

Resolutions 2016

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE BROADBAND AND NET NEUTRALITY

Policy number:

2016-8-3

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the topics of Broadband and Internet are relatively new to seniors, and

WHEREAS there is an increasing reliance on electronic/digital communications by governments, agencies and much commerce happens by digital devices, and

WHEREAS seniors are a significant group of home internet users, and

WHEREAS social isolation is identified as a contributing factor in deteriorating seniors' health

Policy:

That the leadership of the National Pensioners Federation 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. This can be done through the newsletter.

BROADBAND AND NET NEUTRALITY

Policy number:

2016-8-2

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS access to 'broadband' – home internet – is important across all ages and for seniors most important, and

WHEREAS surveys show that people 55+ were most likely to bundle broadband with telephone and/or TV service and less likely to switch internet providers; and

WHEREAS seniors are uniquely affected by wireline broadband, and

WHEREAS broadband is a "basic telecommunications service"

Policy:

That the leadership of the National Pensioners Federation make representations to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication 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 [megabits per second] download and 1 Mbps upload.

Section:

Additional policies

Result:

/content/npf-applauds-crtc-announcement (CRTC announcement)

NET NEUTRALITY & ZERO-RATING

Policy number:

2016-8-1

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the law of “common carriage” has applied to public utility-like services such telecommunications since the telegraph and common carriage means the “carrier” (telco or ISP) must:

- Serve all customers who want service
- Charge “just and reasonable” rates, made public
- Treat/charge all customers equally (no unjust discrimination)
- Provide service with “due care” (adequate quality); and

WHEREAS the increasing practice of “Zero-rating” infringes on policy of “Net Neutrality” which favours decentralization, individuality, autonomy and free speech, and

WHEREAS the communications industry exerts enormous pressure on governments and regulators

Policy:

That the leadership of the National Pensioners Federation make representations to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission [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;

THE BANK OF CANADA

Policy number:

2016-7-15

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS once a nation parts with control of its currency and credit, it matters not who makes that nation's laws ... usury once in control will wreck any nation, and

WHEREAS until the control of the issue of currency and credit is restored to government and recognized as its most conspicuous and sacred responsibility all talk of the sovereignty of parliament and of democracy is idle and futile P. M. Mackenzie King, and

WHEREAS we have lost our democracy because the power is concentrated in the banks and corporations that control our politicians since the Bank of Canada was handed over to the private bankers in 1974 by Prime Minister (P. E.) Trudeau, and

WHEREAS today half of our taxes go to pay private banks' interest on our unnecessary debt of \$600 Billion for a total of \$160 Million per day in interest which amounts to \$60 Billion a year, and

WHEREAS using the Bank of Canada could keep Canada out of heavy debt and would improve the quality of life for all Canadians.

Policy:

That the NPF urge The House of Commons (Government) 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.

Section:

Additional policies

CANADA POST

Policy number:

2016-7-10

Convention:

2016

Policy:

That the National Pensioners Federation present a brief to the review of Canada Post in which it focuses on postal banking, services to seniors, and opportunities for our public postal service to show leadership on environment and climate change.

Section:

Additional policies

POSTAL BANKING

Policy number:

2016-7-8

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS major Canadian banking institutions are currently inaccessible to many low-income Canadians as well as remote areas, especially in the North, and

WHEREAS predatory banking and loan services are becoming increasingly prevalent in many low-income communities in Canada, and

WHEREAS Canada Post has an under-utilized institutional capacity to deliver basic banking services at a wide range of locations, and

WHEREAS there is a need for the expansion of the service base of Canada Post to integrate with the realities of the 21st century economy, and

WHEREAS postal banking has proven to be a reliable model in such countries as Japan, Germany, Brazil, and France.

Policy:

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

Section:

Additional policies

TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (TPP)

Policy number:

2016-7-5

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the TPP was negotiated in secret over a period of 8 years and seeks to codify corporate rights in a supposed trade deal, and

WHEREAS the Canadian government has signed its intent to adopt the TPP but parliament has not yet ratified it, and

WHEREAS the government of Canada has said that they will consult broadly with Canadians and parliamentarians prior to ratification.

Policy:

That the National Pensioners Federation urge its chapters across Canada to write letters outlining concerns to the Minister of International Trade; lobby local MP's 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 interest of its citizens.

Section:
Additional policies

DEDICATED SENIORS MINISTRIES

Policy number:

2016-7-4

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the demographics of the Province of British Columbia and Canada as a whole are changing drastically and the age of the population is getting older, and

WHEREAS seniors in British Columbia are presently represented by a Secretary of State for Seniors within the Health Ministry.

That the National Pensioners' Federation encourage the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments to create a specific Ministry and a Minister dedicated to the concerns of seniors.

Policy:

That the National Pensioners' Federation encourage the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments to create a specific Ministry and a Minister dedicated to the concerns of seniors.

Section:

Additional policies

Result:

Ontario upgraded Seniors Secretariat to Ministry for Seniors January

2017 <http://www.seniors.gov.on.ca/en/about/>

NEED FOR MINISTER FOR SENIORS

Policy number:

2016-7-3

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS federal policies and programs of direct relevance for seniors are included in the Mandate letters of at least ten Cabinet Ministers, and

WHEREAS issues including health, income, housing and transportation are interlinked at the community level when delivering services to seniors, and

WHEREAS the numbers and proportions of seniors in the Canadian population will continue to rise over the next decades.

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government and provincial governments to appoint a Minister for Seniors.

Section:

Additional policies

END HARMFUL TRADE AGREEMENTS

Policy number:

2016-7-1

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the Canada-EU CETA and Trans Pacific Partnership currently contain the investor state dispute settlement mechanism that would allow foreign corporations to sue Canada.

Policy:

That the National Pensioners Federation demand that the Federal Government reject these deals that further entrench corporate privilege in favour of trade that is truly fair.

Section:

Additional policies

NPF MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

Policy number:

2016-6-4

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the National Pensioners Federation is the Organization representing all older adults in Canada, and

WHEREAS Multicultural Diversity of our population is reflected very inadequately amongst our member organizations.

Policy:

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 population centres such as Metro Vancouver, Greater Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Halifax.

Section:

Additional policies

NPF VISIBLE MINORITIES VIEWPOINT

Policy number:

2016-6-3

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS 39% of older adults in Canada now are immigrants, and

WHEREAS until the 1970's, immigrants to Canada were primarily from Europe, and

WHEREAS our largest immigration populations are now arriving from Asia and other third world countries and fit the definition of a "Visible Minority" (VM), and

WHEREAS Canada's VM population increased by 3% over five years to reach 19% by 2011.

Policy:

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 its members highlighting the issues and steps taken by NPF with the appropriate authorities to address them.

Section:

Additional policies

OVERHAUL CANADA'S ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENTS

Policy number:

2016-5-1

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the lack of adequate consultations with Indigenous and directly impacted communities, a clear democratic deficit and a failure to factor in the climate implications tar sand pipeline would trigger, which many reviews have shown, and

WHEREAS our new government is refusing to stop those currently underway on the Energy East and Trans Mountain.

Policy:

That the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal government to start new public reviews of all pipelines and overhaul Canada's environmental assessment processes.

Section:

Environment

CANADA PENSION

Policy number:

2016-4-5

Convention:

2016 – MSC

Preamble:

WHEREAS 11 million Canadians do not have access to a workplace pension plan; and

WHEREAS Workplace coverage continues to decline, particularly in the private sector with less than 25% of workers participating in a workplace pension plan; and

WHEREAS The new Federal Government has committed to enhancing the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) within the 2016 calendar year; and

WHEREAS The Canadian Labour Congress and the FTQ have made a proposal to double Canada Pension Plan benefits through a gradual increase of contributions

Policy:

That the National Pensioners Federation and its affiliates lobby provincial Finance Ministers to support the Canadian Labour Congress proposal for an enhanced Canada Pension Plan and Quebec Pension Plan.

Section:

Pensions

FUNDING FOR INCOME TAX CLINICS

Policy number:

2016-4-4

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS many seniors live well below the poverty line, and

WHEREAS many seniors cannot afford to have their taxes done by private tax agents and cannot manage the online version of tax filing, and as a result they turn to community organizations that provide this service without cost, and

WHEREAS the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) provides minimal support for volunteers in the community (i.e. webinar training and older computers).

Policy:

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

Section:

Income and Taxation

PRIVATIZATION OF CANADA'S ASSETS

Policy number:

2016-4-2

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the recent Liberal Budget makes mention of “asset recycling” which is a method designed to raise money to help the government bankroll infrastructure promises, and WHEREAS the Liberal government has committed more than \$120 billion toward infrastructure spending over the next decade, and

WHEREAS privatization is really short-term gain for a long-term pain.

Policy:

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.

Section:

Income and Taxation

VESTING OF BENEFITS

Policy number:

2016-4-1

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS concession bargaining has allowed employers to reduce the level of benefits provided to retirees long after they have retired, and

WHEREAS employers on their own have reduced benefits to retired staff, and

WHEREAS benefits are considered to be ‘deferred wages’ (i.e.: the property of the worker), and

WHEREAS retirees generally have no say or rights to consultation in the reduction of their benefits package.

Policy:

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.

RESOLUTION SUBMISSION TIMING

Policy:

Member organizations submitting a resolution for the fall NPF convention must send the resolution to the NPF secretary by August 1st . This date is important as there needs to be sufficient time to get all the resolutions organized in their categories and then printed for the delegates.

If a member organization is part of a larger group and wants to submit a resolution to the NPF convention, it does not need to wait until its larger group meets. It can send its resolution in to the NPF secretary directly so as to meet the August 1st deadline. The resolution submitted to the NPF should state what action the NPF is to take, via the federal government or other body.

Resolutions may be submitted at any time during the year. Resolutions received by August 1st will be dealt with at that year's convention. Resolutions received after August 1st will be considered to be late and will be dealt with by the executive. The executive may decide to A) return the resolution for submission to a subsequent convention or B) place the resolution on the current agenda. Emergency Resolution: an emergency resolution is a resolution concerning seniors on a national level that has not been raised but needs to be addressed.

Number:

1

Section:

Resolutions Guidelines

FORMAT OF RESOLUTIONS

Policy:

A resolution should have two parts, the Whereas section and the Resolution itself. The whereas section states the rationale, the reason for the resolution.

The resolution states the action to be taken and it must be able to stand by itself apart from the rationale.

This example is in an acceptable format.

"WHEREAS members of the NPF are concerned about national health issues and

WHEREAS members realise the strength of a national voice in seeking government action,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NPF urge the Canadian, Provincial, and Territorial governments to create and implement a national Pharmacare program."

The action in a resolution must be something that the NPF can do. The resolution cannot direct other bodies to perform an action as in: "Therefore be it resolved that the national government create and "

The action to be taken must be clear in the resolution without having to refer back to any part of the rationale to understand it.

This example is vague: "Therefore be it resolved that the NPF strongly support this proposal."

The proposal may have been described in the rationale, but the resolution by itself has to define the issue. Consider this clarification. "Therefore be it resolved that the NPF strongly support the proposal to ban fracking in the Canadian oil industry by registering our concern with the federal government."

When an organization is drafting a resolution to present at a NPF convention, it should check the NPF website to see if the proposed resolution is already in the policy book.

If such a policy exists, the new resolution should not be necessary. A modified resolution that covers new ground or solicits a new action might be able to focus the intention more clearly.

Number:

2

Section:

Resolutions Guidelines

SCOPE OF RESOLUTIONS

Policy:

Resolutions sent to the NPF should be national in scope, having an application across the whole country. While regional resolutions – those that are provincial or territorial in nature – are certainly valid, they do not necessarily fit into the scope of the NPF. For example, a resolution on reducing taxes on automobile gas in Ontario is limited to that one province. If it were modified to deal with federal gas taxes across the country then it could be suitable for the national scope of the NPF. Similarly, an appeal for increased housing for seniors in Nova Scotia could be accepted as a NPF resolution if it were expanded to deal with seniors' housing in all of Canada. A national resolution should not seek action for a regional concern. The national resolution would seek action of a related nature to a local concern but on a national level.

Resolutions that are accepted and passed at a convention of the NPF could be used to support a regional action. A member organization could cite the action of the national body in seeking action at a local or regional level.

Number:

3

Section:

Resolutions Guidelines

VITAMIN D

Policy number:

2016-2-8

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the British Columbia Medical Association Guidelines and protocol for Vitamin D testing was changed in June 2013 to 'Vitamin D testing is NOT needed' when the Vitamin D testing protocol previously included testing for those with bone loss or gut disorders to determine if Vitamin D deficiency was the underlying cause and

WHEREAS Vitamin D regulates calcium and phosphorous absorption, facilitates normal immune system function, and is important for the growth and development of bones as low levels of vitamin D can speed up bone loss and increase the risk of fractures and

WHEREAS Vitamin D deficiency has been linked with diabetes, hypertension, rickets, cancer, cardiovascular disease, asthma, cognitive impairment in the elderly, depression, colorectal cancer, multiple sclerosis, and lupus as different tissues in the body have Vitamin D receptors, including the heart, kidneys, colon, brain, muscle and immune cells, which indicate they need Vitamin D to function properly.

Policy:

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the Federal Government to require Vitamin D testing as recommended by the Vitamin D Council and informed MD's when conditions such as with diabetes, hypertension, rickets, cancer, cardiovascular disease, asthma, cognitive impairment in the elderly, depression, colorectal cancer, multiple sclerosis, and lupus are identified, helping to prevent disease conditions and consequences to patients, families and cost to the healthcare system.

Section:

Health

GMO LABELLING

Policy number:

2016-2-7

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS over twenty countries have banned or restricted the import, distribution, sale, utilization, field trials and commercial planning of GMOs and since Canadians deserve the right to know what they are eating and should have the right to choose.

Policy:

That the National Pensioners' Federation urge the Federal Government to require Genetically Modified Organism labelling on all GMO products being sold in Canada.

Section:

Additional policies

TAINTED BLOOD

Policy number:

2016-2-6

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS over 30,000 Canadians were infected with HIV and hepatitis C by way of tainted blood in Canada, resulting in the death of thousands of Canadians and harming countless families; and

WHEREAS Canada spent \$17 million on a publicly-funded federal inquiry which revealed that the paid donor system was a key factor contributing to Canadians receiving tainted blood; and

WHEREAS billions of dollars in compensation have been given to those who received tainted blood and their families due, in part, to Canada's former reliance on blood from paid donors; and

WHEREAS the Krever Inquiry recommended an end to a private, for-profit blood donor system in Canada; and

WHEREAS our blood plasma is not meant to be a commodity that is bought and sold, we must protect our voluntary blood donor system in Canada and ensure we have one national operator, the Canadian Blood Services, to oversee blood collection and plasma collection in our country.

Policy:

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.

Section:

Health

PAID PLASMA & PRIVATE BLOOD COLLECTION CLINICS

Policy number:

2016-2-5

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the recommendations from the Justice Krever Commission are just as relevant and true today as they were in 1987; and

WHEREAS the governments of Quebec, Ontario, and Nova Scotia have enacted legislation to ban private blood collection; and

WHEREAS Canadian Plasma Resources (CPF/Exapharma), a private blood collection clinic has set up clinics in Saskatchewan and with plans to open ten more clinics across Canada;

Policy:

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 private blood clinics are allowed to operate in Canada.

Section:

Health

IMPROVEMENTS TO LEVEL OF SERVICE TO SENIORS LIVING IN CARE HOMES

Policy number:

2016-2-3

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS published reports (e.g, by the Seniors Advocate for British Columbia) indicate that in many facilities the hours of care provided to residents is less than the recommended standard of 3.36 individual care hours per resident, and

WHEREAS concerns have been expressed from several sources about the dangers of inappropriate prescribing and poly-pharmacy (e.g., the Seniors Advocate for British Columbia reports that over 30% of residents in care are being prescribed anti-psychotic drugs while fewer than 5% have a diagnosis of a psychiatric disorder, and that 51% of residents in care are potentially over medicated (i.e., have received nine or more medications in the past week), and

WHEREAS seniors in residential care facilities have been reported to be receiving lower than optimum levels of physiotherapy and other therapies including occupational, speech language, music, art and recreational, all of which contribute to the health and well-being of residents in care.

Policy:

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.

Section:

Health

DENTAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Policy number:

2016-2-2

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS seniors are concerned about the importance of good oral health to overall health status, and

WHEREAS many seniors lack dental coverage and the income with which to purchase dental health services, and

WHEREAS medical services currently covered through publicly funded plans exclude most dental health services

Policy:

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

Section:
Health

RENEWAL OF CANADA'S PUBLIC MEDICARE SYSTEM

Policy number:

2016-1-3

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the NPF is a strong defender of our public health care system – one that provides high-quality care for every Canadian, regardless of where they live or their family income, and

WHEREAS in 2014, the Harper Conservative government allowed the Canadian Health Accord to expire which would have meant over \$36 billion in cuts beginning in 2017, and

WHEREAS our members across Canada have confirmed their support for a renewed National Health Accord through resolutions to our annual conferences, participation in various demonstrations and campaigns,

Policy:

That the NPF Convention 2016 affirms our demands on the Liberal government of Canada to support and renew Canada's public Medicare system: Pharmacare

- Create a national public drug program to ensure equal access to life-saving medication, and
- Ensure sufficient stable Federal and Provincial funding to provide high- quality acute care, home care, and long-term care services; and
- Develop a Seniors Strategy to increase the care of our aging population; and
- Protect and enforce the Canada Health Act, ensuring health care remains public for the public good; and that the National Pensioners Federation 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 their constituencies in the year ahead to renew our public health services.

Section:
Health

A FAIR TRADE FUTURE BEGINS BY SAYING NO TO THE TPP

Policy number:

2016-1-1

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS the current model of international trade and investment treaties affords extraordinary rights to private investors and multinational corporations, often undermining the democratic decision-making authority of citizens and governments, and

WHEREAS Canada's involvement in such treaties have had a negative effect on our nation's trade and economic performance, and have also lead to Canada being the most sued developed country by private investors under dispute settlement tribunals, and

WHEREAS the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, negotiated by the former Harper government and signed by Canada and 11 other nations in February 2016, is the latest and largest of neo-liberal trade and investment treaties, that will re-write the rules on trade under NAFTA, reform intellectual property laws and digital policy, and undermine our ability to regulate in the public interest, among other concerns, and

WHEREAS studies show the economic impact of the TPP on Canada will be negative, or at best negligible – further eroding Canada's overall trade performance; and the proposed terms of the TPP will have an effect on Unifor members across a range of economic sectors, including auto, dairy processing, air transport, telecommunications, media and others; and

WHEREAS Federal Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland has stated publicly that she will consult with Canadians on the TPP before putting the deal to a ratification vote in the House of Commons (no later than February 2018) and that the deal, as it stands, is non-negotiable.

Policy:

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

Section:

Additional policies