

NEWSLETTER

National Pensioners and
Senior Citizens Federation



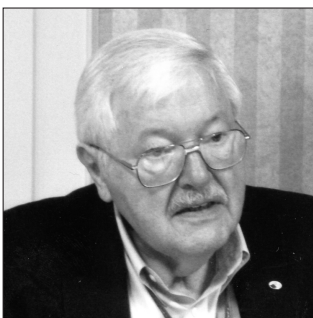
La fédération nationale des
retraités et des citoyens âgés

Summer 2009

Volume 9, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The last three months have been quite hectic, besides suffering from Sciatica a number of events have caused great concern to us seniors. The economic meltdown caused by the excessive greed of our money managers and speculators have gravely undermined the security and viability of many of our pension plans. Now the same politicians, and privatization of the financial are the same people who are refuse to take responsibility and plans of retired workers. As communicated both with the Minister of Industry, expressing dealing with the Auto Industry retirees and workers in that



Art Kube,
President, NPSCF

On behalf of the NPSCF I Department of Finance hearing in Vancouver. In line National Pension Insurance Plan, financed through premiums levied on pension plans and with some assistance from government. In addition I called for increases in the Guaranteed Income Supplement and the raising of the limits of the Canada Pension Plan. The response from the government representative was less than encouraging.

As President of the NPSCF I serve on the advisory committee of Mature Adults of the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL). On May 21st and 22nd we had our last meeting in Gatineau, Quebec. The federal government cut all the funding to this important group, like they cut the funding to many other important groups engaged in life long learning. The CCL funded our COSCO B.C affiliate for developing a Seniors Health Literacy Program. The federal government is doing a lot of damage through Order in Council decisions, completely by-passing Parliament, too bad that the Opposition let them get away with it.

Most of our affiliated groups will be breaking for the summer so June is the last meeting where you could get resolutions ready for submission to the Convention. Please make sure that your resolutions are send in, in time. Please help us so we can sort the resolutions and get the book of resolutions ready for the convention. Otherwise have a nice and care free summer and I hope I'll see many of you this fall at the convention in Toronto.

Art Kube

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS AND SENIOR CITIZENS FEDERATION INCORPORATED

OBJECTIVES

The National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation is an organization devoted entirely to the welfare and best interests of Canada's elderly.

1. To promote and establish and foster Seniors' Centres (called Clubs or Groups) and Regional and Provincial Seniors' groups throughout Canada.
2. To provide education for persons in the retired and senior citizens age group and other individuals interested in aging, and the status and well being of seniors.
3. To reach out to seniors who are lonely, or isolated, or at risk.
4. To provide programs which promote healthy active lifestyles for seniors, thus sustaining mental and physical health.
5. To assist in developing the knowledge that seniors should learn during their aging process, through promotion of educational experiences.
6. To research the aging process, and any problems and benefits pertaining to the aged that might be of interest to the Federation and to use the knowledge gained from that research to educate seniors and any other party or parties who are or might become interested in these concerns.
7. To provide opportunities for seniors to utilize their volunteer and leadership skills for the benefits of all persons.
8. To consult with other private and public organizations which offer similar services in order to gather any educational information that will add to knowledge and be of use to seniors and the public.

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the N.P.S.C.F. newsletter.

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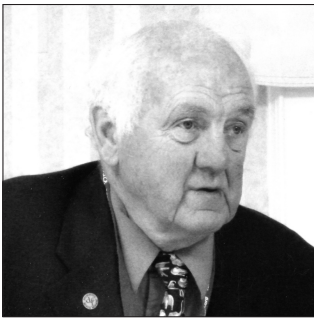
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Past President Message

Art Field



Art Field,
Past President, NPSCF

I want to report on some issues that I have seen regarding seniors on policy affecting seniors. I see and hear ads on radio and T.V. re: chip mortgages. I am surprised that CARP is still advertising them, especially when drop in prices for real estate is going down, during the melt down of the world economy and job losses. I wrote on this issue before and I want to advise seniors, if they are looking at reverse mortgages, study it closely and check with your family, if this is the way you want to go, as it could cost you and your family money.

I see where the people who run CPP are going to take bonuses in the millions, even though CPP lost 17.2 billion in 2008. This money is money that we paid every week we worked and our employers also paid into it. How these people can justify taking bonuses is beyond me. These salaries and benefits are in the millions. Listen to this. David Dennison CEO earned 2.9 million in the last fiscal year, down 30 percent from 4.2 million the year before, and he has the nerve to have his parking, and health club dues paid for by CPP, which is us?? I think any of us who are upset with this kind of pay should write your MP and let him or her know what you think of this.

I will study this years report and write a more in-depth article on it. Most of us paid into CPP during our working life.

While I am talking about pensions I want to explain about General Motors problem with there pension plan. I spent 35 years working for them and was promised a pension. They were supposed to pay so much per hour for each employee. This money would go into the pension fund for you when you retired. Then in the early nineties they stopped paying the full amount into the pension plan, supposedly to help make more jobs and this money would help do this and they got the government to change the law. They lost money on the stock market, that should have gone into the pension plan. We, that worked there knew they made millions, but took the money from Canada and put in the USA and invested in 3rd world countries and now a lot of cars are coming from outside of Canada.

There are 25 thousand retirees, and the provincial and federal governments are lending their money. It's not a bail out, hoping it will save our pension plan.

There is opposition to the two governments lending GM taxpayers money, but I and my fellow workers also pay taxes. Nobody seems to care when the Ontario and federal government gave Toyota a bundle of money to build a plant in Woodstock, which also was taxpayers money.

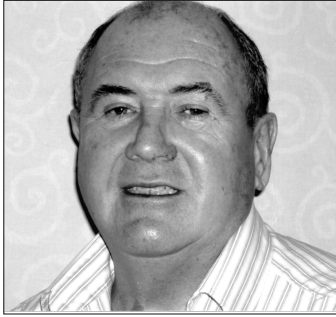
I have been going on road tours, as I collect with our MP and MPP. We visit towns, villages in our riding and explain the services that are supplied in their communities re: police, fire dept, community care, meals on wheels, VON, health care, service Canada and New Horizons, etc. We have tables set up with our literature, our brief, our newsletter, and applications for individual memberships and also promote our web page. These meetings are held in Legions, in 3 communities, and Moose Lodge in Lindsay. The MP and MPP supply a free lunch.

Our Convention is being held in Toronto on Oct 22, 23, 24, 2009 at Bond Place hotel in downtown Toronto, which is not far from the Eaton Centre. There are some important decisions to be made, as there is a resolution on a merger with Canadian Pensioners Concerned. This means the constitution has to be changed, as there will be members on the executive. This is a big change for the Federation and should be studied closely. There are some things I disagree with on the merger which I will explain in the next newsletter.

In closing it saddens me to report there are quite a few seniors in our areas who are using the local food bank. We have a high density of seniors in our area and not all are rich and need extra help. This is a good enough reason that our CPP and OAS needs to be increased.

In closing, the thought for the day. "My favourite part of the game is the opportunity to play."

Greetings from your 1st vice president: John Gatens



John Gatens,
1st Vice President, NPSCF

These past few months have been extremely stressful for those of us attached to the auto industry. The concern about our pensions, and indeed the future of the industry, has been the foremost thought of thousands of retirees and the reduced numbers of workers still relying on their jobs in this important industry. I fully understand that many of our members and indeed most seniors throughout the country have no company pension and rely solely on their government pensions. These are totally inadequate and shameful, keeping seniors below the poverty line and must be addressed as soon as possible. I would like, if I may, get back to the issues of pensions related to "Big 3 Auto Workers" I want to clarify the myth that retired auto workers are Fat Cats. In the thirty or forty years working in a car or truck plant one earns credits towards one's pension, this is deferred earnings to be collected in retirement. The problem we faced was that the government allowed G.M. a break from contributions to the pension fund, thus we have shortfalls of billions of dollars. In Ontario we had what we thought was a guaranteed pension fund, established in 1980, so that if a contributing company had shortfalls and went bankrupt, the provincial government would ensure up to \$1,000 of ones affected pension. Alas, when Chrysler and G.M. workers and pensioners find their pension funds are well below the necessary level, and it looks like we have to rely on the Guaranteed Pension Fund, the government tells us that there isn't enough money in the fund and that they have no intention of fulfilling their obligations with regards to this fund. Unless you live on another planet you must have been aware of the ongoing dilemma regarding the future of Chrysler and General Motors. It certainly was, and still is perhaps the lead story in our papers and on the news.

We took to the streets with demonstrations demanding the McGinty government make good their legislated commitment regarding our pensions. We had "sit ins" at selected MPP offices again demanding fair play. We attended parliament at question period when members of the NDP tabled a resolution demanding the government make good the Guaranteed Pension fund, which incidentally was soundly defeated by the Liberals. In short we activists have been very busy trying to defend our right to a decent pension and to continue to live in some dignity.

To wind up let me say that the provincial government appointed a commission led by Harry Arthurs to review pensions. This was conducted over a period of two years and was concluded recently. The commission has many great recommendations which we urged the government to implement since it was at their request. Note: one of the recommendations was that the guarantee pension fund be raised from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per month this surely demonstrates how far and in adequate our pensions have become not only in Ontario but in every province of this country. It is time we demand pensions for our seniors so they can live in dignity. In this great country of ours poverty should not be faced by the very people who built it and worked to make it one of the most respected wealthy countries of the world.

With great respect I remain yours,

John Gatens
1st Vice President

2nd Vice Presidents Report

Sheila Righi



Sheila Righi,
2nd Vice President, NPCSF

Since the federal government made the decision to down load social housing to the provinces, services have been drastically cut. Currently some “Hard to Handle” citizens are placed in senior complexes, leaving seniors to look elsewhere for affordable housing. Those seniors already living there feel very insecure even with their doors locked with this type of individual next door. These seniors are not ready for “Long Term Home Care.” They still want to go out and “Volunteer”, share the knowledge and experiences they accumulated while helping to build this “Great Country”, we call Canada. I feel it is imperative that the federal government incorporate this department back to their agenda and set aside finances suitable for senior housing and show some appreciation to seniors for the years of hard work and saving.

With the down turn in our economy right now there are even increasing job loses, many are baby boomers 60-65 years, some are single surviving spouses dependant GIS. These citizens are entitled to and should have a suitable and affordable living space. I believe this issue requires all senior organizations to speak out and make their members of parliament aware of this dire situation.

Certainly on a brighter note I sincerely hope everyone is enjoying our lovely spring sunshine after suffering such a long hard cold winter, even in March our temperatures dipped to -30 which is out of the ordinary. As I’m sitting here writing, the rain has started to gently fall, which will wash down our trees and awaken everything from winter dormancy. Lovely just listening to it pitter-patter on the concrete. We are into a new season. The birds are singing and frogs are chirping.

Wishing everyone good health and happy days ahead, have a great “Summer,” see you in the fall.

Respectfully,
Sheila Righi



Mary Fleck,
3rd Vice President, NPSCF

REPORT FROM 3RD VICE-PRESIDENT

Mary Fleck

Finally, the snow is all gone, the weather is warming up a bit, and lawns are being mowed !

The worlds finances are still in a muddle, but the eyes of the watchdogs are on the directors and controllers of pension programs, their investments, salaries and REWARDS.

I am very impressed with the letter sent, by NFPSC, regarding just this situation, involving Canada Pension Plan.

By the way, when you were working, . . . how many of you can remember getting a tidy little reward for simply doing your job ?

On a happier note, plans are well under way for the National Convention. I am sure it will be another learning situation, along with the annual meeting with friends from other areas of Canada. It's only four months away and we know how quick the summer flies by.

The Nova Scotia Federation held our convention the first part of May and it went very well. We were fortunate enough to get financial assistance from our provincial government in order to hold this meeting. A statement of need was written and handed to the MLA from my home area. It went from him to the minister of Senior Affairs and the Dept of Seniors. It was about two weeks before the date set for the meeting that we were notified that the money was ours.

We have been told that the "resolutions" were very well handled this year. Among our speakers was a detective with the Halifax police department. He spoke on several areas of senior abuse and how to prevent them. Identity theft was quite an interesting point.

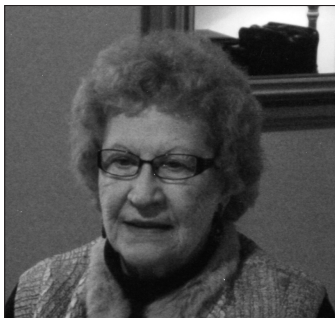
Now . . . have a good summer, be careful AND . . . be sure to plan to come to the convention in October, in Toronto !!

MARY FLECK

Third vice-president NFPSC

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

1. Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
2. Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
3. When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
4. You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
5. It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
6. Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
7. Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone



Fern Haight,
Secretary, NPSCF

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Fern Haight

AMAZING STATISTICS

Retirement pensions have been foremost in my mind lately. Reading about the auto industry disaster and the effect it has had on the retirees' pensions and the industry as a whole, is very alarming and thought provoking. My heart goes out to all who have had a terribly stressful past few months.

Presently Canada is in a very precarious situation. The population is aging, the value of pensions is falling and government and employer contributions are declining. How will this affect retirement planning? Do the people nearing retirement age really know?

Yes, demographically, Canada is aging. Between 2010 and 2015 the number of dependent adults in Canada will pass the number of dependent children, the first time in history. Are we as Canadian citizens and is the federal government prepared to cope with these statistics? Today's global situation, creating an economic down turn in most countries, is leaving Canadians ill prepared to cope with retirement. Statistics say only 17% of Canadians between the ages of 30 to 70 are financially prepared for retirement. There also seems to be a very low level of financial understanding. Financial literacy is lacking amongst Canadians. 44% have never had any financial education and 33% have had no professional financial advice. 83% of Canadians don't know how much income to expect once they stop working. 4% are planning to delay retirement due to the downturn in our economy. 14% have done no retirement planning at all. 17% are reducing retirement savings or have stopped saving altogether. 28% viewed debt as a key obstacle to saving.

These statistics are portraying a very bleak picture for people approaching retirement. Finances are "tight" now, but just wait!!! Can you imagine the tax increases that will be needed to pay off the debts incurred by governments spending their way out of this financial crisis? This really boggles my mind.

Retirement planning is serious business. We can't just sit on the fence and wait for things to happen, nor can we keep working "until we drop". Canadians must have a better understanding of their pensions, pension terminology and the value of their pensions. We must be more proactive and be engaged in our financial planning.

Summer will be here in just a few days and with it comes some heat, we hope. I trust everyone will have an enjoyable, summer break. Holiday if you can and remember to drive safely. You are all precious people.

My fondest regards,
Fern Haight

"SAVE FOR RETIREMENT STARTING WITH YOUR FIRST PAY CHEQUE"

"GROWING OLD BEATS THE ALTERNATIVE-----DYING YOUNG".



Sandy Carricato,
Treasurer, NPSCF

From the desk of the Treasurer

Greetings to all

Summer is just around the corner and I'm looking forward to a nice cool drink in the backyard soaking up some vitamin D. The winters are sooo long and the cold is bone chilling. That's not very good for those of us suffering with arthritis.

The last couple of months have been very hectic for me. I have been attending rallies and lobbying governments trying to protect our pensions. There is so much misconception out there that it is mind boggling.

We hear that

1. Taxpayers don't want to bail out the auto workers pensions
2. Autoworkers are over paid (\$70 an hour)
3. The union needs to give more etc.

You may have heard it all. Unfortunately many may agree.

I'm sure many of you know that I am a proud CAW retiree and I am going to try to clarify the above points.

1. CAW workers participate in a "defined pension plan" which was negotiated over several years. Whenever we negotiated pension improvements we gave up a wage increase to cover the anticipated cost of the promised pension. That cost is established by the companies and is considered part of our total wage package. The CAW considers the pension cost to be deferred wages. Because of these pension costs (deferred wages), our RRSP contribution room was reduced so in fact autoworkers did pay for the promised pension. The government has a legal responsibility to ensure that the companies meet these obligations and the pensions were funded appropriately. Pensioners should not be the scapegoats.
2. Auto workers earn a starting wage of \$24 an hour which will increase with seniority to a maximum of \$34 an hour. This is what an autoworker sees in a normal paycheck. In addition there are costs for overtime, shift premiums, paid time off, layoffs, downtime, statutory taxes, bonuses, current pension costs, health benefits, life insurance, legal services, tuition and childcare subsidies, and the expected cost of future non-pension retiree benefits, and other smaller benefits.

Taking all of this into consideration these items are known as *all-in labour costs* which amounts to **\$65. per hour per active employee.**

When you add in *legacy costs* such as unpaid promised pension benefits it unfairly inflates the all in labour cost which could total \$70. (Depending on swings in the financial markets, interest rates and actuarial assumptions). This is very misleading to the general public.

3. The unions have to give more. What does the general public mean? Do we have to give more in concessions or what?

Let's look at the auto workers contributions as individuals and a National Union:

- The community benefits from the individual workers contributions to the United Way Campaigns, food banks, plant gate collections etc
- The National Union negotiates time of the job as a job creation measure; this benefits the community providing more jobs. Our negotiated benefits contribute to the success of the professionals in our communities
- The CAW is a social union meaning that is not just about us but about our society, communities and the world. We contributed with large amounts of money and human resources to social issues. We are active on the world scene, in recovery, rebuilding and renewal, the ice storm, the tsunami catastrophe, working in New Orleans after Katrina, eradicating land mines in Africa.

Our Union is concerned about the poor, the environment, human rights, pensions and benefits for retired workers. Women's shelters and youth are of special interest.

I sincerely hope that I have cleared up some misconceptions about the CAW.

One other concern I want to share with you.

Ontario was once a have province with a strong manufacturing base and good paying jobs. Almost all of these jobs in manufacturing have disappeared. (Bankruptcies, closures, moved offshore, relocation to the US/Mexico) This didn't just happen since this downturn in the economy but has been going on for some time. This is a huge reduction in tax revenue for the Provincial and Federal Government. With such a loss in the tax base, is it any wonder that we will be seeing a deficit of \$50 billion dollars or more. My concern is that ultimately we may see cuts in services and benefits that will affect all our citizens especially our pensioners (CPP, OAS, GIS, home care, low income housing, hospitals, and poverty among seniors). **Where will it end? Remember this is not just about the CAW but all pensioners in Canada.**

This was an extremely heavy subject and certainly not meant to depress. We have lived long enough to know that this too will pass. But we can't let our guard down.

Enjoy your summer with a nice cold drink

Sandy Carricato
Treasurer

Generic Drugs Now Fill Majority of Canadian Prescriptions

Generic medications filled 51.6% of all prescriptions for only 23% of \$21.4-billion Canadians spent on Prescription Drugs in 2008

By Jim Keon

For the first time in Canadian history, generic medicines now fill the majority of prescriptions in Canada.

According to sales data released by IMS Health Canada, the world leader in prescription drug sales information, generic drugs were dispensed to fill 51.6 percent of all prescriptions in Canada in 2008 yet accounted for only 23 percent of the \$21.4-billion spent on prescription medicines.

The savings provided by lower-cost generic medicines has never been more important to Canada's health-care system and its economy. Given the current economic crisis, it is becoming increasingly important for Canadian governments, taxpayers, businesses and patients to maximize their use of generic prescription medicines in order to make public and employer-sponsored drug benefit plans affordable and sustainable.

Quick facts about generics prescription medicines in Canada

- In 2008, the use of generic prescription drugs saved Canada's health-care system approximately \$3-billion
- The average price of a brand-name prescription in Canada is \$64.19 while the average price of a generic prescription is \$26.07
- In the United States, generic drugs are dispensed to fill 69 percent of all prescriptions. If the use of generic drugs in Canada increased to levels in the United States, it would save Canada's health-care system an additional \$900-million in the first year alone.
- Approved by Health Canada, generic drugs are as safe and effective as their brand-name counterparts. Generic drugs are identical or "bioequivalent" to a brand-name drug in safety, strength, route of administration, quality, performance characteristics and intended use.
- Unlike the majority of brand-name drugs, which are shipped into Canada, the majority of generic drugs sold in Canada are made right here, helping to support jobs, R&D spending and manufacturing facilities in Canada.

Along with providing significant savings for governments, businesses, unions and patients, a dollar spent on a generic drug results in more jobs, more R&D spending and supports more manufacturing in Canada than a dollar spent on a brand-name drug.

Jim Keon is President of the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA)

For more information about prescription drug issues in Canada, visit www.canadiangenerics.ca

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The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
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April 27, 2009

Honourable Premier McGuinty:

It is with chagrin that I read and listened to reports originating from your office that you disavow the responsibility of the Ontario Pension Insurance Fund to compensate workers and pensioners in case of bankruptcy of a major car manufacturer.

As President of the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation and its over one million members, I protest even your notion of thinking about such an irresponsible proposition. The retired and soon to retire auto workers are dependent on such replacement income from the Ontario Pension Insurance Fund, should their employer based pension default. It would be already a great hardship for retirees and soon to be retired autoworkers to experience drastic cuts in their retirement income in case they lose their employer based pension; it would be an unmitigated disaster not to receive the funds coming to them rightly from the Ontario Pension Insurance Fund.

The retired or soon to retire autoworkers or their union are in no way responsible for the sorry state of these employer based pensions. The culpability lies solely with the Ontario Government for not ensuring that these pensions were actuarially sound and the premiums to the Ontario Pension Insurance Fund were paid in full. Pensions are retained earnings of employees, and in defined benefit plans the funding, running and actuarial soundness are the responsibility of the employer, with the provincial government having supervisory responsibility for the adherence of provincial pension legislation. In all good conscience, we can't see any possible way that you can even think of denying the retired and soon to be retired autoworkers what's justly due to them from the Ontario Pension Insurance Fund.

Your excuse that the fund cannot afford such payment is sheer nonsense. A number of government insurance funds have found themselves in similar difficulties. The Federal Unemployment Insurance Fund is one such example. Your government can underwrite the losses of the fund and recover the losses over a period of time through premium increases and tighter supervision of all Ontario based pension plans.

In closing, I urge you to forego the notion of abandoning the Province's responsibility to the retired or soon to be retired autoworkers and do the honourable and just thing. Our organization will keep brief of this danger to the well being of retirees not only at Chrysler, Ford and GM but all over Canada. We will also push the federal government to assist these companies to bring them back to economic health. We hope you will heed this sage advice.

Sincerely

Arthur Kube

Arthur A. Kube
President

**National Pensioners and
Senior Citizens Federation**



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The Honourable Tony Clement
Minister of Industry
Government of Canada House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

April 27, 2009

Honourable Minister:

It has been brought to our attention that your support for Canada's beleaguered automobile industry is ambiguous, to say the least. The National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation demands that your Ministry do everything in its power to assure that the industry be nursed back to health: Not nursed back to health on the backs of its pensioners and workers, but by better management, by better engineering, by a reasoned business plan and proper funding arrangements.

Your intemperate remarks about overpaid autoworkers do not help in the current situation. Other countries' automobile industries have had similar problems and were able to make the necessary adjustment without having to cut wages and benefits. Fiat in Italy is a perfect example. Wages in the West European Auto Industry and in Japan are higher than or as high as they are in Canada. If your industrial strategy as Minister of Industry is to take us down the road of low wages and poor working conditions, then you had better say so publicly and have your government get an electoral mandate for such policy. The race to the bottom has never succeeded in improving the economy of any country. If anything, we now bear the fruits of the application of your government's neo liberal agenda.

We see the outfalls of Chapter 11 applications in the United States and the damage it does to workers, pensioners and communities, where the only benefactors are unscrupulous corporate raiders who tear apart the carcasses of once important industries. We suggest you think long and hard of such possibilities and the damages they do. We urge your government to engage in some interventionist strategies to develop programs to rejuvenate Canada's industrial sectors such as auto, steel, forest and transportation. The interventionist policies of the New Deal got the U.S. out of the last depression. We need similar policies to get us out of the present economic quagmire. We urge you to work with all the parties in parliament to resolve the problems workers and pensioners face resulting from the economic meltdown. They deserve no less.

Blaming workers, inaction or a laissez-faire approach just will not work under the present circumstances. We urge you and your government to act decisively in the interest of the workers, pensioners and communities. If your government is unable or unwilling to do so, then step aside and let the opposition parties do it. We hope you heed our sage advice.

Sincerely

Arthur Kube

Arthur A. Kube,
President

**National Pensioners and
Senior Citizens Federation**



**La fédération nationale des
retraités et des citoyens âgés**

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The Honourable James Flaherty
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Telephone (613) 992-6344
Fax (613) 992-8320
Email:Flaherty.J@parl.gc.ca

Friday, May 29, 2009

Honourable Minister:

I am writing on behalf of the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation to ask that the Federal Government Finance Committee conduct a hearing on the compensation plans for the C.P.P. Investment Board Directors, Executives and Portfolio Managers. We are angered by the news today that four top executives of the C.P.P. Investment Board are receiving \$1.1 to \$2.4 million of bonuses for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009 when the C.P.P. has an investment loss of 24 billion or 18.8%. These bonuses are on top of salaries that are significantly higher than what average Canadians are earning.

The National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation (NPSCF) is a democratic non-partisan, non sectarian and non racial organization, formed in 1945. We are comprised of 450 seniors' chapters and clubs across Canada, who have a collective membership of 1,000,000 Canadian Seniors.

Everyone in Canada is eligible to receive Old Age pension at age 65 thanks to the work of the NPSCF.

The first Old Age Pensioners Club was formed in Pincher Creek, Alberta in 1941. When Jessie Murdock, John Landeryou and Harriet Cunningham settled on the functions, aims and goals of the club, the first meeting of the Lethbridge Old Age Pensioners Association took place in 1942. Shortly afterwards Nathan Medd of Saskatoon came to Lethbridge to see if the Alberta group would join the Saskatchewan group to form a National Association. Over the past 64 years, the NPSCF has worked to develop and protect the Old Age Security and Canada Pension Plan for the benefit of Canadian seniors.

Pay for value added performance is a reasonable component of compensation plans, but the amount paid to top C.P.P. executives has to pass the test of good citizenship:

1. The CPP executives should pay back their Fiscal 2009 bonuses
2. Reasonable caps on salary plus bonus on aggregate compensation in any one year regardless of value added performance. The CPP executives are not private sector owners, but professional managers of the CPP assets that are publicly provided for.
3. No bonuses paid in years where there are absolute losses in the CPP fund.
4. Significant portions of bonuses held in reserve to offset accumulated value added profits with future losses, so that there is no incentive for risk – taking to produce short term bonuses.
5. Rolling 4 year profits not a reasonable benchmark, because if you go back 100 years and look at a portfolio of 60% stocks 40% bonds, you'll see there are very few negative rolling four-year returns. The fiscal year 2009 CPP loss wiped out four years of contributions, but senior managers collected millions over those years.
6. All asset class benchmarks for value added performance be made public and subject to audit by the Auditor General of Canada.
7. CPP performance relative to other pension plan managers in Canada over a four year period be taken into account. CPP investment performance for the year ending March 31, 2009 is 3rd quartile and for the four year rolling period ending March 31, 2009 is 2nd quarter. This relative performance is hardly stellar and deserving of million dollar plus compensation for the CPP investment managers.

Yours Sincerely,

Sheila Righi

Second Vice President

On behalf of the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation

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Relative Performance of the CPP - Pension Plans Over \$1 Billion
For year Ending March 31, 2009

	Percentile				CPP		
	75th	50th	25th	5th	Performance	Percentile	Quartile
1 yr	-21.1%	-18.5%	-15.7%	-11.1%	-18.6%	50th-75th	3rd Qtr
4 yr	0.40%	0.50%	1.80%	3.40%	1.40%	25th-50th	2nd Qtr

Source: R.B.C. Denia Investor Services

NPSCF Letter to Minister Flaherty on Excessive Compensation Had an Impact

Canada's Flaherty asks pension chair to review pay.

Theophilos Argitis and Alexandre Desiongchamps, Bloomberg Published: Tuesday, June 02, 2009

Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said he has asked all government-owned companies, including the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, to review compensation practices.

Mr. Flaherty said leaders of the Group of Twenty countries agreed in April with principles on executive compensation set out by the Financial Stability Forum. "I've set out the three principles to all of them, including the CPPIB, and asked them to confirm to me that they're in compliance with those principles," Mr. Flaherty told reporters in Ottawa.

The forum's proposals sought to end a culture among financial institutions that promoted too much risk-taking and which has incited popular anger. The group called for paying bonuses in a mixture of cash and shares, and tying compensation to long-term profitability rather than short-term revenue.

"I'm assured by the CPPIB that they are in compliance and that their response will indicate that," Mr. Flaherty said. "I'm sure they'll have to demonstrate that."

Mr. Flaherty also said he sent a similar letter to all "crown-related" corporations.

"I am confident that the CPP Investment Board's compensation policies and framework comply with the G-20 Principles on compensation in Financial Services," Robert Astley, CPPIB's chair, said in an emailed statement. "I will consult with the COOIB Board of Directors regarding this request and reply as expeditiously as possible."

Email from: Diane A. Urquhart to Fern Haight

Celebrating Poets over 70: Call for Poems

Tower Poetry Society and the McMaster Centre for Gerontological Studies are soliciting poems written after the age of 70. Selected poems will be published in a jointly sponsored anthology. "Celebrating Poets over 70" will be the tenth volume in the *Writing Down Our Years* series published by MCGS.

A maximum of four typed poems may be submitted. Send poems and a 50-word biography by email to Ellen Ryan (ryaneb@mcmaster.ca) or by mail to: "Celebrating Poets over 70", Tower Poetry Society, c/o McMaster University, 1280 Main St. W., Box 1021, Hamilton, Ontario L8S 1C0

Individuals with poems selected will receive a free copy of the anthology.

DUE DATE: November 15, 2009

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