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# NEWSLETTER

National Pensioners Federation

Dave Sutherland Photography  
Lake Ontario



# NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION

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To the Readers,

All editorial matter published in this NPF newsletter represents the views and opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the NPF or the publication's editor.

Statements and opinions expressed do not represent the official policy of NPF unless so stated.


**Have you got an article you would like to submit for consideration?**


**Please send your articles to the publication's editor, Mary Forbes at [mary.forbes@npfmail.ca](mailto:mary.forbes@npfmail.ca).**

Thank you Maria Pinto for her assistance.

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT, TRISH McAULIFFE

## Greetings to members and affiliate leaders

As the fall season is upon us, we look to celebrate older persons on Saturday, October 1, 2022, United Nations International Day of Older Persons 2022 Theme: **The Resilience and Contributions of Older Women**. The 2022 theme of International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP) serves as a hallmark and reminder of the significant role older women play in traversing global challenges and contributing to their solutions with resilience and fortitude.

Each year we ask our members to contact each level of their local government to recognize Oct. 1st with a flag raising ceremony in proclamation or declaration to remind us of the contributions that older persons make to their societies. In the wake of the COVID pandemic it is essential to reflect and revise the actions needed to better protect the dignity, health, and welfare of seniors everywhere. This requires an inclusive and deliberate conversation to draw on a new variety of policy responses as Aging is poised to become one of the most significant social transformations of the 21st century.

Throughout this time, NPF is welcoming your submissions to post to our web site and social media to enhance our reach and voice to government. We are currently working on a national project drawing on the interest of intergenerational education on Ageism. I welcome you to volunteer in participating anytime.

## Service Canada

I attended a Service engagement session with the Federal Parliamentary Secretary Committee in part of a cross country discussion on how service delivery to Canadians can be improved. I have consulted with our affiliate groups but if you should you have concerns, **please share your stories** so that we can request better resolutions.

**Reviewing service standards**, what are your expectations for Service Canada? Does Service Canada meet them, and if not, how can it do better? **Improving access to services and benefits for marginalized and underserved populations**, what are some of the barriers about accessing Service Canada services? What do you think Service Canada could do to help address these barriers?

A significant portion of the travelling public with limited technological and/or limited data access skills have been finding it impossible to use the Arrive Can app and they are showing up at border points every day frustrated and frightened. Have we overreached the purpose of all of this? It's not just about anti-tech it's about the government collecting far too much information on people and who's controlling the reach. I don't think we need a certificate or a QR code period. Enough already let the border security do what it does best and secure our borders as they have done for decades.

## Advocating for Older Persons

NPF has joined forces with our national allies to form the new Canadian Coalition against Ageism.

The Coalition is part of the actions of the International Longevity Centre’s demand for a **United Nations Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons**

An important first meeting took place in Ottawa this month and we were there! A cross section of seniors’ organizations from across Canada came together to endorse a national initiative to raise awareness of the impacts of Ageist attitudes, policies, etc. and change the narrative around ageing. Our vision is to support the WHO campaign, “A Decade of Healthy Ageing” and create public support to demand that our federal government sign an agreement that supports our global call for a United Nations convention on the Rights of Older Persons.



Pictured from left to right, Claudia Malher, UN Independent Expert on Human Rights, Margaret Gillis, President, ILC-Canada, Trish McAuliffe, Pres. NPF; Kathleen Jamieson, NPF Member at Large and Leslie Gaudette, Pres. COSCO and NPF affiliate org.

The International Longevity Centre Canada (ILC-Canada) is an independent think tank created in 2015 and situated in Ottawa, Ontario. Their mission is to propose ideas and guidance for policies addressing population aging based on international and domestic research and practice with a view to bettering the lives of Canadians. We do this through a human rights lens, through knowledge, development and exchange, recommendations of evidence- based policies, social mobilization, and networking.



Information Sources:

<https://www.ilccanada.org>

<https://www.who.int/news/item/18-03-2021-ageism-is-a-global-challenge-un>

<https://ifa.ngo/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Annual-Report-2020>

## Why do we need a convention for older people?

Age discrimination and ageism are tolerated across the world, and older people experience discrimination and the violation of their rights at family, community and institutional levels.

At the same time unprecedented demographic ageing means that the number of people who are likely to experience age discrimination and violation of their rights in old age will increase.

Despite the fact that international human rights laws apply to people of all ages, specific reference to older people is rare. As a result, older people's rights are not being protected sufficiently by human rights monitoring mechanisms, governments, the human rights community and civil society.

What would a convention do to change this? Clearly, there is much that existing human rights instruments can do to better address the rights of older people.

However, ageing brings with it particular vulnerabilities to discrimination and rights violations and the existing human rights instruments are not enough to provide the necessary protection for older people, both in law and practice.

### **A single instrument, a new international convention on the rights of older people, is necessary to:**

- Provide a definitive, universal position that age discrimination is morally and legally unacceptable.
- Provide legally binding protection with accompanying accountability mechanisms.
- Provide clarity for duty bearers and rights holders on what their rights and responsibilities are towards older people.
- Bring together existing rights standards that are currently dispersed throughout various other instruments and interpretive documents.
- Redress the present imbalanced focus on older people's economic and social rights by bringing all indivisible rights into one instrument.
- Put age discrimination and older people's rights more centrally onto governments', donors' and NGOs' agendas.
- Draw attention to, deepen understanding of and provide redress for the complex, multiple forms of discrimination that older women and men experience.
- Provide a framework to guide policy responses to demographic ageing based on rights, equity and social justice.
- Provide a powerful advocacy and education tool for older people and those that represent them for claiming their rights.
- Encourage a paradigm shift from older people being considered recipients of welfare, to older people as rights holders with responsibilities.

**SOURCE:** <https://rightsofolderpeople.org/why-we-need-a-convention/>



# NPF TREASURERS' REPORT, MARY FORBES

I trust everyone is doing well and keeping safe and cool during this unprecedented weather. Covid19 is still amongst us and now Monkeypox and mass shootings. The world is in an uproar. Be safe.

National Pensioners Federation is in pretty good shape financially, due to Covid we have not received the dues we normally do but also due to Covid we have not had our normal expenditures. Updating of our website should be completed by the beginning of September. Our NPF pamphlet has a fresh new look. If you want some, please let me know. It is also available electronically.

The Conservatives won the election in Ontario they have dropped the gasoline tax but did nothing to lower rents. They have extended the Worker Income Protection Benefit programme, which covers 3 paid sick days until July 31/ 2023. We saw the consequences of Workers going to work sick, 3 days are simply not enough, we are in the 7th wave and no sign of Covid abating. 10 sick days should be available for all Workers when the need arises. They have pledged to spend more money on healthcare – public or private let us wait and see. They appear to lean more towards privatization.

Congratulations to BC where the Supreme Court has ruled against private health care following a long battle. The Supreme court ruled that private healthcare is not a constitutional right if wait times are too long. Dr. Day had insisted that Patients should have the right to pay for private care if the wait in the public system is too long. This could have led to a 2-tier health care system and Doctors leaving public health care and going into private care because of the money.

Ottawa permanently increased the Old Age Security for Seniors over the age of 75. WOW, and the shocking fact is that there has not been an increase in OAS since 1973. In 1973 in Toronto on the TTC an Adult and a Senior Fare was 30 cents cash, and an Adult could buy 4 tickets for \$1.00, and a Senior could buy 8 tickets for \$1.00. One could buy a house for \$32,000.00 and gas for their car for 39 cents a gallon, eggs were 69 cents a dozen and a 2 ½ pound jar of peanut butter was 99 cents. A 10 per cent raise in OAS is hardly enough when looking at these figures and there is absolutely no doubt that all Seniors should be the recipient of any increase. As with wages increases in OAS have not kept in pace with the cost of goods.

Pope Francis's visit to Canada was certainly an educational experience for me. I had never heard of the Doctrine of Discovery having been educated in Britain. How a document compiled in 1493 can still wreak such havoc to our Indigenous Peoples. Discovery was used as legal and moral justification for colonial dispossession of sovereign Indigenous Nations, including First Nations in what is now Canada. This was invalidly based on the presumed racial superiority of European Christian peoples and was used to dehumanize, exploit, and subjugate Indigenous Peoples and dispossess them of their most basic rights. Discovery was used as a tool to attempt the "exclusive power to extinguish" Indigenous rights on an ongoing basis. The United Church repudiated the Document in 2012 it is time now for Reconciliation.

## TIME TO RENEW YOUR AFFILIATION

Memberships can be renewed online at: <https://nationalpensionersfederation.ca/membership/> cheques should be mailed to National Pensioners Federation, c/o M. Forbes, 3085 Osbourne Rd, Mississauga, ON L5L 3W3 or e transfer [mary.forbes@npfmail.ca](mailto:mary.forbes@npfmail.ca): Membership form included in this Newsletter.

# 1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT, BARB MIKULEC

As I have just had a 'special birthday' I recognize we are aging, every one of us is on the path being seniors or elders in our communities. The federal government has recognized that seniors over 75 may need more funds and the Old Age Security (OAS) pension has permanently increased by 10% this July. This is the first permanent increase in the OAS since 1973, other than adjustments due to inflation, and will increase the financial security of 3.3 million seniors in Canada. These payments are automatically increased for eligible seniors, so no application forms are needed.

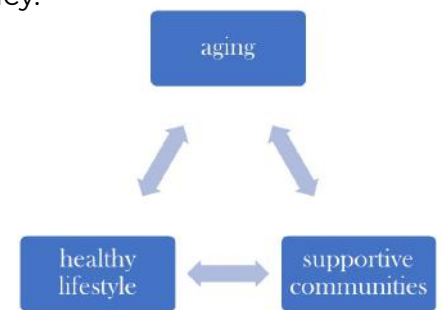
Also, there was a one-time payment of \$500 from the federal government last August 2021 for seniors who were eligible for the OAS pension and born on or before June 30, 1947. Both of these measures were announced in the federal Budget 2021.

Seniors comprise almost 20% of all Canadians and they are growing in numbers -Statistics Canada 2021. In 2020, Canada had 6.8 million persons aged 65 years and older, with predictions that by 2030 more than one in five Canadians will be seniors.

Overall, older Canadians are aging better, are more active and engaged in healthy lifestyles, with the gender gap diminishing for life expectancy. Not everything is rosy for seniors though, as some persons feel their safety is compromised. Some seniors experience abuse, specifically those who are socially isolated, cognitively impaired, physically frail, and those dependent upon other for care. (World Health Organization 2021) All seniors need to feel they are treated with dignity as they age.

As seniors face challenges in protecting their income security, finding adequate and affordable housing, as well as access to medical care as needed, we need to be aware of inequities and protect those in need of assistance to maintain their lifestyle with as few barriers as possible.

Special thanks to the communities which are forward thinking and planning for the future. One of these is in Vancouver South and this July the federal government announced funding totaling over \$10.5 million for a dedicated community centre expansion with cultural and recreational programs geared for seniors. The plans include multi-purpose dining and event rooms, fitness room, commercial kitchen, café, lounge area, and outdoor space for walking and gardening for seniors with a wide range of interests, cultures and languages enabling them to enjoy the diversity of the neighbourhood. Being on a transit route this facility will be accessible to many seniors. Let's hope that many communities follow this model and are supported by government funding. (further information- Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities)



**Top Four 2020/2021 Films on Elderhood and Aging**

<https://www.moviesaboutaging.org>

## 2ND VICE PRESIDENT REPORT, BERNIE LaRUSIC

Earlier indications were that Nova Scotia Federation of Seniors (NSFS) would be holding its Annual Meeting last May. It was cancelled but is an Agenda item for the Fall.

Affordable Housing & Homelessness was also addressed in which, “shovels in the ground” being an early expectation. With limited activity by the province, there’s “shovels” all right but not in the ground.

A group of organizations in Cape Breton and Eastern Nova Scotia have expanded an earlier approach to gather information on homelessness.

The count was taken in November 2021 and identified 419 adults and 64 children under 16.

Housing situation identified:

11% - Unsheltered: 18% - Emergency shelter: 24% - At risk of Homelessness.  
36% - Provincial Institutions accommodation: 11% - Institutional Care.

FYI

Unsheltered: Staying in a public place, in a car, not knowing where they would sleep that night

Emergency Sheltered: Staying at a homeless shelter

At risk of Homelessness: Housed but economic and/or housing situation is precarious living, conditions are not healthy, safe, or facing eviction

Provisionally Accommodated: Staying with family, or supportive housing or living in a boarding home or in a motel

Institutional Care: Staying at a correction facility/half-way house or mental health/addictions/recovery facility

Five top barriers identified to Affordable Housing:

- 1) Lack of appropriate housing availability
- 2) Addiction & substance abuse,
- 3) Mental Health,
- 4) Low-income earner
- 5) Poor housing options

The report noted rural homelessness is different than those in urban centres. A call for immediate intervention to include more affordable housing, preserve all existing housing and more targeted programming for those with mental health and substance abuse issues.

The make-up of NPF’s membership consists of many pensioners/retirees belonging to a variety of clubs, chapters, and senior’s organizations. This make-up evolves from Retired Union members – Retired Seniors in a variety of occupations. Some are better connected by way of the internet, others, not so.

COVID-19 put a significant strain on senior’s organizations especially those whose memberships are less computer literate. Seniors’ and Pensioners’ Clubs with halls closed for over 2 years have the additional responsibility of start-up. This has impacted on the start-up of Senior’s Councils where shortages of representatives have occurred. During this period, NPF has repeatedly represented the Senior Community to the Federal Government, by letter, petitions, appearances before committees, and media. Delivering members’ message to government has proven more problematic when reporting back to the membership.

With the hope of returning to Annual General Meeting, the communication barriers will improve our ability to “getting the message out”



# 3RD VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – BARRY THORSTEINSON

## Beware a Populist

Having been a keen observer of politics all my adult life I have been somewhat confused at the media labelling some right-wing politicians as “populists”. A dictionary check describes a populist as a member of a political party that claims to represent the common people. But why then was Donald Trump called a populist? Perhaps because he appealed to folks who were against immigration: “I will build a wall”. Plus, bigots: (banning Muslim immigrants) and gun fanatics (cozying up to the National Rifle Association). Not to forget “drain the swamp” for those that dislike government. All added up, these were the common people that voted for a populist.

Now we have a Canadian version in 2022 that the media have proclaimed a populist: Pierre Poilievre (PP), the odds-on favourite to win the current leadership contest of the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) and become our next Prime Minister. He has found many believers who have signed up as members of the CPC in order to vote for him as leader. They have been taken in by slogans such as “fire the head of the Bank of Canada” “take on the elites” and “eliminate the carbon tax” as well as the hazardous “invest in cryptocurrency”.

These slogans will appeal to many who are hurt by inflation and perceive that PP has their best interests at heart. He would have them ignore that world prices (e.g., oil) and supply line shortages that limit supplies are far greater causes of inflation. As far as “elites” go, they (the wealthy owners of industry) have driven Canada's economic policies since Confederation, especially controlling CPC priorities. “Blue” Liberals are often given the important Finance Minister role: from C.D. Howe to John Manley to Paul Martin to Bill Morneau. The jury is still out on current Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland. However, our laws are still written to favour the chartered banks and corporate bond holders; just ask a Sears or Nortel pensioner.

Also witness the role that social media has played: increased hatred towards politicians (see the many postings that ridicule - or worse - our Prime Minister). Then there is the spread of disinformation; politely described as conspiracy theories. There is rarely any real substance or theory at all, just fabricated lies with a few selective comments disguised as facts. Climate change deniers have long congregated in the CPC (the oil industry elites have welcomed them).

The anti-vaxxers and anti public health mandates also are being championed by PP.

The CPC has, for at least the past two decades, concentrated much effort in identifying Canadians that they call “low information voters”. Also known as voters that do not follow politics closely or know a lot of facts such as climate change. There are less polite terms. Stupid comes to mind. This is who PP has turned his attention to. Moderate Conservatives are alarmed. They see the dumbing down of the CPC as a losing strategy in the next federal election. Do we really want to go the way the USA did in 2016? Or are Canadians, the majority of the real common people at least, looking their own “populist” whose policies are based on evidence and facts?

## Bottom Line:

Seniors have nothing to gain from a CPC populist. Recall Steven Harper's comments to raise the retirement age to 67 for OAS/GIS benefits. His choice to lead the CPC: Pierre Polievre

# **NPF INCOME AND PENSION COMMITTEE, MIKE POWELL, BARRY THORSTEINSON, TRISH MCAULIFFE**

## **Another major step forward for pension protection: a historic event**

Protecting private defined benefit pensions is an important issue for all Canadians. There are some 4 million Canadians relying on their private defined benefit pension plans. The Canadian Federation of Pensioners estimates that since 1982 over 250,000 vulnerable Canadian seniors have had their pensions reduced for the rest of their lives due to insolvency.

Historically, governments have done little to improve pension protection. In fact, governments have generally increased the threat to pensioners; usually by reducing or eliminating solvency requirements on a temporary or permanent basis.

The Canadian Federation of Pensioners, and other organizations including the NPF, have long supported expanding super priority to the unfunded pension liability in insolvency. Simply, this would move pension obligations from the back of the line to nearer the front as assets of the insolvent company are paid out.

Canadians from coast to coast-to-coast support pension protection. Two recent Canadian Federation of Pensioners campaigns, with the support of NPF and other organizations, clearly demonstrate strong public support. House of Commons e-petition 3893, sponsored by Ryan Turnbull (Liberal Whitby), and presented to the House June 15, 2022, was signed by over 12,000 Canadians. An email campaign in support of C-228 resulted in over 60,000 emails sent to MPs, Senators, and key Ministers.

Today, there are three Private Members Bills before Parliament, one from each of the CPC, NDP and Bloc that all have super priority at their core. By luck of the draw, Bill C-228: An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act and the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985 sponsored by Marilyn Gladu, (CPC Sarnia-Lambton) is the first to come before Parliament.

On June 22, 2022, Bill C-228 passed second reading, receiving virtually, unanimous support. It is now referred to the Finance Committee for further study. So why is this historic?

The three opposition parties have already met and agreed to support C-228 with amendments. MP Gladu has indicated she is open to accepting these amendments. A degree of non-partisan collaboration rarely seen in the House of Commons.

This is the first time the sitting government has not opposed a pension protection Private Members Bill. Even the Cabinet Ministers present voted in favour.

The next step is to ensure C-228 is amended and passed at Finance Committee. CFP is preparing a theme, strategy and talk points for presentation to the Finance Committee. We will work with other interested groups to ensure seniors are well represented on the witness list.

Once through Committee, it goes back to the House for third reading and then to the Senate.

Again, CFP will be ready to provide whatever support is required at these stages.

Certainly, no pension protection Private Members Bill has received this broad support or government support in the past.

There is still much work to be done to get C-228 through the rest of the process and the Canadian Federation of Pensioners is actively preparing to support these efforts.

# HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT, BARB MIKULEC



## Age Well at Home Freedoms

Our Canadian Charter of Rights ensures freedom of thought, belief, peaceful assembly, with everyone having equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.

Recently the federal government's Minister Kamal Khera announced in June 2022 the launch of "Age Well **at** Home initiative. This initiative will help seniors have supportive care to help them age at home, connected to the communities they live in. Practical assistance for everyday tasks will be part of this new initiative, beginning with in-home support pilot projects and Scaling Up for Seniors, including light housekeeping, home maintenance, transportation to appointments and snow removal.

Our seniors are at the centre of concerns for the National Pensioners Federation, and the smooth running of services which enable seniors to access their health services, housing, pensions, and transportation. All citizens deserve protection and consideration for their safety throughout Canada. The Scaling up for Seniors will fund organizations expanding services to help seniors age in place. COVID-19 has brought over two years of pandemic regulations, vaccinations, and masks. We urge governments to ensure the senior population has adequate home support, with well-trained services in care facilities, and for the vast majority, the right to age-in-place at home, often with families nearby.

Over 37,000 Canadians lost their lives to COVID, especially during the earlier days when facilities were taxed to the extreme with outbreaks. We can do better at serving our seniors, by ensuring Long Term Care Standards. We welcome the announcement of a national dental plan, which will be expanded in 2023 to cover seniors and those with disabilities. Further details will be coming from the federal government.

The cost of living continues to increase- for insurance, housing costs, food, utilities, and home services and there are limited resources all which affect seniors. It is essential that we do not let seniors fall through the cracks and into homelessness when they have given their lives for our country and wish to live their remaining years in security of tenure. Let us lead the way with the National Pensioners Federation advocating for seniors' ensured lifestyle of security of housing, health access, transportation, and income security. It is our mandate and responsibility. Let us enjoy our senior years staying in our homes for as long as possible.

**Don't plan for Seniors  
Plan with Seniors**

Did you know? You can advertise in this newsletter. Please contact [mary.forbes@npfmail](mailto:mary.forbes@npfmail) for details



## **NPF NATIONAL MEDIA RELEASE: JULY 12, 2022-07-12 CANADIANS ARE DEMANDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING AS A NATIONAL PRIORITY**

In part of the 2022 Premiers Conference, the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) calls on the Federal government to eliminate homelessness of our most disadvantaged groups and to institute a rent control programme in those provinces that don't already have one. The budget increase of \$10 billion will help to assist against the growing homelessness in the country and especially in our seniors' population. We call on the government to see that this housing money will provide affordable housing to all who need it, including the country's seniors.

It is laudable that the federal Liberals and NDP were able to work together to allocate this money for those in the most pressing need. The federal government must urgently focus on ensuring adequate housing for all, allowing for provincial and municipal governments' input. It must be done with speed.

With mixed initiatives of Federal /Provincial/Municipal government efforts, there seems to be massive red tape (referring to the lack of co-operation & co-ordination between the various government levels) slowing down the actual building of housing projects here in Canada. There is urgency for speedy progress and the Federal Political Pact must take up this cause immediately, to smooth over all the stalling and red tape. Frustrated by the long waits and empty promises, some Provinces have brought plans forward to proceed further on their own terms.

The NPF encourages all Canadians to engage in the options that can resolve housing issues without increasing national debt. The NPF maintains that a National Affordable Housing Policy is an economic priority.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/td/bgrd/backgroundfile-97502.pdf> In conclusion, the National Pensioners Federation strongly requests the federal government speed up the solutions to our current housing crisis as a national priority, in the interest of all the citizens, so we can be proud participants of the G20.

We have copied all respective Housing ministry representatives noting the urgency to help Canadians achieve housing equity during our national housing crisis and we hope you will join us in this endeavor.

Respectfully submitted by

Manfred Merkel, Chairperson, NPF Housing Committee  
Trish McAuliffe, President, National Pensioners Federation

# HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT BY KATHLEEN JAMIESON, TRISH MCAULIFFE

FORD GOVERNMENT'S HEALTH PRIVATIZATION COMMENTS "OUTRAGEOUS, AND FOOLHARDY", RAISING RED FLAGS ABOUT BACKROOM DEAL MAKING, SAYS OHC'S NATALIE MEHRA

Ontarians should be at their highest level of alert because of the Ford government's recent statements about their plans to privatize public health care services since coming into another majority government. (Albeit with only near 40% of Ontario's eligible voters participating.) This warning direly brings attention that the government's statements reveal they are having backroom discussions regarding health care privatization, specifically the privatization of Ontario's public hospital services.

Natalie Mehra, executive director of the Ontario Health Coalition, warned that the Ford government has no mandate for hospital privatization whatsoever, particularly given their outright denials of these plans in response to the Coalition's warnings in the pre-election period. "The Ford government stated "options" are actively "under consideration", indicating that there have been backroom discussions regarding restructuring and privatizing Ontario's public and non-profit health care services. This is unacceptable. Without exaggeration, these are life and death issues for every single Ontarian," noted Ms. Mehra.

This ironically takes place on the heels of the BC Supreme Appeal Court ruling of the BC Cambie Surgery Centre case, July 15th, 2022, the decade-long legal attack launched by one of the largest for-profit surgical centres in Canada sought to invalidate key sections of the BC Medicare Protection Act (MPA). Whereby, "this decision ensures that access to health care will continue to be based on need and not on ability to pay". Justice Steeves dealt a strong blow to the efforts of Dr. Brian Day and others to undermine Canada's publicly funded health care system.

The Court has upheld BC Supreme Court Justice Steeves' conclusions that the evidence at trial showed that duplicative private health care would increase wait times as well as his conclusions about the harm this would cause to vulnerable people who depend upon the public system. The Ontario Ford government finds itself in history bound repeat. We will not surrender!

Source:

<https://financialpost.com/globe-newswire/bc-court-of-appeal-strengthens-landmark-ruling-defending-public-health-care-in-canada>

<https://www.healthcoalition.ca/project/pro-public-health-care/>

# MANY SENIORS RELIEVED COURT UPHELD MEDICARE

Opinion / Op-Ed An expert from the Vancouver Sun July 27/2022

**Kathleen Jamieson and Leslie Gaudette**

*Opinion: Many seniors today will remember with dread the situation from 60 to 70 years ago when Canada did not have a universal Medicare system and access to care was based on private insurance or ability to pay out of pocket*

Seniors across Canada may be breathing a collective sigh of relief now that three justices of the B.C. Court of Appeal have rejected Cambie Surgeries Corp.'s appeal of the 2020 B.C. Supreme Court decision of Justice John Steeves that upheld the province's health-care law.

In their appeal of Steeves, Cambie Surgeries argued that the judge erred in dismissing its case and argued that the prohibition on private surgeries in Canada is contrary to the rights guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which in Sec. 7 guarantees "the right to life, liberty and security of the person."

The declared goal of Cambie Surgeries Corp. and its founder Dr. Brian Day is to be able to offer private pay medical services (mostly hip and knee surgeries) legally to Canadians so that people can avoid suffering and putting their lives at risk through having to wait in line too long to receive these medically necessary services in the public system.

The majority of those on wait lists for knee and hip surgeries in B.C. are seniors living on modest incomes without the means to travel to other countries for orthopedic surgery. Even if seniors did have the option to obtain private surgical care in Canada, few seniors are likely to be able to afford the cost. We do not know what the Cambie corporation charges at present, but a knee replacement operation costs about \$25,000 US or more in California for non-U.S. residents (according to a U.S. orthopedic surgeon). In Canada, the cost to the public system, excluding rehabilitation, in 2019-20 is estimated to be on average \$10,500. Whatever the Cambie clinic charges, the cost is likely to be prohibitive for many Canadian seniors given that the annual median income of adults 65 years and over in 2019 in Canada was \$29,940, according to Statistics Canada.

The B.C. Appeal Court decision has implications for the whole of Canada since a win for the Cambie corporation would have undermined the basic principles of the Canadian medicare system and forced major changes in a system that is grounded in egalitarian values and designed to be based on need and not on ability pay. That is a cherished fundamental principle of the Canadian health-care system and one that makes Canada's system very different from that of the U.S. and of many other developed countries that have various parallel public and private systems.

In the meantime, seniors in B.C. and across Canada ask their governments to ensure timely health care is available equally to all Canadian residents. Seniors are willing to work with our governments and all stakeholders to strengthen the current flagging health-care system to find ways to put the patient first and ensure those who most need care are at the front of the line.

L. Gaudette is President and K. Jamieson is Chair for the health committee of COSCO, Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC.



National Pensioners  
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des Retraités



## OUR NEW NPF WEBSITE IS HERE!

Your executives at the National Pensioners Federation are pleased to announce we will be moving over to a new platform created by our service provider.

For the last five years, Union Strategies Inc. has been managing our website, updating our social platforms and ensuring all of our members are receiving updates and important information as needed. Union Strategies Inc. will continue to provide these services through a brand-new user-friendly website that is now live for our members.

With our new website we will be able to keep all our members as informed and engaged as possible. You will be able to connect directly with your Executive Board, receive updates and notifications so you don't miss any of the latest news and sign into a member's only exclusive section.

To access our new website, please go to <https://nationalpensionersfederation.ca/> and click on the registration button to follow the simple 3 step registration process:

1. Click on login or register and then click on the register button and fill in ALL required fields. Your username will now be: [firstname.lastname@npf.ca](mailto:firstname.lastname@npf.ca)
2. Once completed you will need to be approved by the local's administrator of this services platform and a confirmation will be sent to your personal email (please make sure you check junk/spam folders).
3. Once approved, login using your username and password created to access all member's only exclusive section with deals, updates and information from your executives.

We are pleased to be able to offer you this information on this platform and look forward to seeing your interactions and hearing your feedback.

## NPF AFFILIATE REPORTS...



The Saskatchewan Seniors Association Inc. (SSAI) held its annual convention in Saskatoon at the Heritage Inn on June 8th and 9th, 2022. The theme this year was “Supporting one another in the community”. There was a wide variety of topics presented:

- Shan Landry – Home supports Initiative, Age Friendly Communities and Positive Aging
  - Shon Profit – The importance of the Arts for Health and Well-being; How the arts can be applied to reset and deepen relationships with those who are living with moderate to advanced dementia
  - Lynn Oliphant – Managing in a Rapidly Changing World
  - Carrie Catherine – Reconciliation Saskatoon and BeAConnectR.org
  - Dr. Poornima Sathi – Vaccines for Older Adults and Drug Interactions
  - Bill Brooks and June Gawdun – Saskatoon Council on Aging

Aspen films recorded the speakers and presentations again this year. These recorded presentations are available for viewing on our website:

[https://saskseniors.com/wp/ssai-convention-2022/.](https://saskseniors.com/wp/ssai-convention-2022/)

SSAI is excited to have received generous funding from the Government of Saskatchewan – Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport to provide creative and artistic programming for Seniors. Working in partnership and collaboration with Saskatchewan Arts Alliance, SSAI has planned a number of initiatives including telephone workshops - a series of 6 writing workshops with Judith Silverthorne, and a series of 6 music & songwriting workshops with Eliza Doyle; as well as Happy Mail creative kits that will be sent out by mail. Some of our rural seniors' clubs are also planning to host in-person workshops (i.e. quilting, sewing, painting). We are thankful for the opportunities that this funding will provide to seniors and artists in Saskatchewan.

Shirley Koob was one of the participants in our Music & Songwriting workshop with Eliza Doyle. Shirley did not have any previous musical background and had never even thought about writing a song, but after a few telephone classes with Eliza, Shirley wrote a song “Cries of Ukraine”. The song track was recorded & produced by Eliza Mary Doyle at Skullcreek Studios. A lyric video was also recently released for the song: <https://youtu.be/1X6XYNiQKH4>

In lieu of purchasing the track Shirley would strongly encourage donations to Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Saskatchewan (<https://www.ucc.sk.ca>), helping with displaced persons from Ukraine coming to Saskatchewan.

S. Wright



# CONGRATULATIONS



**Barb Mikulec** 1st Vice President of NPF on receiving the Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee Award for volunteerism. We at NPF are so proud to work with Barb. She is a community leader and educator and is recognized for seniors' advocacy and philanthropy in education. Barb serves in **over 8** leadership roles in the community and has organized round tables on seniors' health and housing issues. Barb has established endowment **awards** in both Education and Law **at the university**.



**Leslie Gaudette** makes a tremendous impact by promoting the needs of Seniors. As President of COSCO-BC, Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations in BC and as a member of the National Association of Federal Retirees, Leslie is BC's Advocacy Officer. Leslie represents over sixty seniors' groups, as an advocate to the all levels of government. As the Vice Chair of Langley Seniors in Action, Leslie provides information about seniors to the municipal and provincial levels that include leading, analyzing and submitting reports on the impacts of social isolation and housing to name a few. She is a tireless community delegate to the Collaborative Service Committee which looks at providing improved primary health care approaches for the community at large.

## BC-OAPO, BRITISH COLUMBIA OLD AGE PENSIONERS ORGANIZATION

Newly elected President **Don Bayne**. We look forward to working with Don and the BC-OAPO membership.

"Hope and optimism have defined my political career, And I continue to be hopeful and optimistic about Canada. It is easy to talk about why hope is important. But it's hard to maintain hope in the face of injustice or tragedy; even harder to work to make that hope a reality, to commit to fighting for something better".

Jack Layton

# ONT. FEDERATION OF UNION RETIREES (OFUR) SUZANNE CLANCY, PRESIDENT

Since OFUR last met at our 2018 biennial convention much has happened and changed in ways we could not have expected, wished for, or imagined. Many of us have lost loved ones, friends, and neighbors during this long Covid 19 nightmare and we have had to adjust to new ways of thinking, living, working, and doing.

I can proudly report that not only did OFUR survive, it thrived and grew.

OFUR's Covid delayed biennial (2020) convention was finally held by Zoom June, 14-16, 2022 and was well attended and very successful with 55 delegates. Bea Bruske, President, Canadian Labour Congress was the keynote speaker and spoke on the role of seniors in the labour movement. Day two speaker, Natalie Mehra, Executive Director, Ontario Health Coalition, addressed the current status of health care in Ontario.

In 2019 OFUR was awarded a first time \$4,000 Horizon grant to develop and present a Fire Safety Symposium for Seniors, held March 10, 2020 in Hamilton, for seniors living in their own homes, apartments, retirement homes and long term care settings. It was a huge success with 100 plus participants and became the impetus for the creation of the OFUR Special Events Committee. Once Covid restrictions ease, OFUR plans to present the fire safety symposium throughout Ontario.

For the last two years, I have represented OFUR on the Canadian Deprescribing Network Public Awareness Committee as it works to inform and educate on the dangers of medication over prescribing. Along with the Network, OFUR is developing medication awareness symposium using the fire safety model.

Throughout 2021, OFUR worked with the Halton, Hamilton United Way in developing a resource guide and personal record booklet *Caring for Community During Covid-19* with 2,000 copies printed and distributed by March 30, 2022. Online versions can be found at <https://uwhhh.ca/labour>



**ONTARIO FEDERATION  
OF UNION RETIREES**

*This Federation will pursue the  
cause of peace, freedom, and security  
for all Retirees present and future*

[OFURontario.ca](https://OFURontario.ca)

# NPF AND PIAC FILE PETITION TO CABINET TO SET ASIDE CBC LICENCE DECISION

Media Release: OTTAWA – 5 August 2022 – The National Pensioners Federation (NPF) and the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) today filed a Petition to Cabinet to set aside the decision of, or have the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission reconsider their recent approval of the licences for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation / Société Radio-Canada's TV and radio services.

"The CRTC removed the requirement for CBC and Radio-Canada to actually exhibit Canadian content on their regular TV stations, in the hope that CBC/RC could go 'whole hog' on moving their TV productions online," said John Lawford, counsel to PIAC and NPF. "We said no, you cannot allow CBC/RC to jump cut from regular TV to online without considering Canadians', and in particular seniors', reliance on CBC/RC's traditional TV service, especially for local news," he added.

The Petition underlines the importance of CBC/RC to Canadians for the delivery of Canadian content, including local and national news, programs of national interest, and kids programming, in both official languages and the CRTC's rushed and ill-considered removal of requirements to ensure Canada's national public service broadcaster continues to broadcast this programming to Canadians on TV services they know and use every day.

"You have to meet people where they are; that just shows respect for all Canadians, especially our seniors," added Trish McAuliffe, President of NPF.

Full copy of petition see: <https://bit.ly/3zLKclh>



## RETIRES AREA COUNCIL

AJAX, OSHAWA & PETERBOROUGH

UNIFOR LOCALS 1090, 222 & 524

Lyle Hargrove - Chair  
Armindo Viera - Vice Chair  
Sandy Carricato - Financial Secretary

Paul Herrington  
Lance Livingstone

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UNIFOR Retired Workers  
Council



Representing Retired Workers from

UNIFOR Local 127	UNIFOR Local 195	UNIFOR Local 200	UNIFOR Local 240
UNIFOR Local 444	UNIFOR Local 1498	UNIFOR Local 1941	UNIFOR Local 1959
UNIFOR Local 1973	UNIFOR Local 2027	UNIFOR Local 2098	UNIFOR Local 2458

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Submitted by Rebecca Keetch – Unifor Local 222 Active Member

The Unifor Constitutional Convention is happening this week in Toronto.

I want to say thank you to the determined retirees who showed up on the first day of business to make sure Convention Delegates and Union leadership were aware of the hardships they are facing and the need to make pensions a union priority.

I am thanking them because when they fight for better pensions, they are fighting for all of us. If they are struggling with good defined benefit pensions how are the rest of us with inferior pensions or no pension at all going to make out?

The retirees greeted the Convention attendees as they broke for lunch and were then invited to attend the Convention. After lunch they did a walkthrough of the hall to applause and shouts of solidarity.

I hope that this action creates favourable support for resolutions submitted on improving pensions now.

Thank you!



Unifor Local 222 has a long and proud history in the Community of not only providing support to their members but of supporting charitable organizations, community initiatives and responding to disasters. Many local agencies are supported annually by Local 222 and their members. Unifor Local 222 is located in Oshawa and represents workers from multiple sectors. Survivor pensions

# SURVIVOR PENSIONS FOR MARRIAGE-AFTER-60 VETERAN'S SPOUSE

**First thing this Monday morning** in Ottawa, NDP veterans' affairs and seniors critic Rachel Blaney and NDP House Leader Peter Julian gave a press conference to discuss eliminating what they say is a century-old 'marriage after 60' clause.

The clause is also known as 'the gold-digger clause' (which came into effect in 1901). It makes spouses who married veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the RCMP after the age of 60 ineligible to receive survivor pensions.

It is only fairly recently that people have 'found love' after 60 on such a regular basis, as the life expectancy of Canadians is much higher these last 10 to 15 years than in the past "The marriage after 60 clause is harmful to seniors and veterans it denies those who find love later in life the support they deserve," says Blaney, the [MP for North Island](#) – Powell River. Today in the press conference Blaney said she is "increasingly concerned about" this issue, as people are living well into their 80s and 90s.

Blaney does powerful work when she sets out to protect the rights of Canadians. She also undertook the challenge of still-working low-income seniors missing out on clawed-back Guaranteed Income Supplements (GIS) payments due to having taken CERB during the pandemic.

## **Disproportionately impacts women:**

"This is discriminatory and disproportionately impacts women," said Blaney. "The Liberals promised to eliminate the clause in 2015 – yet they've done nothing. It is very clear that this government isn't interested in making sure that the spouses of veterans who fought for Canada have the same security as other couples," she said today.

Last year, [MP Blaney proposed a private member's](#) bill that would remove this clause, allowing the spouses of veterans to receive the same supports as every other couple

Today some RCMP veterans joined Blaney and Julian for their presentation. Last year, MP Blaney proposed a private member's bill that would remove this clause, allowing the spouses of veterans to receive the same supports as every other couple.

## **Discriminatory and sexist:**

Despite the countless calls from veterans' organizations, including the [National Council of Veterans Associations](#), the [RCMP Veterans Association](#), and the [Armed Forces Pensioners](#), have criticized the government and called on them to end this discriminatory and sexist rule – the government hasn't listened.

The idea of a pension for the spouses of veterans is that the spouses also 'served' by supporting their spouse in other ways during the years of service.

The statement by Winston Churchill during WWII comes to mind: "Those who sit and wait also serve."

*National Council of Veterans Associations, the RCMP Veterans Association, and the Armed Forces Pensioners have criticized the government and called on them to end this discriminatory rule, says NDP.*

# NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION JOIN – ALL WELCOME!

The National Pensioners Federation (NPF) is a national, not-for-profit, nonpartisan, non-sectarian organization of 350 seniors' chapters, clubs, groups, organizations, and individual supporters across Canada with a collective membership of 1,000,000 seniors and retirees devoted entirely to the welfare and best interests of ageing Canadians.

The NPF strives to work with our members and like-minded organizations to promote positive change for ageing Canadians. We recognize the importance of communicating with our members and supporters regarding current issues that affect them. As ageing Canadians, we need a clear, unified, national voice to influence government policy and legislation. When we work together, we can accomplish our goals for a better life for all ageing Canadians.

**When we focus on a vision, differences will not divide us...**

Affiliation does not require an affiliate to change or compromise the policies or principles which may or may not reflect the policies of NPF. Most organizations memberships develop policies through a process of discussion and decision about who they are and the beliefs they represent. As affiliated organizations we must respect the processes that we each use to create our autonomy. We respect affiliates autonomy while we unite in advocacy, education, and networking to produce a clear and sound message for direction and change. Lobbying our Federal Government ministers and developing campaigns to advance our purpose and improvements for ageing citizens from coast to coast to coast creates even stronger voices for our provincial affiliates.

Our joint affiliate and NPF executive conference calls ensure up-to-date communication and input by all provincial leadership. NPF policies reflect the support of motions and discussions at our biennial National Convention where resolutions are submitted and debated to provide us our foundation for advocacy. We take pride in our selection of expert speakers at all our conventions to tackle issues such as income insecurity, national seniors' health care strategy, equitable access to information and promoting national standards for seniors across many spectrums.

**JOIN US!** <https://nationalpensionersfederation.ca>

We are excited to be calling on you and or your organization to be a part of our family of activists and to participate in our advocacy initiatives. NPF receives no government funding and depends on membership and donations to support our activities. Organizations that register as a "Club or Group" then are entitled to extend an NPF membership to all their members through that annual affiliation fee. Each member who signs into our membership link on our web site will enjoy the membership benefits:

- Annual Membership Card
- 1 year subscription to The National Newsletter (3 issues/year)
- Important mailings or email blasts
- Information postings to our website, Facebook page, and Twitter
- Affiliate/Member invitation to the NPF Annual Convention
- Special discounted rates from sponsoring affinity programs



# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

**Individual OR Clubs / Group Includes:**

- Membership Card
- 1 Yr Subscription to The National Newsletter (3 issues per year)
- Biennial Convention invitation
- Discounted Affinity programs available for members

Please complete full application for Club Membership and or Individual Membership

Name of Club OR Individual:

Contact Person (for Club Membership):

Address:

City:

Province:

Phone Number:

Postal Code:

Email address:

## ANNUAL DUES STRUCTURE

Individual Membership Rate: \$25.00

Family Membership Rate: \$35.00

Club Membership Rates                      Number of Club/Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Under 100 Members                              \$35.00

101 to 500 Members                              \$75.00

501 to 1,000 Members                              \$125.00

1,001 Members and over                              \$350.00

Total amount payable                              \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations gratefully accepted                              \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration online at: <http://www.nationalpensionersfederation.ca/membership>

Registration forms and payment can also be forwarded to:  
NPF c/o Mary Forbes, Treasurer – 3085 Osbourne Road, Mississauga, On L5L 3W3  
E transfer [mary.forbes@npfmail.ca](mailto:mary.forbes@npfmail.ca) Phone # 647-688-6249  
Thank you!

## SENIORS “CHECK IN” AND CANADA POST

The phrase “aging in place” is being increasingly used to mean having the health and social supports and services seniors need to live safely and independently in their home or their community for as long they wish and can do so. To be able to age in place numerous supports including health care, food purchase and preparation, transportation, and measures to reduce senior social isolation need to be implemented and integrated. A check in service provided by Canada Post is another programme that could help seniors age in place.

Every day in many neighborhoods’ from coast to coast to coast, letter carriers and rural and suburban mail carriers are on the street and are going from home to home. They are the eyes and ears of many communities. They can see who has not picked up their mail, who may be in distress, and are often one of the few people a senior may chat with. Therefore, many people and organizations are calling upon Canada Post to provide such a service to assist seniors to age in place in their own homes. Globally many postal administrations are doing exactly that.

In Singapore there was a project where some letter carriers received training for the check in program and were given checklists for each of the enrolled seniors on their routes. At least once a week, they stopped by making notes of their health, ask if they’ve been eating, check that they are doing well and have everything they need, and spend a little time with them to stave off loneliness. If anything went wrong or seems “off,” the postal workers can contact a social service agency to get help right away. The Call & Check Visits” is a program developed by Jersey Post in Jersey, British Channel Islands, in which postal service workers check on isolated, frail elderly residents in the community. During a five-minute visit, postal workers deliver prescription refills, remind clients of upcoming medical visits, and ask about their health and social needs. Clients’ concerns are then conveyed to health care providers or community support organizations by Jersey Post customer service representatives after the visits.

In France there is a service where family members pay a fee for letter carriers to check on their elderly relatives as part of their route. The programme is called Veiller Sur Mes Parents (“Watch Over My Parents”) is operated by the French postal service. On days the mail is delivered French letter carriers inform the V.S.M.P. subscribers (mainly relatives of the senior), through an app, if their relatives are “well”: if they require assistance with groceries, home repairs, outings, or “other needs.” In the first 18 months of the programme over 7,500 seniors were enrolled across the country.

In Ireland, a joint effort between the Union and the Post Office there was an informal check in service during the height of the pandemic. The Union (The Communications Workers Union) is seeking to formalize this as an established service. Currently, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) is asking Canada Post to develop a new service where door-to-door postal workers check in on seniors and people with mobility issues, helping them live in their own homes for longer. The Union has seen the success of similar programs in other countries and believes that this check in program could work. To date Canada Post and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers are undertaking joint research on this issue. CUPW is hoping that a pilot senior check in project can be implemented soon. Canada Post is well equipped to offer a seniors check in service. It is the largest public infrastructure in the country and is already set up to serve every corner of the country. Polls show that Canada Post has the trust of Canadians (especially older Canadians) this makes a check in service easier to implement and operate.

For a senior to successfully age in place we need a range of programs and services. A senior check in service provided by Canada Post would be a new and innovate way to support seniors.



# THE BIG READ: ON A MISSION TO SAVE SENIORS FROM NURSING HOME HORRORS

Ravaged by COVID, Ontario's long-term care homes endured nearly 4,500 deaths during the pandemic. A determined group of PSW'S are trying a different way to protect the elderly. Danielle Turpin will never forget her last shift at the nursing home. It was a heartbreaking day, forever seared in her memory. But as awful as it was, the tears she shed on the job inspired her to try something drastically different—something she strongly believes will help improve the quality of elder care right across the country.

After months of research, Ms. Turpin settled on a bold plan. Along with a fellow personal support worker, Amy Firlotte, she co-founded **Home Care Workers' Co-operative Inc.**—the first-ever PSW-owned worker co-op in Canada. Turpin hopes it will be the first of many. She is convinced, along with other experts, that the co-op model holds great promise for sparing seniors from the devastation that unfolded in long-term care homes over the past two years.

“PSWs are the experts when it comes to providing care,” Turpin says. “So, we need to hear those voices about how we can change the system from the inside.” Seniors and their advocates are now taking a hard, honest look at how they want to spend the twilight of their lives—and all options are on the table, from community housing to multi-generational living to improved homecare. The co-operative concept should be part of the conversation, Ms. Turpin says. Although hers is the first worker co-op of its kind in the country—owned and operated by the very people who provide the frontline services—it stands as a potential blueprint for others..

Simply put, worker co-ops are owned by employees, which means everyone has an equal voice on how things operate, from wages to work hours. The cardinal rule of a co-op is: one person, one vote. Launched in June 2021, Home Care Workers' Co-operative now has 17 caregivers who provide about 500 hours of service each week to clients in Peterborough and Durham Region. PSWs hired by the co-op can apply for membership after 480 hours of service, or approximately six months.

Unlike other private companies that dispatch PSWs to people's homes, the co-op concept is unique because it places a worker's experience and expertise at the heart of the business model—which in turn, benefits the clients. Because everyone at the Co-op is an owner the PSW's are able to spend as much time as they need getting to know their client which makes everyone happier.

Could the co-op model be rolled out in long-term care homes? If PSWs had owned and operated some of those facilities during the onslaught of COVID, would fewer residents have died? They have asked for Government funding with no success yet but are they are in the midst of working on a scaled-down proposal: a single “care co-op incubator” that would provide basic back-office support to rural Ontario Communities. Other PSW's have reached out for advice on how to develop their own in-home caregiver co-ops. Spain and Italy have proven that it is possible to operate without Government help and that Co-op does work. Take Co-op Housing here it works.

An excerpt from an article: Jen Cutts, Special to Village Media June 10, 2022, 9:30 AM Read more: <https://www.baytoday.ca/the-big-read/the-big-read-on-a-mission-to-save-seniors-from-nursing-home-horrors-5461296> The Guelph Daily (e- newspaper)

Submitted by Frieda Smyth



POWER WORKERS' UNION  
**RETIRED  
WORKERS'  
CHAPTER**

**The Power Workers Union Retired Workers' Chapter (RWC) was formed in 1996. The Chapter is an independent organization from the Power Workers' Union (PWU).**

**The RWC represents retirees from over 50 Employers.**

The RWC was formed to serve as the PWU retirees' watchdog on retirees' rights, and to ensure that the PWU continues to have access to the advice and experience of PWU retirees.

Our organization works diligently to ensure that retirees' pensions, rights, and benefits (where applicable) are retained or improved and not reduced.

The RWC has Bylaws which outlines the rules of operation. The Chapter is administered by an Executive Board which meets semi-annually and an Executive Committee that meets four times per year. The day-to-day affairs are carried out by the President. Members pay annual dues (\$15.00/year) which cover the operation of the organization.

The RWC membership is kept informed on issues that may affect or, be of interest, to them via bulletins, membership meetings, and a semi-annual newsletter.

The RWC has a position on the PWU Executive Board and is also affiliated with other Retiree advocacy organizations in Canada. This allows us to keep informed and provide input on issues that may affect PWU Retirees.



Visit our web site at [www.pwu-rwc.ca](http://www.pwu-rwc.ca)

For more information or contact us at [rwc@pwu.ca](mailto:rwc@pwu.ca)

# HAVE YOUR SAY:

## FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SENIORS

Greetings,

This is to inform you that the Federal, Provincial and Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for Seniors Forum has launched a consultation on ageism. We are looking to better understand and address the negative impacts of ageism towards older adults in Canada.

This public consultation focuses on how older adults experience ageism, and potential solutions to address it.

### How to participate:

We invite you to take part in this consultation by completing the questionnaire and sharing your story on our [website](#) by September 30, 2022.

We are interested in your personal experiences, how you or someone you know has been affected by ageism, if there were any supports or programs that helped in the situation and anything that could have been done to prevent it.

This consultation will be followed by community-led group discussions, roundtables (by invitation only), as well as engagement discussions with members of First Nations, Métis and Inuit groups in the fall of 2022.

Your feedback will be summarized in a What We Heard Report. This will help to inform the development of a Policy Options Report, which will propose approaches, initiatives, and strategies to address ageism in Canada.

Visit our [website](#) for more information and share this email within your network. Please like and share on social media to help spread the word about this important consultation.

We are also pleased to let you know that the Forum has recently released two reports on Ageism, which you are invited to read at your convenience:

- [AN EXAMINATION OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF AGEISM](#)
- [A CASE STUDY ON AGEISM DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC](#)

Circulated by : The FPT Ministers Responsible for Seniors Forum



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- q Identity theft coverage
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lifestyle || hearing

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Does the idea of having to handle batteries deter you from trying hearing aids? Have you struggled in the past with changing tiny hearing aid batteries? Hearing aids can now be fully rechargeable without the need to change any batteries. All rechargeable hearing aids come with a convenient charger. Simply place the hearing aids in the charger when you go to bed and they are ready to go when you wake up.

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Are you worried about how hearing aids will look? The shape, style and fit of hearing aids have changed a lot over the years. There are more styles of hearing aids now than ever before. Whether you're looking for something small and discreet, or something with award-winning design, our hearing care professionals can help guide you through selecting the best hearing aid for you and your lifestyle.



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\* A Telehearing Care assessment may not be appropriate or possible for every patient. An in-person hearing assessment is currently the preferred standard of practice.

† Valid for purchases made between May 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022. Special pricing available for purchase of select binaural hearing aids of premium technology (WIDEX 440 and Signia level 7) while supplies last. Cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion and is not redeemable for cash. Smart technology and/or Wi-Fi required for certain accessories. Not applicable on third party claims. Offer available only at participating Lifestyle Hearing Corporation clinics in Canada. Other restrictions may apply, please see clinic for details.

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Mark and Barb Mikulec and the Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan MP at a summer BBQ



Barb Mikulec and Don Davies MP NDP instrumental in getting dental for ALL

# SENIOR WOMEN LIVING TOGETHER



*Shared Hopes Shared Dreams*  
*Shared Living*

We are a non-profit organization that helps senior women find compatible homemates and create successful shared living arrangements in rental housing.

You get to choose where you live, what kind of rental home you live in and who you live with.

**Calling all single, senior women living in Ontario!!**

**Are you tired of struggling to make ends meet?**

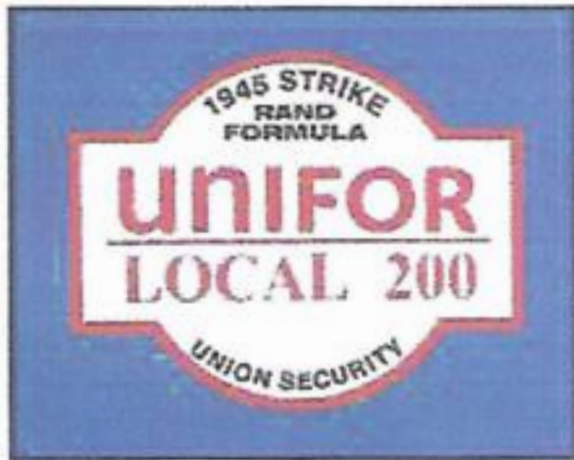
**Do you get lonely sometimes?**

**WE HAVE A SOLUTION**

**Our shared living option allows you to:**

- ★ decrease your housing costs significantly,
- ★ increase your social support and interaction,
- ★ plus helps you avoid needing a nursing home for as long as possible.

To learn more, visit our website: <https://swlt.ca/npf>



## UNIFOR local 200 Retired Workers Salutes The National Pensioners Federation

### Serving Ford Windsor Retired Workers since 1966

Chairperson: Jim Mitchell  
Vice Chairperson: Pam Strong  
Treasurer: Mike Lepine  
Recording Secretary: John Gray  
Sergeant-at-arms: Roger Lafrancois  
Guide: Heather Brunelle

Unifor local 200 Retiree Chapter meetings finally resumed in April.

We were able to get up to date as far as electing delegates to several events. Three meetings were held before we adjourned for the summer. Executive elections that were to be held in 2020, were held and the executive was acclaimed for the remaining 1 year left on the current term. We get to do it all over again next year.

**BEWARE:** A new scam. CRA would have your e-transfer/banking information and would not ask you to deposit your money

INTERAC E-TRANSFER REFUND: #8697BNC26

Hi,

A refund of \$2860.50 CAD was sent to you

Select your financial institution to deposit your money, this refund expires on 14th August, 2022.

[Deposit your refund](#)

Kind Regards,  
Jacinta Moore, Canada Revenue Agency



**National Pensioners  
Federation**



**Fédération Nationale  
des Retraités**

The National Pensioners Federation (NPF) is a national, not-for-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian organization of 350 seniors chapters, clubs, groups, organizations and individual supporters across Canada with a collective membership of 1,000,000 seniors and retirees devoted entirely to the welfare and best interests of ageing Canadians.

The NPF strives to work with our members and like minded organizations to promote positive change for ageing Canadians. We recognize the importance of communicating with our members and supporters regarding current issues that affect them. As ageing Canadians, we need a clear, unified, national voice to influence government policy and legislation. When we work together, we can accomplish our goals for a better life for all ageing Canadians.

***If Not Delivered, Please Return to:***

***Mary Forbes***

*3085 Osbourne Road,*

*Mississauga ON*

*L5L 3W3*