

Resolution 2018

NPF resolution 2018 Communication

BROADBAND/INTERNET

18.1. 2 SENIORS AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS at present there are many older Seniors who are not computer literate, who are afraid to use online banking and do not own a computer as eventually computers will become a necessity, and

WHEREAS there are incidences in some more remote areas where Service Canada Employees are referring seniors to their public computers and to non-profit Seniors Resource Centres where volunteers are not trained and the centres have no connection to any level of Government, and

WHEREAS Service Canada Employees in the past would assist all clients but will now only assist clients who presents themselves as illiterate or seriously handicapped, and this situation causes a serious drain on the resources of Seniors Centres,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call upon the Federal Government and the Minister for Seniors to have Service Canada give Seniors required services and have a manual alternative available until such time as computer literacy is the norm, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there be an end to open ageism and discrimination.

Submitted by Unifor Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

18.1.1 CRTC – PRESSURED OVERSELLING

WHEREAS many seniors have been sold television, phone services they do not need or misled about the terms of the service they are receiving and

WHEREAS some of the employees selling TV, phone, and internet services have admitted to the media that they are signing seniors up for products they do not need, and

WHEREAS sales people also admit that they sometimes fail to disclose important details, like installation charges, in order make the sale, and

WHEREAS seniors and low-income persons are taken advantage of through practices which verges on the edge of being fraudulent, and

WHEREAS many seniors cannot afford the additional costs of these services when rental and medication expenses are a much higher priority,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the National Pensioners Federation through PIAC (Public Interest Advocacy Centre), lobby the CRTC to intervene in the overselling pressures by service providers.

Submitted by Saskatchewan Seniors Association Incorporated

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;

General

COMPUTER ACCESS PROGRAMMES

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the federal government fully fund Computer Access Programmes (CAPs).

Number:

14

Section:

Transportation

ENVIRONMENT

18.2.1 PROTECTING CANADIAN WATERS

WHEREAS Ontario and Canadian waters are being sold to foreign companies etc. for profit, and

WHEREAS water is our most precious life source and is needed now and more so in the future as the world will put more pressure on Canadian waters as they lose their own supply, and

WHEREAS companies (Nestles, for example) are pumping vast amounts of water for small compensation, and

WHEREAS aquifers are threatened to be exhausted in the next ten years, and

WHEREAS the pollution from the plastic bottles containing the water is an environmental threat as companies manufacture millions of bottles a day,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call upon our Provincial and Federal Governments to recognize our right to a healthy environment and to recognize that access to water is a fundamental and inalienable right for all Canadians and to discontinue the selling of our water to foreign interests.

Submitted by Unifor Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

CANADIAN OIL REFINING

Policy Number: 2019-1-1

Convention:

2019

Preamble:

Canadians do not benefit financially from other countries refining our oil; and,

Canadians have had trouble with refineries outside of Canada having stoppages which are a hindrance in managing our continuous ongoing oil supply; and,

Canadians are continually improving pollution methods in refining when many other countries do not and it is hypocritical that Canadians as world citizens allow other countries to take the pollution hit when we benefit from the refined oil. Other countries do not have the stringent air and land pollution quality that Canada has; and,

Refining Canadian oil in Canada would result in many jobs in the Canadian refining industry, more tax dollars and reducing our fuel costs.

Policy: That the NPF calls upon the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of International Trade to keep Canadian business in Canada. Canadian oil should be refined in Canada by Canadian companies.

2019

Unifor Area Retired Workers Council, Toronto & USCO

Section:

Environment

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

TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF urge all levels of government to take all possible action to transition our economy to run on clean, renewable energy and that a “just transition” be offered to all workers whose jobs are affected by this transition.

Number:

13

Section:

Income and Taxation

SUPPORT FOR “IDLE NO MORE”

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the NPF encourage its members to support (where possible) “Idle No More” organizers to further their environmental protection and indigenous rights activities.

Number:

12

Section:

Income and Taxation

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FROM RAIL ACCIDENTS

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the federal government immediately put in place and enforce strict regulations to protect Canadians and the environment from rail accidents.

Number:

11

Section:

Income and Taxation

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RETROFIT

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF actively lobby (provincially and federally) for funding for improved energy conservation and green energy retrofit programmes which include a “Pay as You Save” (PAYS) programme.

Number:

8

Section:

Income and Taxation

UN CONVENTION ON DROUGHT

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF call upon the federal government to reinstate Canada's commitment to the United Nations Convention on Drought.

Number:

9

Section:

Income and Taxation

TRANSPORTATION OF NUCLEAR AND TOXIC WASTES

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the Canadian and USA governments and the Ministers of the Environment to ban the transport of nuclear and toxic waste through the Great Lakes.

Number:

3

Section:

Income and Taxation

PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF demand that the provincial and federal Ministers of the Environment ensure that the eco system of the Great Lakes is protected.

Number:

5

Section:

Income and Taxation

NO NEW PIPELINES

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF add its voice in favour of the environment and against any increased construction of pipelines for bitumen and gas.

Number:

4

Section:

Income and Taxation

HARMONIZE AND STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to adopt a leadership role to “harmonize” and strengthen environmental standards and regulations; and that effective legislation be passed with adequate staff hired to enforce the enhanced environmental regulations.

Number:

1

Section:

Income and Taxation

HALT NEW PIPELINES

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the Alberta and Canadian governments to put a halt to the Gateway, Keystone, and Kinder Morgan pipeline projects.

Number:

7

Section:

Income and Taxation

DISPOSAL OF USED TIRES

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the provincial and federal governments find secure locations (at no cost) where tires can be brought and that governments find ways of disposing of or utilizing old tires.

Number:

2

Section:

Income and Taxation

BAN “FRACKING”

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the Canadian and provincial governments ban the practice of “fracking”.

Number:

6

Section:

Environment

SUPPORTING THE UN RESOLUTION- AGENDA 21

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF call upon the federal government to support the right to water and specifically:

(a) Support the UN resolution and declaration “Agenda 21 – the UN blueprint for sustainable development”; and

(b) Support the “General Comment No. 15” adopted by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.”

Number:

10

Section:

Income and Taxation

GMO LABELING

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

THE CRITICAL ISSUE OF SOIL AND LAND REGENERATION

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF urge support for local and organic farmers and education for all levels of government regarding the critical issue of soil and land regeneration.

Number:

40

Section:

Transportation

BAN BEE KILLING PESTICIDES

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

34

Section:

Transportation

KITSILANO COAST GUARDS

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to reverse the decision to close the Kitsilano Coast Guard Station.

Number:

11

Section:

Transportation

RAW MATERIAL PROCESSING

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the Canadian government institute a policy that raw materials are processed domestically, thus adding value to exports.

Number:

1

Section:

Transportation

EQUALITY

Supporting the Position of OECD Ministerial Statement to Reduce Inequality

18.6.1 SUPPORTING THE POSITION OF OECD MINISTERIAL STATEMENT TO REDUCE INEQUALITY

WHEREAS the Federal government of Canada has joined with the 35 countries which make up the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD is a standing committee of the United Nations) in a ministerial statement of cooperation to advance the sharing of global prosperity which will help reduce inequality, and

WHEREAS many politicians and voters still believe that austerity is the solution to develop economic stability, and

Whereas Sweden, Portugal, and Greece have come to the same conclusions about progressive social policy from very different national economic histories,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial governments to discuss and agree to support and take actions which reflect the intent of the OECD “Ministerial Statement” Social Policy for Shared Prosperity: Embracing the Future.

<http://www.oecd.org/social/ministerial/ministerial-statement-2018.pdf>

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NPF urge the federal government to report to Canadians on the content and results of these discussions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NPF urge the federal government to educate Canadians and encourage attitudes that reflect the intent of this report in reducing inequality.

Submitted by NPF Executive Board

FINANCE

Income and Taxation

INCOME

Income Security

19.2.4 INCOME SECURITY

WHEREAS Many seniors are forced to carry out a lifestyle at or below the poverty level

WHEREAS The government has consistently stated that they want to assist the middle class to be able to access a lifestyle which affords them the dignity of being able to afford essential services

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That NPF request the federal government to increase the Pension Income amount (line 314 on the CRA form) deduction from \$2000.00 to \$5000.00

Submitted by SSAI AGM 2019

CPP & OAS Increase on Low Fixed Incomes

19.2.3 CPP & OAS INCREASE ON LOW FIXED INCOMES

WHEREAS The cost of food, utilities, and rent keep on rising; and,

WHEREAS Many people throughout the winter could not afford heating fuel or food.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED 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, Winchester & USCO

Increasing Income Levels for Seniors

8.3.3 INCREASING INCOME LEVELS FOR SENIORS

WHEREAS the cost of living is continually increasing thereby increasing hardships on seniors, and

WHEREAS seniors are being forced to make difficult choices between food, medicine, necessities of life, important medical aids and medicine,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that National Pensioners Federation lobby the Federal Government to bring the income level of seniors up to at least the Poverty Line.

Submitted by Saskatchewan Seniors Association Incorporated

Old Age Security (OAS)

18.3.2 OLD AGE SECURITY (OAS)

WHEREAS many seniors are living below the poverty line, and

WHEREAS the largest group of poor seniors is women who have reduced years in the workforce due to child rearing duties, and/or jobs that pay less than men, and thus have lower Canada Pension Plan (CPP) earnings, and

WHEREAS those in the lowest income group are receiving approximately \$18,000 after the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) top-up, and

WHEREAS, the cost of living has increased to a point where the GIS topup still does not raise seniors out of poverty,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call on the federal government to increase the Old Age Security to \$2,000 a month.

Submitted By COSCO of B C

Bill C 27 Income Security

18.3.1 BILL C 27 INCOME SECURITY

WHEREAS, before the 2015 federal election, Canadians were clearly promised in writing that Defined Benefit Plans, which have already been paid for by employees and pensioners, should not be retroactively changed into Target Benefit Plans, and

WHEREAS, Bill C-27, tabled by the Minister of Finance, precisely permits this change, thereby jeopardizing the retirement income security of Canadians who have negotiated Defined Benefit Plans as form of deferred wages,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call on the Government of Canada to withdraw Bill C-27, an Act to amend the Pension Benefit Standards Act, 1985.

Access to Legal Aid

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the provincial and federal Ministers of Justice consider a provision of free legal services for those earning under a certain income and offer a reasonable sliding scale for those with greater need.

Number:

35

Section:

Transportation

Canada Revenue Agency Income Categories

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the only way for any taxpayer to qualify for the Refundable Medical Expense Supplement is by having either Employment Income, “other” Employment Income, Business Income, Professional Income, Commission Income, Farming Income, and Fishing Income, and

WHEREAS many taxpayers, i.e., senior citizens and low-income individuals, have many deductible medical expenses that unfortunately they cannot claim due to the limitation of applicable income categories,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the Canada Revenue Agency to rectify the injustices that taxpayers face regarding their inability to claim significant medical expenses because they may not have income in a specific category.

Consumer Price Index Assessment

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the Canadian and provincial governments’ Departments of Labour plus Statistics Canada take a hard look at “the fixed basket of commodities” used to determine the Consumer Price Index and use more realistic goods and services items to come up with a CPI fairer to all Canadians.

Number:

26

Section:

Pensions

Consumer Price Index for Seniors

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS increases in both Canada Pension benefits and Old Age Security benefits are governed by the Consumer Price Index in Canada, and

WHEREAS many of the items included in the ‘basket of items’ used in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index are not necessarily relevant to seniors who are recipients of these benefits (furniture, appliances, child care services, etc.),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal Government to create a Consumer Price Index for Seniors, revamping the list of items included in the 'basket of items' used in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index and to give extra weight in the calculations to essentials like food, electricity, heat, etc.

Cost of Living Increases for Seniors

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the increases in OAS, CPP and GIS be adjusted so as to more accurately keep up with the actual cost of living.

Number:

2

Section:

Pensions

CPI Assessment

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF call upon all levels of government, the Department of Labour, and Statistics Canada to take a hard look at the "fixed basket of commodities" used to determine the Consumer Price Index and to use more realistic goods and service items to come up with a Consumer Price Index which is fairer to all persons and that cost of living increases be a true reflection of price increases.

Number:

30

Section:

Pensions

Employment Standards Act 2000

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF call upon the federal and provincial Ministers of Labour and the federal and provincial governments to work together to amend the Employment Standards Act

2000 and its regulations to protect employees in situations where a new owner has taken over a company.

Number:

29

Section:

Pensions

Increase OAS and cost of living

Policy number:

2012-

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federation government to increase Old Age Security by no less than 30% and tie future benefits to the cost of living index.

Number:

8

Section:

Pensions

Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement by no less than 16% in order to give seniors and others on fixed income a decent standard of living and thus raise them above the poverty level.

Number:

7

Section:

Pensions

Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

32

Section:

Transportation

Living Wage Increases

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF call upon provincial governments and opposition parties to immediately establish a living hourly wage and provide (annually) increases to minimum wage limits which will keep up with inflation.

Number:

13

Section:

Transportation

National Jobs Strategy for Young People

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to deliver a National Jobs Strategy to deal with unemployment and underemployment amongst Canada's young workers with deliberate labour market action plans that will allow young people to find full-time, meaningful work.

Number:

44

Section:

Transportation

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

OAS and GIS Increases

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the OAS and GIS be increased significantly to provide for those who have never entered the work force.

Number:

20

Section:

Pensions

Public Engagement on Changes to Old Age Security

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to institute public dialogue and consultation prior to any changes to the status quo Old Age Security benefits.

Number:

1

Section:

Pensions

Recognizing Seniors on October 1st

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the federal government live up to its responsibility for all of its citizens and recognize the sacrifices of seniors, retirees, our veterans, and members of the public services and further that the NPF , our allies, and all good citizens recognize October 1, 2014 and on October 1, 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, 2015.

Number:

29

Section:

Transportation

Senior Income Supplements free from Income Tax

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF lobby the federal government to exempt CPP, QPP, OAS and CPP benefits from income tax.

Number:

3

Section:

Pensions

Separate Survivors Benefits

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS survivors lose some or all of their benefits on turning 60 as they are combined with the Canadian Pension Plan Benefits, and

WHEREAS survivors are still survivors, and should not be penalized by turning 60, and

WHEREAS survivors who turn 60 need more financial support not less,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Survivor benefits are not combined with Canada Pension Plan at 60 to reduce the overall benefits but that both benefits are maintained.

Submitted by USCO

Tax Remits and OAS and GIS

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF urge the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) to attach a very visible notice to the Old Age Security (OAS) T4A form stating very clearly the necessity to file an income tax return to be eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and other eligibility requirements for the GIS benefit and that GIS recipients receive a notice informing them of their right to also apply for provincial or territorial benefits.

Number:

27

Section:

Pensions

TAX

Taxing the Tax Calculations

19.2.2 TAXING THE TAX CALCULATIONS

WHEREAS Seniors have paid their fair share of taxes over their lifetime of employment and should not be paying tax on tax; and,

WHEREAS Paying a fee on carbon is just another tax and is being taxed again with HST. This applies to fuel for our cars and home heating and probably much more.

WHEREAS \$100.00 tax assessed to new vehicles with air conditioning that was put in place in the mid-70s during the gas shortage was only to apply until the shortage was over. However, today almost 50 years later that charge is still there on every new vehicle built with air conditioning. You are then charged HST on that tax at the time of purchase.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED We call on the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Governments to immediately stop taxing tax.

Submitted By: Club #945 – Britt Byng Inlet and Community Senior Citizen Club, Britt & USCO

Tax Avoidance Thru Tax Havens

18.3.4 TAX AVOIDANCE THRU TAX HAVENS

WHEREAS the Canadian Government loses up to an estimated \$15 billion a year thru tax avoidance facilitated by the use of legal tax havens, and

WHEREAS the 60 largest public companies on the TSE have over 1,000 identifiable subsidiaries or related companies in places known to be onshore and offshore tax havens, and

WHEREAS Canadian foreign direct investment in tax havens exceeds \$250 billion, and

WHEREAS the Canadian Government has not effectively dealt with corporations using tax havens to shift profits and avoid taxes, and

WHEREAS the release of the Panama and Paradise papers has shown the sweeping role that banks and legal firms play in facilitating tax avoidance thru tax havens, and

WHEREAS the share of Federal Tax Revenue from corporations has dropped by over 30% since the 1970's, and

WHEREAS the use of tax havens make the rich, richer and the poor, poorer, by shifting the tax burden to people and businesses that do not or cannot avoid taxes thru tax havens,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NPF urge the Canadian Government to stop tolerating and facilitating the use of tax havens to legally avoid taxes and to reverse the policies that make it legal to avoid taxes thru tax havens and to provide the resources required to enforce compliance.

Submitted by Unifor Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter

Death Tax Exemption

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the Canadian Government imposes taxes upon death yet offers \$2500, but not all receive this benefit; and

WHEREAS Why does a person or estate pay taxes for a person who dies?

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Government exempt taxes owing to anyone who passes away after age of 65.

Repeal Bill C-51

Convention:

2015

Policy: That the NPF demand that the federal government repeal Bill C-51 immediately.

Number: 39

Section: Transportation

Support for Victims of Crime

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the federal and provincial Ministers of Justice provide recognition, resources, treatment and assistance to the traumatized victims of crime.

Number: 33

Section: Transportation

Student Aid

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF call on all provincial governments in Canada, through the Minister of Education, to extend financial aid beyond secondary schools to the public college and university levels up to at least the first undergraduate degree for all deserving students.

Number: 23

Section: Transportation

The Dangers of PayDay Loan Outlets

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF oppose the emergence of payday loans and cash advance companies and take steps to inform retirees of the dangers associated with the payday/cash advance system.

Number: 25

Section: Transportation

“Living Wage”

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF call upon governments to amend all labour legislation which refers to “minimum wage” and replace that wording with “living wage”.

Number: 9

Section: Transportation

“Dying With Dignity”

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to support assistance for “Dying With Dignity” (providing all criteria as outlined in Bills C-497 and C-562 are met) and support the revocation of Section 241(b) of the Canadian Criminal Code.

Number: 3

Section: Transportation

Streamlining the New Horizons Funding

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF request those persons in charge of the New Horizons grant applications to speed up the process of requests for grants in order that the clubs approved for funding can rely on the estimates given them by suppliers.

Number:

7

Section:

Transportation

Taxing Cross-border shopping

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF oppose the increase in tax exemptions for cross-border shoppers.

Number:

8

Section:

Transportation

FINANCE GENERAL

Grandparents Financial Assistance

19.2.1 GRANDPARENTS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS More and more grandparents on fixed incomes are forced to raise their grandchildren without funded assistance, yet children from foster homes would have assistance from the government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The government monetarily help those seniors that are raising grandchildren without assistance.

Submitted By: Club #690 – The Winchester Golden Years, Winchester & USCO

Match OAS to Minimum Wage Increases

18.3.7 MATCH OAS TO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES WHEREAS the Ontario Government and other Provincial Governments have increased the minimum wage by approximately 20%, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The National Pensioners Federation bring to the attention of the Federal Government that the increase to the Old Age Pension should at least match the percentage increase made to the minimum wage.

Submitted By: Club #1269 – Parry Sound Seniors, Parry Sound

Phoenix System for Government Employees

18.3.6 PHOENIX SYSTEM FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS the Phoenix payroll system is costing tax payers a lot of money,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal Government to shut down the Phoenix Payroll system, and let accounts handle the government payroll.

Submitted By: Club #1341 – Douro Township Seniors, Peterborough

Phoenix Payroll System

18.3.5 PHOENIX PAYROLL SYSTEM

WHEREAS it is a basic right of every worker in Canada to be paid all wages due them on the date due, and

WHEREAS the Federal Government of Canada is failing to do so because of the Phoenix Pay System, and

WHEREAS the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) continues to wage battles on behalf of its members pressuring the Federal Government to adopt a payroll system which properly pays workers all wages due on time,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) work with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) the Canadian Labour Congress and Federations of Labour in their demands and actions to get fairness and respect for Federal Government workers who have suffered negative impacts of the Phoenix pay system.

Submitted by B C Forum (B C Federation of Retired Union Members)

Affordable Child Care

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS it is known that the cost of childcare expenses in some cities in Canada has risen three times faster than inflation, and

WHEREAS this has meant that some parents have ended up paying up to \$1,000 a year more than they did two years ago;

WHEREAS the number of low-fee childcare spaces available in Quebec has increased dramatically between 1996 to 2016 from approximately 80,000 – 200,000 due to their childcare program, and

WHEREAS this affordability has noticeably increased the number of women, and young women who have returned to work in Quebec,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation engage the Federal and Provincial governments for affordable childcare program to increase the number of low-cost spaces at a cost of no more than \$15 per day, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these spaces be universally created in across our country so that all provinces have a chance for safety and affordability in all cities throughout Canada, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these spaces be offered in safe government-regulated facilities for the wellbeing of our children and grandchildren.

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

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS many Citizens in rural areas do not have access to either a bank or a post office and banks are frequently closing branches in small towns, with negative effects on local businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS Canada's banks charge some of the highest fees in the world, and

WHEREAS a publicly owned bank could act in the public interest in ways in which private banks cannot, particularly for environmental initiatives and community economic development; and

WHEREAS there are many successful postal banking models in several countries eg: United Kingdom, France, India, Italy and New Zealand;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call upon our Prime Minister, the Federal Government, and Canada Post Corporation to establish a task force to determine how to deliver new financial products and new services through the Post Office; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the national government to establish a publicly-owned postal bank.

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

Save Canada Post

Our post office is under review – Have your say!

The federal government has appointed an independent task force to identify options for the future of our postal service. It says that everything but postal privatization is on the table.

The task force wants to know what you think. You can have your say by contacting the task force:

Online: <https://www.canada.ca/canadapostreview>

Email: TPSGC.ExamendeSPC-CPCReview.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca

Twitter: Tweet and use #CPReview2016 hashtag

Facebook: Like, share and comment at <https://www.facebook.com/CanadaPostReview/>

Instagram: Share photos and include the #CPReview2016 hashtag

Fax: 1-844-836-8138

Mail:

Canada Post Review

CP 2200

Matane, QC G4W 0K8

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

Veterans' Disability Applications

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF ask the federal government to increase the number of trained direct-service employees to more effectively deal with veterans' disability applications and in a more timely manner.

Number:

43

Section:

Transportation

Taxing Seniors' Health Benefits

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS many seniors on fixed incomes have financial difficulty making ends meet without further off-loading and downloading of existing program costs, and

WHEREAS Old Age Pensions and Supplements have not increased sufficiently to cover the increased financial demands due to the cost of living, increased utility costs, medication costs, property taxes, and

WHEREAS many seniors are being challenged to try to live in dignity while receiving benefits below the poverty level,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners' Federation oppose the Federal Government's proposed Taxation of Seniors' Health Benefits.

Minimum Income

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS many citizens are living in extreme poverty and in some cases have no source of income, and

WHEREAS there is proof that the benefits of a guaranteed minimum income for all citizens result in lower poverty rates, fewer hospital visits and increased high school completion rates, and

WHEREAS a guaranteed annual income system rather than the existing welfare programmes would streamline administration and reduce massive administrative costs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call upon the Prime Minister along with the Federal and Provincial Governments to establish a Guaranteed Annual Income scale for the benefit of all citizens, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the scale of benefits be such that it would reduce the income gap through annual guaranteed income and lift all Canadians out of poverty.

Executive Compensation

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS not so long ago executives in industry received incomes which equalled approximately ten times the average wage paid to their employees. Included in this calculation and of extreme importance was the profitability of the business, and

WHEREAS over the last eleven years we have witnessed an eighty-two percent increase in executive compensation, while working and retired Canadians have seen income stagnation; and

WHEREAS union-organized workplaces have attempted to distribute the generated profits in a more equitable fashion, excessive executive wage increases continue,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation highlight the unfairness of the present compensation paid to CEO's and other corporate executives while workers experience wage and pension stagnation.

Bill C-27

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS Bill C-27, an Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, represents a dangerous and immediate attack on future and current retirees and defined-benefit (DB) pension plans, and sets up a framework for target-benefit (TB) pension plans in the federal private sector; and

WHEREAS Bill C-27 invites employers and other plan sponsors to abandon their pension promises to employees and retirees, and allows employers to persuade individuals to surrender their earned DB plans in exchange for less secure, less stable TB plans, thus downloading virtually all risks brought on by market volatility to workers and retirees; and

WHEREAS Bill C-27 will leave employees at the mercy of employers who want to back out of their pension commitments,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) continue to work with the Canadian Labour Congress, the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada, the BC Retired Teachers Association, our allies and union affiliates to oppose Bill C-27, an act to amend the Pensions Benefits Standards Act and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NPF continue to educate members and the public on the dangers of Bill C-27.

CPP and OAS

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS seniors on fixed income, low income families, and people with a disability do not get a cost of living increase to help them financially and the costs of food, utilities, rent keep on rising and many people throughout the winter cannot afford heating fuel and food,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the government to increase the amount of CPP, OAS, and other monies so that people who

are on fixed income and low income families or the disabled can live in their homes comfortably.

Notification of Income Supports

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS many seniors are not aware of income supports to which they may be entitled, either provincial or federal; and

WHEREAS Service Canada sends out T4A slips to every recipient of Canada Pension and/or Old Age Security;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners' Federation urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to collaborate in producing and distributing with the T4A slips an information sheet outlining the following:

- income supports available, such as the Guaranteed Income Supplement, Medical Plan Premium Assistance, Shelter Aid for Elderly Residents, etc.,
- household income required to be eligible for such income support, e.g., under \$42,000 or ?,
- contact information to obtain application forms for such income support.

Caregivers Tax Credit Refund

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the 2017 Federal Budget proposes to combine the Caregiver Credit, the Infirm Dependent Credit and the Family Caregiver Tax Credit into a single new Canada Caregiver Credit that will be effective for the 2017 taxation year, and

WHEREAS this new credit will start to be reduced when the dependant's net income is above \$16,163 in 2017 with a phase-out range up to \$23,046, and

WHEREAS caring for a dependent may affect employment income, and

WHEREAS this credit will provide more tax relief to caregivers with higher incomes, and less tax relief to caregivers with lower incomes,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal Government to make the new combined Caregiver Tax Credit refundable.

Defined Benefits

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS employers promised current employees, and retirees defined benefit pensions as part of their compensation. These pensions are a form of deferred wages, and

WHEREAS we believe a deal is a deal, and employers should not be able to take back compensation they promised to their employees or retirees, and

WHEREAS this issue is important to every Canadian. If you yourself are retired, have a family member who is retired or one day wish to retire, this issue has a direct impact on you and your retirement security; and

WHEREAS that there is a sacred trust for the federal government to protect the retirement income security that's already been earned by millions of Canadians in defined benefit plans,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Prime Minister keep his promise made to the National Association of Federal Retirees in writing that defined benefit plans which have already been paid for by employees and pensioners should not be retroactively changed.

Defined Benefits

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS Defined Benefits pension plan are superior to Targeted Benefits and Defined Contribution pension plans, and

WHEREAS all seniors with Defined Benefits pensions could be targeted by public and private employers, and their payments significantly reduced.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the USCO work with all senior groups, pension and social justice organizations to carry out campaigns to ensure that Federal and Provincial Governments enact legislation that will prohibit both public and private sector employers from making any change to defined benefit pensions which do not enhance such plans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the USCO work to move forward with a suitable representation on October 1st (United Nations Day of the Older Person) for Canadians around the pending pension crises.

CPP Indexing

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the Canadian inflation rate is forecast at 2% by Statistics Canada for 2016, and

WHEREAS senior pension benefits are fixed with very little increase (1%), and

WHEREAS federal MP's voted to increase their office expenses by 20% and their travel by 5%, and

WHEREAS seniors are most negatively impacted by the cost of living gap,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal government to index senior pensions to the cost of living, inflation rate, only in the positive.

Consumer Price Index for Seniors

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS increases in both Canada Pension benefits and Old Age Security benefits are governed by the Consumer Price Index in Canada, and

WHEREAS many of the items included in the 'basket of items' used in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index are not necessarily relevant to seniors who are recipients of these benefits (furniture, appliances, child care services, etc.),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal Government to create a Consumer Price Index for Seniors, revamping the list of items included in the 'basket of items' used in the calculation of the Consumer Price Index and to give extra weight in the calculations to essentials like food, electricity, heat, etc.

Submitted by OLD AGE PENSIONERS ORGANIZATION OF B C and COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS of B C

Canada Revenue Agency Income Categories

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the only way for any taxpayer to qualify for the Refundable Medical Expense Supplement is by having either Employment Income, "other" Employment Income, Business Income, Professional Income, Commission Income, Farming Income, and Fishing Income, and

WHEREAS many taxpayers, i.e., senior citizens and low-income individuals, have many deductible medical expenses that unfortunately they cannot claim due to the limitation of applicable income categories,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the Canada Revenue Agency to rectify the injustices that taxpayers face regarding their inability to claim significant medical expenses because they may not have income in a specific category.

Submitted by COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS of B C

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.

Increase Per-Person Subsidy

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF support the provincial government of British Columbia in its quest to have the federal government increase the per-person subsidy substantially and urge the

federal government to enter into meaningful discussions with the B.C. government on this issue.

Number:

35

Section:

Pensions

Tax-free Hydro Bills

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF urge governments to eliminate the sales tax on hydro bills for seniors.

Number:

36

Section:

Pensions

Reduce Cross-boarder Exemptions

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF request the federal Minister of Finance to urge that the cross-border tax exemptions be reduced to encourage Canadians to shop at home.

Number:

32

Section:

Pensions

Keep Manufacturing in Canada

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF call upon all levels of government to work together to maintain our existing manufacturing base and to put incentives in place to encourage business to remain in Canada.

Number:

31

Section:

Pensions

Investing in Public Infrastructure

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF call upon all levels of government to work together to create good full-time jobs by investing now in public infrastructure.

Number:

33

Section:

Pensions

Access to Official Tax Forms

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the official tax forms provided by the Canadian Revenue Agency be available at post offices and other locales for easier access to citizens.

Number:

18

Section:

Pensions

On RRIF Withdrawals

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the federal government treat RRIF withdrawals, up to the amount required by law, in a similar manner as capital gains, with only half of the withdrawal being subject to tax until such time as the economy no longer requires government control at the record low interest rate levels evident over the past five years.

Number:

11

Section:

Pensions

Non-taxable Death Benefit

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to make the CPP lump sum death benefit non-taxable.

Number:

12

Section:

Pensions

Minimum Wage Equivalent for Seniors

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF urge governments (provincial and federal) to devise a system whereby no senior's income would drop below what they would make if they were working a 40 hours week at minimum wage.

Number:

10

Section:

Pensions

Increasing the Current Maximum Death Benefit

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the federal government and Health Canada take immediate steps to increase the current maximum death benefit of \$2500 to a maximum of \$5000 income tax exempt benefit to enable the family of a deceased cover much of the funeral and other related expenses.

Number:

14

Section:

Pensions

Help for Low Income Seniors

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge governments to help, financially, low income seniors so they may live with dignity.

Number:

25

Section:

Pensions

Healthcare Premiums as a Tax Deduction

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to allow seniors to claim all premiums for health care services as a tax deduction.

Number:

21

Section:

Pensions

GST Exemption

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to remove the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from over-the-counter medications.

Number:

22

Section:

Pensions

The Tobin Tax

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the government of Canada to support the Tobin Tax (a tax on foreign exchange transactions).

Number:

24

Section:

Pensions

Taxing the Wealthy and Corporations

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the federal and provincial governments increase all forms of taxation on wealthy Canadians and that they increase corporate taxes as well.

Number:

23

Section:

Pensions

Tax-free Funerals

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That all federal taxes be removed from seniors' funeral expenses.

Number:

13

Section:

Pensions

HEALTH

DENTAL

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

EYECARE

Eyeglasses for Seniors

18.4.3 EYEGLASSES FOR SENIORS

WHEREAS eyeglasses are a necessity for those who require them and as the cost of eyeglasses is beyond the means of seniors living below the Poverty Line,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that National Pensioners Federation lobby the Federal Government to provide free eyeglasses for seniors whose income is below the Poverty Line.

Submitted by Saskatchewan Seniors Association Incorporated

DRUGS

General

Medicinal Cannabis Tax Exempt

18.4.2 MEDICINAL CANNABIS TAX EXEMPTION

WHEREAS medicinal cannabis is proven to help the following illnesses, glaucoma, epileptic seizures, slowing the progression of Alzheimer's disease, lessen the side effects of hepatitis C, and

WHEREAS medicinal cannabis increases the treatment and effectiveness to inflammatory bowel diseases like Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. It also alleviates the pain reduces inflammation and promotes sleep to help relieve pain and discomfort for people with rheumatoid arthritis. It helps with metabolism and overweight issues. It is

being used to treat auto immune diseases like lupus. It significantly reduces pain tremors and improves sleep for Parkinson disease patients. It helps veterans suffering from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). It also helps regulate the system that causes fear and anxiety in the body and the brain, and

WHEREAS medicinal cannabis is a viable alternative because of the many advantages it has for illnesses and injuries, and WHEREAS doctors now are prescribing medicinal cannabis as an option and as an alternative to pharmaceutical prescriptions, and

WHEREAS medications and prescriptions are HST exempted,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the NPF urge the government of Canada to treat medicinal cannabis in a similar fashion as prescriptions and remove the HST taxes.

Submitted By Unifor Local 1973 Retired Workers Chapter

Medicinal Cannabis

18.4.1 MEDICINAL CANNABIS

WHEREAS the opioid addiction has resulted in many drug overdoses, and

WHEREAS the benefits of medicinal cannabis are increasing and are being proven to be extremely effective and wide ranging, and

WHEREAS medicinal cannabis is not addictive and a positive replacement to the current pharmaceutical opioids, and

WHEREAS medicinal cannabis should be another option for doctors to prescribe in a restricted system of distribution, and WHEREAS medicinal cannabis can be proven to keep health care costs down and improve quality of life in the long term,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That NPF demand the Canadian government mandate the Health Products and Food Branch (HPFB) of Health Canada to take steps towards clinical review and approval of the use of medicinal cannabis as a positive alternative to current pharmaceutical drugs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the NPF along with Health Canada recognize and promote the use of medicinal cannabis.

Submitted by Unifor local 1973 Retired Workers Chapter

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

Pharmaceutical Industry Oversight

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

24

Section:

Health

Pharmacare

National Pharmacare Coverage for people with expensive, Chronic Illness

18.4.10 NATIONAL PHARMACARE COVERAGE FOR PEOPLE WITH EXPENSIVE, CHRONIC ILLNESSES

WHEREAS people with chronic diseases that are expensive to treat with prescription drugs may be opposed to National Pharmacare in the belief they are currently better off with health insurance coverage provided by a private health insurance company, and

WHEREAS they may be fearful that a national formulary may exclude the drugs they depend on for their quality of life and that the formulary may be inflexibly administered by government officials, and

WHEREAS many seniors depend on expensive prescription drugs for chronic diseases for some quality of life, Page | 14

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the National Pensioners Federation propose to the federal government that the government establish as a key part of National Pharmacare an Appeal Board composed of independent, highly qualified medical and other experts. (The purpose of the Appeal Board would be to assess in a timely way the refusal by government officials administering National Pharmacare of outof-hospital coverage for an individual requiring an expensive prescription drug recommended by physicians for treatment of a chronic life-threatening illness.)

Submitted by NPF Health Committee

Pharmacare Exclusions

18.4.9 PHARMACARE EXCLUSIONS

WHEREAS we have heard the Federal Government make announcements regarding Pharmacare, and

WHEREAS it seems they are excluding certain people, and

WHEREAS this is not what they campaigned on,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation go on record against any exclusions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NPF continue to fight for a truly Universal Pharmacare Plan for every Canadian.

Submitted By: Club #407 – Unifor Local 444 Retirees, Windsor

National Public Drug Plan

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS a National Public Drug Plan (Universal Pharmacare) would reduce prescription drug spending by a massive 41%, thus saving up to \$11.4 billion, and

WHEREAS Canada remains the only developed country with a universal healthcare system that does not include prescription drug coverage,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) continue to demand that the Federal Government pass legislation to provide a National Public Drug Plan (Universal Pharmacare program), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) write directly to Canadian Minister of Health, Dr. Jane Philpott, requesting she take a positive stance towards promoting a National Public Drug Plan and advocate for such a plan to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health Study on the Development of a National Pharmacare Program.

National Pharmacare Program

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS, according to past research published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (published in March, 2015), Canadian taxpayers could save billions of dollars by the introduction of a universal public drug plan to provide prescriptions to all Canadians. The research modelled costs based on data describing \$22 billion worth of retail prescription drug purchases in the fiscal year 2012/13 and indicated most prescription

drugs are already paid for by taxpayers with \$9.7 billion spent directly on public drug plans and \$2.4 billion spent on private drug plans for public sector employees; private sector spending on private insurance plans currently accounts for \$5.7 billion, and uninsured patients pay \$4.5 billion out-of-pocket prescriptions; and

WHEREAS, if Canada could achieve the pricing found in several comparable countries, a universal public drug plan would reduce total spending on prescription drugs in Canada by \$7.3 billion per year, or 32%, according to this same research; and

WHEREAS every other developed country with a universal health care system, including countries such as France, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia and New Zealand, to name a few, provides universal coverage of prescription drugs – Canada being the exception;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners' Federation urges the Federal Government to enter into meaningful discussions with the Provinces to provide a National Pharmacare Program so that all Canadians have equal access to prescription drugs at a reduced cost.

Submitted by OLD AGE PENSIONERS ORGANIZATION of BC

National Prescription Drug Strategy

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the federal, provincial and territorial governments establish a publicly administered body to implement standards, accreditation, regulation and supervisions of care in long term care and personal care facilities and that the publicly administered body report to the public.

Number:

21

Section:

Health

National Pharmacare Programme

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to support the immediate allocation of funding to establish a National Pharmacare Programme.

Number:

4

Section:

Health

FINANCE

Caregivers Allowance

18.4.5 GOVERNMENT ALLOWANCE FOR CAREGIVERS

WHEREAS caregivers in Canada that save the healthcare system around \$30 billion every year but at what cost to caregivers, and

WHEREAS the total disruption caregivers have to live with comprises of the total loss of their private life which has to be given up to provide the proper care to their infirm dependents such as spouses, siblings or parents, and

WHEREAS the problem arises where those caregivers who shoulder the largest burden have had to terminate their jobs to do so and with no job, no income and with no income tax, they can't even claim from the Canadian Caregiver Credit Benefit, and

WHEREAS this situation that caregivers find themselves in is very unfair and to all these who most need and deserve support from the federal government aren't getting it,
Page | 9

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NPF urge the provincial, territorial, and federal governments to follow the lead of other countries, such as the United Kingdom (U.K.), Australia, and Nordic European countries and pay allowances to those who assume significant caregiving duties. (eg. U.K. \$112 per week, \$122 per every two weeks in Australia and \$100 per week in Nova Scotia.)

Submitted by Unifor Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter

Hospital Parking Fees

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS hospital parking fees amount to just another tax on ailing Canadians, and many reports have found that many Canadians are missing hospital appointments,

unable or cannot afford to assist or visit their family members in hospital, and are stressed due to high cost of parking at the hospital, and

WHEREAS the CBC News on March 28/2013 stated that hospital parking rates are just another tax on sick Canadians, and

WHEREAS many communities in Canada have free parking at hospitals such as Campbell River, and Delta in British Columbia, also in Nova Scotia just to show it has been done in a number of Canadian Communities; and

WHEREAS the Campbell River notes that Citizens for Quality Health Care North even question the legality of charging for parking citing the Canadian Health Act which states that the Act exists to... “facilitate reasonable access to health services without financial or other barriers”. The group claimed that parking fees are a financial barrier, and therefore violate the Canada Health Act; and

WHEREAS the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, which raised its parking rates in January 2015 netted five (5) million in parking fees in 2012,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call on all levels of Government to stop charging parking fees at Canadian Hospitals, and work with other organizations such as Unifor Retirees, Senior Citizens in each province, the Council of Canadians, and others to reach this effort for free parking at hospitals.

Submitted by USCO

Eliminate Parking Fees at Canada’s Hospitals

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS hospital parking fees amount to just another tax on ailing Canadians and many reports have found that many Canadians are missing hospital appointments, are unable or cannot afford to assist or visit their family members in hospital and are stressed due to the high cost of parking at the hospital; and

WHEREAS the CBC News on March 28, 2013 stated that hospital parking rates are just another tax on sick Canadians; and

WHEREAS many communities in Canada have free parking at hospitals such as Campbell River and Delta in British Columbia, also in Nova Scotia just to show it has been done in a number of Canadian communities; and

WHEREAS the Campbell River hospital notes that “Citizens for Quality Health Care North” even questioned the legality of charging for parking citing the Canada Health Act which states that the Act exists to ‘.....facilitate reasonable access to health services without financial or other barriers’. The group claimed that parking fees are a financial barrier and therefore violate the Canada Health Act; and

WHEREAS the hospital For Sick Children in Toronto, which raised its parking rates in January 2015 netted five (5) million in parking fees in 2012,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call on all levels of Government to stop charging parking fees at Canadian Hospitals and work with other organizations such as senior citizens in each province, the Council of Canadians and others to reach this effort for free parking at hospitals.

Submitted by UNIFOR LOCAL 524 AJAX, OSHAWA AND PETERBOROUGH AREA COUNCIL

Restore Healthcare Funding

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

30

Section:

Health

Reasonable Transfer Fees

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the Canadian government adopt as a principle that charges for transferring medical and/or dental records be limited to the actual cost of postage or courier service.

Number:

34

Section:

Health

Adequate Hospital Funding

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That provincial Ministers of Health cease using the same global lump sum approach as in the 1960s to hospital budgets and move to a model which allows a hospital to run efficiently and without a need to charge for parking fees.

Number:

40

Section:

Health

Eye Care Coverage

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge provincial governments to support regular eyesight examinations for all seniors by a qualified doctor or optometrist and further that the NPF urge the federal government to include eye care coverage for all seniors under the Canada Health Act.

Number:

2

Section:

Health

Ending Provincial Medical Premiums

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF call on those provincial governments which still charge medical premiums to seniors to eliminate those premiums.

Number:

10

Section:

Health

HEALTH ACCORD

Reinstate the Canada Health Council

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to reinstate the Canada Health Council to continue to monitor and implement a Canada Health Accord.

Number:

47

Section:

Health

10 Year Health Accord

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the federal government work with the provinces and territories on a new 10-year Health Accord that includes stable, predictable, and long-term funding that grows at least 6% per year.

Number:

46

Section:

Health

Secure Funding for a New Health Accord

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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 6% escalator), as well as national seniors' health care plan and a national pharmaceutical strategy that will improve health outcomes for Canadians.

Number:

35

Section:

Health

Elements for a New Canadian Health Accord

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the Canadian government commit to a re-negotiated Canada Health Accord which includes a continuing care plan that integrates home, facilitybased long-term respite and palliative care, dental health, dental care, a universal public drug plan and stable funding.

Number:

37

Section:

Health

Building a Coalition for a New Canadian Health Accord

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the NPF ask other seniors organizations and individuals to join us in declaring our commitment to use all democratic means before us to ensure that a Canadian Health Accord is implemented in accordance with the principles noted in the policy noted above.

Number:

36

Section:

Health

2014 Health Care Accord

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF call upon the federal government to stand up for health care and negotiate a new 2014 Health Care Accord.

Number:

15

Section:

Health

MENTAL HEALTH

National Dementia Plan Submitted by USCO

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the number of Canadians diagnosed with some form of dementia is projected to triple by the year 2031, and

WHEREAS many countries have established a National Dementia Plan,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal government to establish a National Dementia Plan.

Submitted by USCO

Alzheimer and Dementia

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS Alzheimer and Dementia are normally associated with aging and are now being increasingly experienced within a much younger group, and

WHEREAS, the answer to a cure lies in research, yet researchers in this field complain that cut backs in funding are preventing progress; and

WHEREAS those afflicted and their caregivers are being pushed into a life of unimaginable despair and poverty,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this National Pensioners Federation Convention 2017 encourage Provincial and Federal Governments to increase research funding to find a cure.

Submitted by TORONTO AREA RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL

National Dementia Plan

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the number of Canadians living with cognitive impairment, including dementia, now stands at 747,000 and will double to 1.4 million by 2031; and

WHEREAS the combined direct (medical) and indirect (lost earnings) costs of dementia total \$33 billion per year and by 2040 will increase to \$293 billion per year; and

WHEREAS Canada's health-care system is ill-equipped to deal with the staggering costs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that National Pensioners Federation (NPF) work with our allies to demand that the Federal Government develop a national dementia plan which will focus on:

- Increasing funding for research into all aspects of dementia
- Promoting earlier diagnosis and intervention
- Strengthening the integration of primary, home and community care
- Enhancing skills and training of the dementia workforce
- Recognizing the needs and improving supports for caregivers

Submitted by BC FEDERATION OF RETIRED UNION MEMBERS (BC FORUM)

Dementia Buddy Programme

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

39

Section:

Health

SENIOR CARE

General

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

Public Accountability for Vulnerable Senior Care

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the federal and provincial governments require increased public accountability and transparency from all those entrusted with the lives of vulnerable seniors while those seniors are “in care”.

Number:

38

Section:

Health

Physician Care for Seniors

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF petition Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons to promote family practice physicians to:

- a. Maintain an updated and accurate listing of physicians who are accepting new patients; and
- b. Encourage family physicians to accept complex cases and ensure responsible continuity for the care of seniors, especially those with multiple and complex needs.

Number:

3

Section:

Health

Long Term

National Long Term Care Strategy

18.4.6 A NATIONAL STRATEGY AND DEDICATED PUBLIC INVESTMENTS IN LONG TERM CARE

WHEREAS there have never been national standards for long term care in Canada and there is no national strategy and no dedicated federal funding for long term care, and

WHEREAS the human rights of seniors in long term care to liberty and security of the person and to be free of degrading treatment set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights since 1948 are not secure in long term care in Canada, and

WHEREAS about one third of seniors in long term care are sedated with anti-psychotic drugs without a diagnoses of psychosis, and

WHEREAS provincial governments vary greatly in their coverage of the costs of a long term care bed, wait list are lengthy, and seniors waiting for long term may occupy hospital beds when they don't require hospital care, and Page | 10

WHEREAS the population of frail seniors with more complex conditions entering long term care is increasing, and

WHEREAS long-term care homes are frequently understaffed and have a high staff turnover and seniors basic care needs cannot be adequately met, and

Whereas for-profit long term care homes are increasing in numbers and often subsidized by public funding, and

WHEREAS changes of ownership may include a transfer to overseas investors with different standards of care, and

WHEREAS for-profit long-term care homes are expensive, deliver poorer quality of care, and have lower staffing levels than publicly operated care,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to 1) Implement national standards that affirm the dignity and worth of all persons in long-term care in accordance with the provisions of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 2) Commit to work together to develop a national strategy with increased and sustainable public funding to ensure that all Canadians in long term care have equal access to and receive high quality care as they age, 3) Commit to ensuring that public funds should not under any circumstances be used to subsidize the earnings of for-profit long-term care facilities, Page | 11 4) Invest public funds instead in improving quality of care for frail seniors by eliminating the use of chemical restraints and inappropriate drug use, increasing hours of direct care, increasing staffing levels, increasing salaries, reducing staff workload, and providing ongoing training and education for staff, 5) Monitor progress in implementing national standards in long-term care with penalties for non-compliance, and 6) Commit to being publicly accountable and to transparent reporting of progress in improving long-term care on an annual basis.

Submitted by NPF Executive

Public Not-For-Profit Long-Term Care

Policy:

That the NPF support universal and fair access to public not-for-profit long term care and work with other seniors' organizations to achieve this.

Number:

28

Section:

Health

Long-Term Care

Policy:

That the NPF lobby all levels of government to achieve adequate long term care for seniors and work with other organizations to achieve this objective.

Number:

9

Section:

Health

Long-Term Care Oversight

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the federal, provincial and territorial governments establish a publicly administered body to implement standards, accreditation, regulation and supervisions of care in long term care and personal care facilities and that the publicly administered body report to the public.

Number:

19

Section:

Health

Home Care

Universal Programme of Home Support and Home Care

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF support a Universal Programme of Home Support and Home Care based on need, available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, for seniors and that this policy should become part of any election platform and further that the NPF urge the federal government to make implementation of this policy a priority.

Number:

45

Section:

Health

Home Care for Seniors

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF and its members call on the federal and provincial governments to cooperate, improve, and implement the following programme so as to improve home care for seniors:

- a. provide and improve restive relief for voluntary care givers;
- b. provide paid leave for family care givers when necessary;
- c. provide sufficient home support through federal and/or provincial funding agreements;
and
- d. financially support current volunteer programmes and encourage the establishment of new volunteer programmes which have seniors helping seniors with minor home repair programmes, non-medical health promotional programmes and visitations, companionship, and social excursion programmes.

Number:

8

Section:

Health

Wage Allowance for Live-in Home Care Workers

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge both the federal and provincial governments to provide live-in home care and home support workers with a wage allowance which would enable those workers to remain at home to care for seriously disabled or frail elderly relatives in need of extended care.

Number:

7

Section:

Health

PUBLIC INFORMATION

General

Training More Gerontologists

18.4.8 TRAINING MORE GERONTOLOGISTS

WHEREAS Canada has a growing number of seniors, and WHEREAS there are fewer than 200 gerontologists in Canada, and

WHEREAS medical schools do not devote enough classes on gerontology, and

WHEREAS gerontologists are the lowest paid specialists,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal and provincial governments to increase funding for gerontologists, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NPF urge provincial health ministers to increase the fees paid to gerontologists in order to attract more doctors to this specialty.

Submitted by Unifor Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter Club 398

Food Labeling

18.4.7 Food Labelling

WHEREAS we currently accept food with insufficient information on the label eg. “distributed by” does not tell us where the food or the ingredients originated or whether the food is genetically modified, and

WHEREAS we as consumers need to know where all the ingredients originated and whether any are genetically modified so that we can determine if we feel comfortable with a company’s food preparations, origins of ingredients and inspection according to Canadian standards, and

WHEREAS presently 64 Countries worldwide require mandatory labeling of genetically modified foods,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the National Pensioners call upon the Minister of Health Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Canada that “distributed by” is not acceptable and that labeling of genetically modified ingredients be mandatory.

Submitted by: Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

Investigation to Determine Carcinogen Exposure

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS occupational exposure to carcinogens in the workplace can occur for 30 to 40 years, and

WHEREAS many retired workers are dying from such exposures, and the causes of these deaths are not being investigated as to the relationship between the cancer and the workplace, and

WHEREAS investigation into the cause of these deaths may prevent present-day exposure to carcinogens, and

WHEREAS the retired worker and his/her Spouse are not being fully compensated,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call upon the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Health, if deaths are determined to be due to carcinogens in the workplace, to ensure that those deaths are recorded and investigated; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that legislation be put in place to banish all materials or sources of carcinogen exposure from the workplace.

Submitted by TORONTO AREA RETIRED WORKERS COUNCIL

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

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

Superior Quality for the CFIA

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF urge Agriculture Canada to require the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to give Canadians assurance that they are receiving meat products which have passed through a federal inspection programme that is equal or superior to that given to meat products destined for the United States of America or elsewhere.

Number:

41

Section:

Health

Safety Information for the Canadian Consumer

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF contact Health Canada and the Canadian government to ensure that they adhere to their own stated principles to ensure steps are taken to provide Canadian consumers with more timely and transparent information regarding the safety of imported medicines and that the government of Canada enact legislation to give it the authority to demand recalls and/or to ban the sale of medicines that might potentially be harmful to consumers.

Number:

43

Section:

Health

Research and Education in the Public Interest

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF strongly urge that all local, provincial, territorial, and federal health authorities (including medical and dental colleges) endorse and support the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology's ongoing research and education in the public interests.

Number:

44

Section:

Health

Impartiality of the CFIA

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the federal government recognize the need to have qualified federal meat inspectors routinely and consistently carry out inspections to ensure that there is an impartial buffer between the meat product processor and the consumer, thereby giving emphasis to food health safety as opposed to a potential profit motive.

Number:

42

Section:

Health

Ensuring a Healthy Environment

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF demand that the federal government provide improved measures to fully ensure a healthy environment for all present and future Canadians.

Number:

49

Section:

Health

Prioritize Health and Wellness for Seniors

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the federal, provincial and territorial governments make health and wellness programmes for seniors and retirees a priority and provide tax incentives for seniors and retirees who participate in health and wellness programmes.

Number:

31

Section:

Health

Direct-to-Consumer Advertising

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the federal government ban the direct-to-consumer advertising of pharmaceuticals.

Number:

22

Section:

Health

Trade Deals

Opposing the TPP

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF communicate our opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership which would make more costly a Canadian Pharmacare programme and that we call upon the federal government to discontinue the discussion on all parts of the Trans-Pacific Partnership immediately.

Number:

48

Section:

Health

Transparency in Trade Deals

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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.

Number:

25

Section:

Health

Transparency in Free Trade Talks

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That we demand accountability to the citizens of Canada on free trade talks and public hearings in issues which have lasting effects on living standards.

Number:

26

Section:

Health

Health Services in CETA

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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." and further that the Government of Canada remove all matters related to pharmaceutical patents from the CETA and from all future trade and investments agreements.

Number:

27

Section:

Health

Brand-Name Drugs and CETA

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the federal government ensure that the European Union's condition that extends the exclusivity of "brand name" drugs an additional three years is removed from the "Commercial Economic Trade Agreement".

Number:

33

Section:

Health

Standardize Food Labels

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

36

Section:

Transportation

GMO Labeling

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

HOUSING

Impact on Seniors of Mixed Tenancy Housing

18.5.10 IMPACT ON SENIORS OF MIXED TENANCY HOUSING

WHEREAS seniors are increasingly being supported to age in place and receive health care and other supportive services in their homes, which means that more seniors are living in their homes longer and are in frailer health, and

WHEREAS the purchasing power of public pensions for seniors has not kept up with the cost of living, meaning that seniors' budgets are further stretched to pay for rent and extended health benefits, and seniors poverty is increasing, and

WHEREAS the amount of social housing stock for seniors has not increased, leading to a very limited supply as the population of seniors increases and that this results in more and more seniors becoming homeless due to a lack of affordable housing, and

WHEREAS there are increasing pressures to house the homeless of all ages, including adults with severe mental illness and drug addictions through policies such as Housing First in BC, and

WHEREAS due in part to the limited supply of social housing, these other adults are also being housed in housing complexes previously reserved primarily for seniors, and seniors live in fear of being harmed by more physically capable adults who may have serious behavioural issues, and

FURTHER WHEREAS this practice is contributing to stress, social isolation and poor health of seniors who have no other options for housing and who fear becoming homeless,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Governments to provide rent-geared-to-income housing dedicated for seniors as part of affordable housing strategies and not allocate suites in the same building for tenants who may have serious behavioural issues.

Submitted by COSCO of B C

Respite Care

18.5.9 RESPITE CARE

WHEREAS we are experiencing a higher number of seniors who are becoming caregivers for their loved ones, and

WHEREAS these caregivers are running themselves ragged and are simply burnt out,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation request the Provincial and Federal Governments to fund more respite care.

Submitted By: Club #407 – Unifor Local 444 Retirees, Windsor

Home Care and Standardization

18.5.8 HOME CARE AND STANDARDIZATION

WHEREAS seniors now outnumber 15 year olds, and

WHEREAS the number of seniors will double in the next decade, and

WHEREAS home care is not covered under the Canadian Health Act, and

WHEREAS home care provided by for-profit operations is essentially weakening job security for home care workers and eliminating competitive bidding with no accountability,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation actively urge and lobby the federal government to have the Canada Health Act cover home care service including respite care, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this includes a standardization for home care to provide an adequate number of hours to ensure proper care for our Seniors.

Submitted By: Club #407 – Unifor Local 444 Retirees, Windsor

Foreign Control of Residential Care Facilities

18.5.7 FOREIGN CONTROL OF RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

WHEREAS the federal government was responsible for approving the sale of Retirement Concepts to Anbang Insurance, and

WHEREAS the Chinese government takeover of Anbang Insurance places controlling interest of Retirement Concepts, in the hands of the Chinese government and the Chinese Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC), key Chinese financial regulators and government bodies may be making decisions that impact a segment of residential care homes in B C, Alberta, and Quebec,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) urge the Federal Government to request a full review within the Investment Canada Act of the sale of Retirement Concepts, to Anbang Insurance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NPF call on the Federal Government to implement a moratorium on contracting out/contract flipping in the broader residential care sector.

Submitted by b c Forum (B C Federation of Retired Union Members)

Expense Deferral Account

18.5.6 EXPENSE DEFERRAL ACCOUNT

WHEREAS senior homeowners may find their low or moderate income insufficient for utility cost, and

WHEREAS seniors who own homes may not have the funds to pay for specific expenses such as hydro bills, home insurance, etc. when they need to pay for needed medications, and

WHEREAS some seniors may need to sell their homes to pay their bills,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal government to set aside funds to create a Homeowners Expense Deferral Account program to allow senior homeowners with low or moderate income to use their home equity to offset unexpected costs such as repairs to a roof or furnace, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deferred amount becomes due upon the sale of the property, death, or voluntary repayment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that total deferments be allowed up to 75% of the equity of their home, and be charged simple interest.

Submitted by COSCO of B C

COOP Housing Support

18.5.5 COOP HOUSING SUPPORT

WHEREAS co-operative housing units were built in great numbers until the mid 1990's, but the aging structures now need repair, and

WHEREAS funds for renewal and getting funding for ongoing maintenance may be difficult, and

WHEREAS these forms of housing support a large number of seniors and families with rent which may be geared to income, and

WHEREAS the federal government funds for co-operative structures has diminished over the last 25 years, and

WHEREAS investment is urgently needed to fund the building of new lowcost structure,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation encourage the federal government to offer land trust or lease extensions to help co-ops invest in rehabilitation and maintenance of aging structures and construction of new ones.

Submitted by COSCO of B C

Temporary Housing Program

18.5.4 TEMPORARY HOUSING PROGRAMS

WHEREAS hidden homelessness in Canada affects 5% of the Canadian population over the age of 65, and 2.4% of the population over the age of 75 (Statistics Canada 2016), and

WHEREAS the vast majority of Canada's homeless are transitional homeless, entering shelters for short stays, often homelessness is a onetime event, and

WHEREAS a smaller number are episodic homeless, moving into and out of homeless shelters multiple times over several years, and

WHEREAS these two groups make up less than 15% of the homeless population but account for more than half of the resources of the homelessness system which is over \$7.05 billion a year, including costs of running shelters, providing social services, health care, and corrections, and

WHEREAS ongoing investment in affordable housing is essential to diminishing homelessness in Canada,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal/provincial governments to conduct research and share findings on successful models for addressing homelessness among seniors, including Temporary Housing Programs in the transition back to permanent housing.

Submitted by COSCO of B C

Annual Renters' Rebate Program

18.5.3 ANNUAL RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM

WHEREAS the federal government of Canada has stated a policy to implement an annual renters' rebate program, and

WHEREAS/strong>, if a tenant moves, this renters' rebate program is portable to their new location, and

WHEREAS/strong> support for tenant's housing expenses with a rent rebate would provide support to the many renters who pay more than 30% of their gross income for rent, and

WHEREAS/strong> renters may find it difficult to also pay for utilities, phone, food, and medicine costs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED/strong> that the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal government to ensure the speedy implementation of the National Housing Strategy portable annual renters' rebate program.

Submitted by COSCO of B C

Rent Banks

18.5.2 'RENT BANKS'

WHEREAS it is known that renters may be able to pay their monthly rent, but may find an unexpected expense would stretch their budget, and

WHEREAS renters are facing a shortage of choices to select housing, and may be facing eviction as a result of a temporary crisis in their lives, and

WHEREAS renters may find a one-time payment such as a down payment or damage deposit may be difficult to save for, as many families are living paycheque to paycheque and

WHEREAS renters facing a sudden health crisis or a decrease in workshifts, causing a sudden inability to pay rent on time,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal government to work with provincial and municipal governments to set up “Rent Banks” for renters in crisis.

Submitted by COSCO of B C

Traffic in Seniors Care

8.5.1 THE TRAFFIC IN SENIORS’ CARE: Should Seniors in Residential Care be Traded as Commodities?

WHEREAS the ongoing trend to hand over the care of the most fragile seniors to the free market is the situation confronting seniors, and

WHEREAS governments are replacing publicly owned long- term care residences with single, privately built and operated long-term care residences, and

WHEREAS the cost of providing care for seniors in long term care is covered by the provincial government which pays a fixed amount per resident to the operator, it is a prized source of guaranteed income for investors, and

WHEREAS this situation raises an important question for all seniors: Is the publicly-paid provision of health care for the frailest seniors going to continue to be turned over to private operators that can buy and sell these facilities complete with occupants without accountability to taxpayers?

WHEREAS there is a larger question that needs to be considered: “Is the out-of-hospital, out of home care of fragile seniors in facilities considered a necessary part of a publicly funded, publicly accountable, quality health care system?”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation lobby the Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada to stop or at least slow down the privatization of seniors’ care.

Submitted by Saskatchewan Seniors Association Incorporated

Seniors Housing

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS Canadians need more affordable seniors housing. The seniors housing in our community were built in 1977, more than 40 years ago.

Whereas many communities have long waiting lists to get into any existing housing,

Therefore Be It Resolved That the National Pensioners Federation lobby the Federal Government to provide funding for additional housing and the maintenance of that housing.

Submitted by SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

National Housing Strategy

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS one and a half million Canadians are unable to find adequate, suitable or affordable housing and 250,000 households are in imminent risk as federal social housing operating agreements expire and over 150,000 more families are on waitlists for housing; and

WHEREAS both homeowners and renters face escalating costs and barriers in their search to find affordable housing; and

WHEREAS in some major cities of Canada, the rental vacancy rate is less than 1% and there is a core housing need where seniors are competing for affordable housing; and

WHEREAS with federal operating agreements expiring each year, many citizens face uncertainty and perhaps homelessness and an initiative to increase long-term and significant capital funding would support construction and operation of new social and affordable housing and protect existing social housing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government secure the future of affordable housing through a dedicated funding program to protect the existing stock of 600,000 social housing units; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NPF support the development of a National Housing Strategy that includes incentives to preserve and expand rental housing and co-operative housing, at a cost not to exceed 30% of income, for moderate income earners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NPF urge the Federal government to review the mandate of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to determine how a

National Housing Strategy can deliver housing projects with accountability and specific timelines for completion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) urge all levels of government in partnership to address the serious housing crisis which is due to long-term underinvestment in affordable housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) work with our allies to lobby the federal government and all other levels of government to pass into law provisions for a federal housing strategy and provisions for adequate and affordable housing for all Canadians.

Submitted by BC FEDERATION OF RETIRED UNION MEMBERS (BC FORUM) and CONGRESS OF UNION RETIREES OF CANADA

Residential Care and Assisted Living Facilities

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS it has come to our attention that the Federal Government of Canada has approved the investment of an off-shore foreign company in a company that operates Canadian Residential Care/Assisted Living/Independent Living Complexes in Canada (Retirement Concepts); and

WHEREAS when private and/or foreign ownership occurs, these facilities would be vulnerable to closure and the land slated for commercial development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners' Federation urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to carefully monitor this situation to be sure the safety, security and well-being of residents of these Residential Care Complex is maintained; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Pensioners' Federation urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to carefully monitor the residents of these Residential Care Complex with regard to staffing levels to ensure that those levels are maintained with the goal to provide all residents dignity, respect and well-being, and that British Columbia Standards are enforced; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Pensioners' Federation urges the Federal and Provincial Governments to retain public possession and ownership of all care facilities in the province and to block any future foreign investment or influence by

private sector interests wishing to purchase or invest, to any degree, in the ownership or control of said facilities.

Submitted by OLD AGE PENSIONERS ORGANIZATION of BC

Caregiver Support

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS we, as a society, depend greatly on family members to act as informal caregivers to provide special support care to those who are chronically ill, disabled or dying but wish to remain in their own homes; and

WHEREAS many of these informal caregivers report that their own health has suffered under the stress of providing that care and the financial impact it may have on their own lives; and

WHEREAS various levels of government save money because those who are being cared for do not require the same level of hospital and/or residential care services as a result of the work of the informal caregivers; and

WHEREAS we are aware there is a program under Employment Insurance that provides a limited program providing a benefit to caregivers caring for a family member expected to die within 26 weeks;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners' Federation urges the Federal and Provincial Governments to enable a means-tested allowance, whether through an Employment Insurance or other medium, to be paid directly to these informal caregivers to allow them to care for family members without the stress of financial hardship.

Submitted by OLD AGE PENSIONERS ORGANIZATION of BC

Home Care

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS it has been proven more cost-effective to fund home care givers than to fund hospitalization; and

WHEREAS enabling couples to remain in their own homes causes less stress, avoiding more health issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners' Federation urge both the Federal and Provincial Governments to expand funding to 'at home' personal health care.

Submitted by OLD AGE PENSIONERS ORGANIZATION of BC

Direct Funding to Counter Homelessness

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS over 35,000 Canadians are homeless on a given night; and

WHEREAS over 235,000 Canadians experience homelessness in a year; and

WHEREAS homelessness costs the Canadian economy \$7 billion annually (this includes not only the cost of emergency shelters, but social services, health care and corrections); and

WHEREAS over 8% of residents of shelters in Canada are over the age of 55 years, and may stay longer before moving into housing; and

WHEREAS nearly one in five households experience extreme housing affordability problems meaning that they have low incomes and are spending more than 30% of their income on rent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal Government to increase direct funding for affordable housing programs, to invest in targeted programs to house homeless people.

Submitted by COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS of B C

Affordable Housing Funding & Guidelines

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the availability of rental housing is scarce in some parts of the country and the cost of what is available is high; and

WHEREAS the price of home ownership is beyond the reach of many in the heavily populated parts of the country; and

WHEREAS many people are forced to work at 2 or 3 jobs to pay rents/mortgages; and

WHEREAS many people are forced to move away from family, friends and their work in order to find affordable housing, but then must endure long commutes to work and family; and

WHEREAS the number of seniors who are homeless is on the increase,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call on the federal government to work with the territorial and provincial governments and their municipal counterparts to provide funding and guidelines for the immediate construction of affordable (that is 30% of family income) rental housing in areas of the country with the most pressing need; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call on the federal government to work with said groups to develop a plan for affordable housing provisions and roll out that plan across the country; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call on the federal government to insist that territories and provincial governments set guidelines in place and organizations staffed to enforce those guidelines to protect the interests of tenants and landlords.

Submitted by COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS of B C

Equitable Compensation for Home-owners

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government of Canada to amend the housing laws so that fair and equitable compensation is provided to manufactured home owners who are required to leave their home as a result of the sale or development of property.

Number:

6

Section:

Environment

Working together to Implement Rent Controls

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

5

Section:

Environment

Fire Safety in Senior Residences

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

2

Section:

Housing

Financial Options to Stay in the Home

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

3

Section:

Environment

Affordable Housing for Seniors

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF lobby the federal government and all other levels of government to pass into law provisions for a federal housing policy and provisions for adequate and affordable housing for all Canadian seniors.

Number:

1

Section:

Environment

INTERNATIONAL

TRADE

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

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

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

Stop Tax Exemptions for Cross Border Shoppers

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF oppose the increased tax exemptions for cross-border shoppers and send a letter to the federal Minister of Finance advising that at this time of store closings, layoffs, and stores moving to the United States, that his increase is totally irresponsible and will lead to further unemployment in Canada.

Number:

24

Section:

Transportation

Sensitivity Training for Port Security Officers

Policy:

That sensitivity training be compulsory for all people dealing with the public in our nation's ports.

Number:

20

Section:

Transportation

Canada's Peacekeeping Tradition

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the Canadian government to return to focusing on being a nation of "peacekeepers"; withdraw from the War on Terrorism; and rebuild Canada's global respect.

Number:

10

Section:

Transportation

Trade Deals With Japan

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF call on our government to put Canadian jobs first in any trade deal(s) with Japan.

Number:

2

Section:

Transportation

GENERAL

Weapons to Colombia

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF request the federal government to stop the export of weapons to Colombia.

Number:

15

Section:

Transportation

NPF ISSUES

People

Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

32

Section:

Transportation

Operation

General

NPF Committee Chair Support – DEFEATED

18.7.2 NPF COMMITTEE CHAIR SUPPORT – DEFEATED

WHEREAS, the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) now has an active committee structure, and

WHEREAS these committees give significant support to the work of the NPF, and

WHEREAS committee reports are being considered at the NPF Convention in one form or another,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that National Pensioners Federation (NPF) Committee chairs who are giving committee reports attend the NPF Convention at NPF expense.

Submitted by COSCO of B C

Membership Fee – DEFEATED

18 .7.1 MEMBERSHIP FEE – DEFEATED

WHEREAS members look to the NPF to advocate with governments and other organizations and agencies for changes to laws, regulations, policies and practices affecting the wellbeing of members, and

WHEREAS societies affiliated with the NPF should, to be fair, pay NPF affiliation fees commensurate with the size of such societies, to support the NPF's advocacy efforts,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NPF annual membership fee for an affiliated society be calculated by multiplying a fixed sum by the number of members in the society, and that the initial fixed sum be 10 cents per member.

Submitted by British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association

National Seniors Strategy Development

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS here is a dramatic demographic shift in Canada: today there are more seniors in Canada than youth under age 15, and 1 in 6 Canadians is a senior and in 14 years, 1 in 4 Canadians will be a senior, and

WHEREAS Canada needs to prepare for these dramatically changing demographics and the unique needs of seniors, and

WHEREAS a National Seniors Strategy would ensure that many of the issues important to seniors are listened to and addressed, and

FURTHER WHEREAS MP Marc Serré's (Nickel Belt) motion to develop a national seniors strategy was voted on and passed by Parliament on May 22,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation lobby the Federal Government and the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development to support the development and implementation of a national seniors strategy for Canada.

Submitted by COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS of BC

NPF Funding Proposal

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS effectively operating the National Pensioners' Federation, a non-profit association, depends on financial support mostly from its members that also are non-profit organizations, and

WHEREAS the effective organizing of and outreach to other seniors' organizations will require a sufficient budget;

AND FURTHER WHEREAS work of the NPF's committees require financial support in order to report and attend the meetings of the Executive and/or the Convention from time to time,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the executive of the National Pensioners Federation strike a task force whose mandate is to immediately research and recommend ways to ethically fund-raise in order to support all National Pensioners Federation activities.

Submitted by COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS of BC

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

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

Support for the "Truth and Reconciliation Report"

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF go on record as supporting the general principles in the "Truth and Reconciliation Report" and urge our federal government to take action on the recommendations contained in that report.

Number:

38

Section:

Transportation

Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

32

Section:

Transportation

Inclusion of Multicultural Issues

Policy number:

2016-6-5

Convention:

2016

Preamble:

WHEREAS older adults from multicultural communities face a variety of additional barriers in accessing programs and services in health care, income, housing or others, and

WHEREAS NPF Conventions provide an excellent opportunity to highlight these issues and create more awareness amongst policy makers as well as our own members.

Policy:

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

Section:

Additional policies

Recognizing Seniors on October 1st

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the federal government live up to its responsibility for all of its citizens and recognize the sacrifices of seniors, retirees, our veterans, and members of the public services and further that the NPF , our allies, and all good citizens recognize October 1, 2014 and on October 1, 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, 2015.

Number:

29

Section:

Transportation

Seniors Conference in Ottawa

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the NPF 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.

Number:

30

Section:

Transportation

Mobilizing for a Day of Protest

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF and all other seniors organizations mobilize to make the "International Day of Older Persons" (October 1) an annual day of protest to cutbacks that affect our seniors and all Canadians in our communities.

Number:

21

Section:

Transportation

Day of Protest – October 1

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That October 1, 2015 be designated as a special day of national protest in order to influence the outcome of the scheduled federal election later in the month.

Number:

22

Section:

Transportation

“Planning with Seniors for Seniors”

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF demand of the federal government, “planning with seniors for seniors”, a national programme to fill the need in our communities, provinces, and territories so that seniors live out their lives with dignity and respect.

Number:

12

Section:

Transportation

National Lobby Days for Good Labour Law

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF join with others to mount a national lobby day with politicians at all three levels of government to tell them that good labour laws are key to maintaining a good community.

Number:

26

Section:

Transportation

PENSIONS

Defined Pensions

Protection for Private Defined Benefit Pensions

18.8.4 PROTECTION FOR PRIVATE DEFINED BENEFIT PENSIONS

WHEREAS recently Sears, but over time many companies have entered insolvency and legally been able to reduce pension payments , and

WHEREAS as illustrated by the CCPA study “The Lion’s Share” Canadian companies have the capacity to fully fund their pensions, and

WHEREAS there are two levels of legislation in Canada that threaten pension security, pension regulations and insolvency regulations, solutions are required at both levels,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call on the federal government to extend super-priority to the unfunded pension liability in insolvency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call on the Canadian pension regulators to implement pension insurance programs that cover 100% of any pension loss.

Submitted By the Canadian Federation of Pensioners

Bill C-27

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS Bill C-27, an Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, represents a dangerous and immediate attack on future and current retirees and defined-benefit (DB) pension plans, and sets up a framework for target-benefit (TB) pension plans in the federal private sector; and

WHEREAS Bill C-27 invites employers and other plan sponsors to abandon their pension promises to employees and retirees, and allows employers to persuade individuals to surrender their earned DB plans in exchange for less secure, less stable TB plans, thus downloading virtually all risks brought on by market volatility to workers and retirees; and

WHEREAS Bill C-27 will leave employees at the mercy of employers who want to back out of their pension commitments,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) continue to work with the Canadian Labour Congress, the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada, the BC Retired Teachers Association, our allies and union affiliates to oppose Bill C-27, an act to amend the Pensions Benefits Standards Act and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NPF continue to educate members and the public on the dangers of Bill C-27.

Submitted by BC FEDERATION OF RETIRED UNION MEMBERS (BC FORUM) and CONGRESS OF UNION RETIREES OF CANADA

Defined Benefits

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS employers promised current employees, and retirees defined benefit pensions as part of their compensation. These pensions are a form of deferred wages, and

WHEREAS we believe a deal is a deal, and employers should not be able to take back compensation they promised to their employees or retirees, and

WHEREAS this issue is important to every Canadian. If you yourself are retired, have a family member who is retired or one day wish to retire, this issue has a direct impact on you and your retirement security; and

WHEREAS that there is a sacred trust for the federal government to protect the retirement income security that's already been earned by millions of Canadians in defined benefit plans,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Prime Minister keep his promise made to the National Association of Federal Retirees in writing that defined benefit plans which have already been paid for by employees and pensioners should not be retroactively changed.

Submitted by USCO

Defined Benefits

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS Defined Benefits pension plan are superior to Targeted Benefits and Defined Contribution pension plans, and

WHEREAS all seniors with Defined Benefits pensions could be targeted by public and private employers, and their payments significantly reduced.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the USCO work with all senior groups, pension and social justice organizations to carry out campaigns to ensure that Federal and Provincial Governments enact legislation that will prohibit both public and private sector employers from making any change to defined benefit pensions which do not enhance such plans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the USCO work to move forward with a suitable representation on October 1st (United Nations Day of the Older Person) for Canadians around the pending pension crises.

Submitted by USCO

Pension Reforms

Age for Pension Eligibility

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF advise the federal government that our organization is totally opposed to raising the age of eligibility for pensions beyond the present 65 years of age.

Number:

6

Section:

Pensions

Applying CPP Adjustment

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF lobby the federal government – Service Canada to apply the CPP adjustment amount to CPP and supplements every three months.

Number:

9

Section:

Pensions

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

Canada Pension Plan Death Benefit Revision

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the Canada Pension Plan Death Benefit was, until 1998, a percentage of the amount of Canada Pension received by the deceased estate and, if that system had continued, the Death Benefit maximum would be approximately \$5,300 today, and

WHEREAS currently the death benefit is calculated as “equal to six months’ worth of calculated retirement pension up to a maximum of \$2,500” with the average death benefit paid out in January 2017 being \$2292.52, and

FURTHER WHEREAS this death benefit is paid to the survivor or estate of the deceased Canada Pension Plan recipient in order to assist with the funeral expenses of the deceased;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal Government to increase the Canada Pension Plan Death Benefit to “equal to six months’ worth of calculated retirement pension up to a maximum of \$5,000” immediately, with incremental increases every year thereafter at no less than the cost of living, and that this benefit be made non-taxable.

Submitted by OLD AGE PENSIONERS ORGANIZATION of BC and COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS of BC

Caregivers Tax Credit Refund

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the 2017 Federal Budget proposes to combine the Caregiver Credit, the Infirm Dependent Credit and the Family Caregiver Tax Credit into a single new Canada Caregiver Credit that will be effective for the 2017 taxation year, and

WHEREAS this new credit will start to be reduced when the dependant’s net income is above \$16,163 in 2017 with a phase-out range up to \$23,046, and

WHEREAS caring for a dependent may affect employment income, and

WHEREAS this credit will provide more tax relief to caregivers with higher incomes, and less tax relief to caregivers with lower incomes,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal Government to make the new combined Caregiver Tax Credit refundable.

Submitted by COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS of B C

Changes to Age of Eligibility for Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS in early 2017 the Council of Economic Advisors to Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau stated that the ages of eligibility for Old Age Security (OAS) and the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) be “should be recalibrated and increased to meet the Canadian reality of an aging society and a considerably longer life expectancy; and

WHEREAS changing the ages of eligibility to OAS and CPP would hurt seniors, put increased pressure on our pension plans, and cause a further downloading of services to the provincial governments; and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party during the 2015 campaign about changing the ages of eligibility to Old Age Security, said: “This will make our most vulnerable seniors even poorer, and Canadians will have to wait two additional years to collect this much-needed money. It will also pass along costs to provincial governments that will have to support low-income seniors. ” ; and

WHEREAS half of the seniors in Canada live on an annual income of \$26,000 or less, and any changes to the ages of eligibility for CPP and OAS would plunge many of these seniors into deep poverty,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) will continue to:

- oppose changes to the age of eligibility for either/ or and both the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS) and
- work with our allies to oppose these changes.

Submitted by BC FEDERATION OF RETIRED UNION MEMBERS (BC FORUM) and CONGRESS OF UNION RETIREES OF CANADA

CPP Indexing

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the Canadian inflation rate is forecast at 2% by Statistics Canada for 2016, and

WHEREAS senior pension benefits are fixed with very little increase (1%), and

WHEREAS federal MP’s voted to increase their office expenses by 20% and their travel by 5%, and

WHEREAS seniors are most negatively impacted by the cost of living gap,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal government to index senior pensions to the cost of living, inflation rate, only in the positive.

Submitted by USCO

Eliminate Seniors Living in Poverty

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF strongly ask that the federal government double the Canada Pension Plan retirement, change the plan to raise eligibility for Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, as well as enhance these benefits in order to keep Canadian seniors out of poverty.

Number:

37

Section:

Pensions

On Pension Funds and Private Equity Corps 2

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That pension funds not be used to finance private equity corporations.

Number:

5

Section:

Pensions

On Pension Fund Investments and Private Equity Corps 1

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF call on all levels of government to investigate the practice of pension fund investment in private equity corporations that benefit from the purchase of other corporations and then subject the employees and retirees to financial hardship.

Number:

4

Section:

Pensions

Pension Plan for Members of Parliament

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF urge the federal government to scrap the current pension plan for Members of Parliament immediately and replace it with a plan that requires the funding to be equitable for both the MPs and taxpayers and that the pension plan be based on sound actuarial principles.

Number:

17

Section:

Pensions

Private Portable Pension Plan

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF lobby the federal government to institute (in addition to the Canada Pension Plan) a private portable pension plan sponsored by the federal government and employees which takes into consideration the movement of Canadian workers from one job or type of employment to another; and that this portable pension plan make special pension provision for parents who elect to stay at home during child-rearing years.

Number:

16

Section:

Pensions

Reforming the Present Pension System

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That community campaigns (with a national focus) be established to restructure our present pension system in line with the Canadian Labour Congress proposals be

initiated and supported to address all shortcomings and inadequacies; and, further, that the provincial and federal governments implement the Canadian Labour Congress's proposals on pension reform.

Number:

15

Section:

Pensions

Rescind 67 as New Retirement Age

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF request of the federal government that the age legislation raising the eligible age to receive pensions to 67 be rescinded before it is enacted and that all private pension plans be required to have adequate funds and be insured by the federal government against bankruptcy.

Number:

19

Section:

Pensions

Seniors First as Secure Creditors

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF urge governments to enact legislation to put workers and seniors first as secure creditors when a company wind-up or bankruptcy occurs.

Number:

38

Section:

Pensions

Pension Program Increases

Canada Pension Plan Benefits Increase

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS the poorest 20% of senior households in Canada had a median wealth of only \$15,000,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal Government to change the formula for increasing all benefits paid through Canada Pension Plan (CPP).

Submitted by COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS of B C

CPP and OAS

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS seniors on fixed income, low income families, and people with a disability do not get a cost of living increase to help them financially and the costs of food, utilities, rent keep on rising and many people throughout the winter cannot afford heating fuel and food,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation urge the government to increase the amount of CPP, OAS, and other monies so that people who are on fixed income and low income families or the disabled can live in their homes comfortably.

Submitted by USCO

General

Pensions & Bankruptcy

18.8.3 PENSIONS AND BANKRUPTCY

WHEREAS Canadian workers rely on their pensions and benefits to live and retire with dignity, and

WHEREAS Canada's current bankruptcy laws allow failing corporations to take money dedicated to employees pensions and benefits and use that money to make bonus and separation payments to CEOs, as well as to pay off banks and investors, and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Liberal Party of Canada campaigned on improving security for all Canadians, and

WHEREAS at the Liberal 2018 National Convention the Liberal Party of Canada passed a resolution that calls upon the Government of Canada to develop a strategy that would

prioritize Employee Pension Plans in the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act and the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act to recognize super-priority for pension debts , and

WHEREAS on November 6, 2017, NDP Member of Parliament Scott Duvall introduced Private Members' Bill C-384, An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (pension plans and group insurance programs) to ensure that claims in respect of unfunded liabilities or solvency deficiencies of a pension plan are accorded priority in the event of bankruptcy proceedings. It also provides that an employer has to maintain group insurance programs that provide benefits to or in respect of its employees or former employees,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation continue the campaign to pressure the Canadian Government to immediately amend Canadian Bankruptcy Laws to ensure that when corporations file for bankruptcy protection shareholders, banks, creditors and corporate executives are not placed ahead of employees in respect to their rights of any wages, separation payments, bonuses, pensions and benefits, and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation keep apprised of the status of Private Members' Bill C-384, an Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, and inform its member associations of such status to enable pressure be put on the Canadian Government to enact it into law.

Submitted by B C Forum (B C Federation of Retired Union Members)

Bankruptcy Protection

18.8.2 BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION

WHEREAS Canada's current bankruptcy laws do not protect workers' pensions and benefits when their company goes bankrupt or undergoes restructuring, and

WHEREAS the Canadian government has been putting well-connected insiders and the corporations they represent first, and asked Canadian workers to settle for less, and

WHEREAS pensions earned by workers are deferred wages and diverting, withholding, or seizing those funds should be illegal, and

WHEREAS Liberal Party members at the Liberal 2018 National Convention in Halifax passed a resolution that calls upon the Government of Canada to develop a strategy

that would prioritize Employee Pension Plans in the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act and the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act to recognize super-priority for Pension debts. "Super-priority means pensioners would be among the first creditors to be paid in the event that a company becomes insolvent or declares bankruptcy,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call on the Government of Canada to fix bankruptcy laws so our employee's pension and health benefits are given the same priority as secured creditors to stop employers from putting shareholders, banks, and creditors ahead of their employees when they file for bankruptcy protection.

Submitted by COSCO of B C

Expand the Powers of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority

18.8.1 EXPAND THE POWERS OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORY AUTHORITY

WHEREAS the Financial Regulatory Authority of Ontario has a legislative mandate to provide regulatory services that protect the public interest and enhance public confidence in the sectors it regulates; and

WHEREAS this Agency is responsible for good administration of pension plans and to protect and safeguard the pension benefits and rights of pension plan beneficiaries.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the National Pensioner's Federation calls upon the Ontario Government to ensure that the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario has the following regulatory powers:

- To block or place conditions on company takeovers, bankruptcy and insolvency process that are deemed to put pension plans at risk;
- Ensure that any pension plan is funded at 100% prior to paying any secured creditors;
- Ensure that payment to workers of any termination, severance pay and health benefits owing prior to paying any secured creditors;
- Ensure prevention of companies from stopping the payment of any retirement benefits during any proceedings under bankruptcy and insolvency processes;
- Powers to issue punitive fines on company directors and executives in cases of clear wrongdoing; and
- Ability to claw back directors and executives bonuses after a company pension plan or plans collapse, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the N.P.F. develop an action plan to facilitate the above.

Submitted by Unifor Local 222

Notification of Income Supports

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS many seniors are not aware of income supports to which they may be entitled, either provincial or federal; and

WHEREAS Service Canada sends out T4A slips to every recipient of Canada Pension and/or Old Age Security;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners' Federation urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to collaborate in producing and distributing with the T4A slips an information sheet outlining the following:

- income supports available, such as the Guaranteed Income Supplement, Medical Plan Premium Assistance, Shelter Aid for Elderly Residents, etc.,
- household income required to be eligible for such income support, e.g., under \$42,000 or ?,
- contact information to obtain application forms for such income support.

Submitted by COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATION of BC

Reinstate Funding and Services for Veterans

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the federal government re-examine its policies and lack of adequate assistance for post stress disorder amongst veterans and show appreciation for the services of men and women on the front line by reinstating all of the services which were recently cut as well as improving access to those benefits and services.

Number:

37

Section:

Transportation

POLITICS

Electoral Reform

Electoral Reform

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS our current voting system elects only one political representative in each riding, which means that a representative can be elected with less than half of the votes cast; and

WHEREAS when more than person runs in an election in a riding this can leave the other voters unrepresented if their candidate is not elected, and

WHEREAS our current system, “first- past- the- post”, divides the country into non-overlapping areas known as ridings, constituencies, or electoral districts; and in each riding about the same number of people reside;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call upon all levels of government and the Prime Minister to conduct a non-partisan process involving citizens and experts to determine the best model of proportional representation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this model be implemented in time to make every vote count in the 2019 election.

Submitted by UNIFOR TORONTO AREA COUNCIL RETIRED WORKERS

Democratic Reform to our Electoral System

Convention:

2015

Policy:

That the NPF encourage all members to endorse electoral reform and bring democratic reform to our electoral system.

Number:

42

Section:

Transportation

Repeal Bill C-51

Convention:

2015

Policy:

.That the NPF demand that the federal government repeal Bill C-51 immediately.

Number:

39

Section:

Transportation

“Fair Elections Act”

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the federal government withdraw the Fair Elections Act as presented and entrust the writing of a new “Fair Elections Act” to a committee of the provincial and federal chief electoral officers to ensure that the Act is crafted for the good of democracy.

Number:

31

Section:

Transportation

On-line Voting Systems

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That the NPF actively and vigorously oppose any federal, provincial, municipal, and/or regional attempt to change the secret ballot voting system to an online voting system.

Number:

4

Section:

Transportation

Proportional Representation

Electoral Reform

Convention: 2017

WHEREAS our current voting system elects only one political representative in each riding, which means that a representative can be elected with less than half of the votes cast; and

WHEREAS when more than person runs in an election in a riding this can leave the other voters unrepresented if their candidate is not elected, and

WHEREAS our current system, “first- past- the- post”, divides the country into non-overlapping areas known as ridings, constituencies, or electoral districts; and in each riding about the same number of people reside;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation call upon all levels of government and the Prime Minister to conduct a non-partisan process involving citizens and experts to determine the best model of proportional representation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this model be implemented in time to make every vote count in the 2019 election.

Submitted by UNIFOR TORONTO AREA COUNCIL RETIRED WORKERS

Electoral Reform Toward Proportional Representation

Convention:

2012

Policy:

That in the next federal election, the NPF call for complete cooperation among the parties to introduce a system of proportional representation.

Number:

6

Section:

Transportation

General

Trudeau’s and the Liberals’ Promise to Canadian Veterans

18.9.1 TRUDEAU’S AND THE LIBERALS’ PROMISE TO CANADIAN VETERANS

WHEREAS the federal Liberals during the last election campaign made a commitment to provide all Canadians who have served in uniform with a college or university education, and

WHEREAS The Federal Liberals have fallen far short of that commitment, and Mr. Trudeau who was trying to muster support for his party spelled it out to the veterans that he will also cover the cost of four years of postsecondary education for every veteran who wants one, and

WHEREAS at the same time Mr. Trudeau said he would restore Lifetime Pensions that were scrapped when the new Veterans Chapter came into effect in 2006, and

WHEREAS these promises given during the election campaign have not been fulfilled – the education Bill is not available to all Veterans, only those who left the military after April 2006,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NPF urge the federal government that all the commitments made by Trudeau and the Liberal Party during the last election campaign to the men and women veterans who honoured their commitments to their country be restored.

Submitted by Unifor Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter

Restoring Home Delivery by Canada Post

18.9.2 RESTORING HOME DELIVERY BY CANADA POST

WHEREAS on January 24, 2018, the Public Services Minister announced that the Liberals are ending a community mailbox conversion program, and

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada are now renegeing on their 2015 campaign promise to restore door-to-door delivery for those who already lost it, and

WHEREAS the National Pensioners' Federation has been and continues to be a strong supporter of keeping door-to-door mail delivery,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners' Federation continue to work with unions and other organizations that are campaigning to have door-to-door mail delivery restored to the 840,000 households that have had their door-to door mail delivery ended since 2014.

Submitted by B C Forum (B C Federation of Retired Union Members)

TRANSPORTATION

Basic Transportation Services

18.10.1 BASIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

WHEREAS the recent Greyhound cancellations would create a massive gap in transit services and leave many communities stranded, and

WHEREAS Canadians who rely on bus services as their sole means of transportation will be cut off from employment, health care, and

other critical public services, as well as education, and family; and

WHEREAS this also poses a very grave risk to public safety, forcing many in remote and Indigenous communities to turn to less safe modes of transportation, and

WHEREAS Canadians have only to look to the Highway of Tears to realize the horrific effects of precarious modes of transportation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) call upon the Federal Government to ensure communities across Canada have access to basic transportation services and immediately act to develop a federal funding plan that will stop the cancellation of several crucial bus routes in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Northwestern Ontario and rural British Columbia.

Submitted by B C Forum (B C Federation of Retired Union Members)

Gasoline prices

Convention:

2014

Policy:

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

Number:

3

Section:

Housing

In-car cellular 911

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That in-car cellular service providers be mandated to offer access to 911 services to customers whose vehicles are so equipped and that vehicle manufacturers be mandated to equip vehicles such that the 911 emergency services through the in-car cell phone be automatically activated in the event that the car's air bags are deployed.

Number:

2

Section:

Housing

Federal Equity in General Motors

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the government of Canada reverse its decision and continue with its ownership of a significant equity in shares of General Motors to help ensure that General Motors maintains its manufacturing base in Canada, providing good paying jobs for Canadian taxpayers and ensure the pensions of the retirees who have sacrificed so much to build that profitable company.

Number:

27

Section:

Transportation

Car tail lights

Policy number:

2014-1

Convention:

2014

Policy:

That the federal government make it mandatory that car manufacturers ensure that car tail lights are always lit.

Number:

1

Section:

Housing

Driver Competency

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF inform governments that the study under the principal researcher Man Song Hing (which concludes that age is not a critical criteria for drivers) that the study is offensive and such areas as physical and cognitive awareness are more important.

Number:

16

Section:

Transportation

Port Security

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF urge Transport Canada to ensure that all security personnel at our ports be properly informed about all medical devices (including ostomies) and take individuals to a private area when viewing the devices.

Number:

19

Section:

Transportation

Passenger Rail in Canada

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the federal government should direct VIA Rail to, at a minimum, reinstate the services recently cut; that the funding for VIA Rail should be increased dramatically to upgrade infrastructure to ensure safety and responsible environmental practices; and that the federal government study the possibility of instituting high-speed rail service across Canada.

Number:

18

Section:

Transportation

Transportation for Rural Seniors

Convention:

2013

Policy:

That the NPF urge the Canadian government to create a task force to study and report on the lack of public transportation and its serious disadvantages to rural seniors.

Number:

17

Section:

Transportation