHEIMER'S DRUGS IN LONG-TERM AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Be it resolved** That the National Pensioners Federation advocate with all governments in Canada to ensure that anti-psychotic drugs, sedatives, and any new dementia drugs administered to residents of long-term care be severely restricted and closely monitored on an ongoing basis by an independent agency in each province and territory advised by a committee of citizens and scientists of each province and funded and overseen by the federal government as part of its responsibility to protect the human rights of older persons.

That concludes the resolutions for the 2021 convention. The chair thanked his committee.

#### **Stretch Break**

#### **New Business:**

#### **MEDD Award Presentation**

The award is presented for outstanding work done by a member of NPF or an affiliate organization.

The Nathan Wedgwood Medd Honorary Trophy was donated by his family.

Trish gave a brief history of the award and announced that the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of British Columbia (COSCO BC) was this year's recipient.

Sheila Pither, the COSCO President accepted the award and thanked NPF for this honour saying this shows we are united from coast to coast in our efforts to improve the well being of seniors.

#### **Nomination Call for NPF Executive Elections: Term of office 2021-2023**

The chair of the registration and credentials committee reported on attendance

and conducted the elections.

Delegates

Total 54 participants – 4 non voting

British Columbia 15

Nova Scotia 1

Ontario 28

Quebec 1

Saskatchewan 4

**Elected:**

President	Trish McAuliffe
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Barb Mikulec
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Bernie LaRusic
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Barry Thorsteinson
Treasurer	Mary Forbes
Secretary	Annette O'Connor
Member at Large	Kathleen Jamieson

**Oath of office was administered by Barry Thorsteinson.**

President McAuliffe gave her final remarks to the delegates inviting affiliates to contribute to committees. She thanked the executive.

**Barb Mikulec adjourned the 2021 NPF Convention, thanking Trish and Daniel at 2:20pm PST**

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**Remember to check our web site often:**



