

NEWSLETTER

National Pensioners Federation



ISOLATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION

NPF Executive 2018 - 2021



Trish McAuliffe

President

905-706-5806
trish.mcauliffe@npfmail.ca



Mary Forbes

Treasurer

647-688-6249
mary.forbes@npfmail.ca



Sam Wiese

1st Vice-President

604-726-4654
sam.wiese@npfmail.ca



Annette O'Connor

Recording Secretary

604-882-8203
annette.oconnor@npfmail.ca



Bernie LaRusic

2nd Vice-President

902-561-6500
bernielarusic_392@hotmail.com



Kathleen Jamieson

Member at Large

604-943-8596
kathleen.jamieson@npfmail.ca



Barb Mikulec

3rd Vice-President

(H) 604-261-6887
(C) 604-346-5991
barb.mikulec@npfmail.ca

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.

Thank you Maria Pinto for her assistance.

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Trish McAuliffe, President's Report



Our calls for political action have taken heed.

Pharmacare won unanimous support in the House of Commons back on March 13, with the NDP Health Critic Don Davies motion calling for action to implement a national Pharmacare program that would save Canadians billions on prescription drug costs. The motion called for “the immediate initiation of multilateral negotiations with the provinces and territories to establish a new, dedicated fiscal transfer to support universal, single-payer, public pharmacare that will be long term, predictable, fair and acceptable to provinces and territories.” Davies added that bringing long-term care under the Canada Health Act, and subject to national standards, would result in more effective and efficient care.

The NPF has joined with other national organisations to call for the immediate roll out of the pharmacare plan and taken a strong position on reforming the Long-Term Care Act for the benefit of our most vulnerable citizens. Today's dire virus situation has raised the public awareness of such needs and we must not let up on the call for better health care for all. I hope for a silver lining in this devastating time.

The federal government has provided major economic supports to help people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. In what Maclean's Magazine called “a particular win for NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh.” Ottawa also added a onetime payment of \$300 to Old Age Security recipients and \$200 to Guaranteed Income Supplement recipients. We are seeing Provincial governments stepping up – some more than others – to fill gaps in the federal initiatives. I continue to hear from our members on the progress or not of their local government's supports and share links for services available on our social media or latest news.

The NPF have supported these and many other seniors' economic concerns through letter writing and joining national campaigns directed to the PM and other Ministries. Those of particular importance are; Pharmacy dispensing fees, Pension Protection in Insolvencies, Income Tax filing date delayed to assure GIS payments, LTC Reform. Should you wish to be alerted to our letter campaigns please be sure to sign up for our member email blasts so that you can be informed and contribute. (Email info@npfmail.ca)

I would like to thank each of you who were able to help us by keeping pressure on your own MP, the Prime Minister and related federal ministries. As you well know when we combine our efforts we can make a difference for all.

As the world changes around us we need to ensure the rights of Older Persons are protected and that we are indeed a part of the discussion in policy and safeguarding our dignity and right to health care.

As this global pandemic has taken us by shock and despair for our economic and health security, I feel somewhat hopeful for some positive outcomes or changes to the old norms. On that point I want to thank Kathleen Jamieson, NPF Health Committee liaison and Barb Mikulec, NPF Housing Committee liaison for keeping their fingers on the key pad to keep us all informed and active on each of their respective advocacies. I have taken great pride to represent our membership alongside a fantastic executive body that volunteers a tremendous amount of time and effort to work on all our behalf.

Trish McAuliffe, President's Report

Please be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and log into [our website](#) to keep us connected and supported. An added measure would be to sign up as an individual member and participate in our membership email blasts and newspaper mailings to share with friends. It's through your contribution and the financial support of our great sponsors that allow us to advocate for a safer and inclusive society for all. "Working with seniors not for seniors."

The NPF added our signature to the [Open Letter](#) to the UN Secretary-General in response to the release of the 'Policy brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on older persons' prepared by the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP)

<https://rightsofolderpeople.org/covid-19-resources-relating-to-older-people/>

https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_policy_brief_on_covid-19_and_older_persons_1_may_2020.pdf

Elder Abuse in the COVID Era

It is widely estimated that 16 per cent of older adults over 60 were affected by some form of abuse and it is believed that since the global lockdown the number is on the rise. Those providing support have seen an increase in the number of individuals seeking help, especially for risk individuals, including people with physical or mental disabilities and people living in long-term care facilities. It is important for both older adults and caregivers to be aware of the signs of it so they can seek help.

Having less overall contact with others during this time has meant signs of abuse can more easily go unnoticed. For older adults in retirement or long-term care homes, it has been even more challenging as family, friends and informal caregivers have not been able to visit and check-in on their loved ones in person.

For older adults, recognizing signs of abuse and knowing how to escalate your concerns is an important first step in protecting yourself from abuse. Do not hesitate to seek help from a health or social care professional or to report the abuse.

This [link](#) will provide some important resources for older adults and caregivers (<https://bit.ly/2Z5hZv4>) OR visit the web site of the McMaster Aging Portal for reliable resources and information. <https://www.mcmasteroptimalaging.org>

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CRTC to Consumers: "No More Paper Bills"

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) and National Pensioners Federation (NPF) today lamented the unfathomable decision of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) not to require wireless carrier Koodo to provide customers with a paper bill. "Consumers have the legal right to a paper bill. The Telecommunications Act clearly requires customers be provided with a paper bill," said John Lawford, Executive Director and General Counsel at PIAC. "We cannot understand how the CRTC misinterpreted the law. This decision will cost millions of wireless, home phone and Internet consumers dearly in missed payments, inconvenience and chaos."

Canadian Consumers Demand Internet, Wireless COVID-19 Relief

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

OTTAWA, April 7, 2020 – The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC), ACORN Canada (ACORN) and the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) together called today for the Federal government, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) and Canada's Internet service providers (ISPs) and Wireless Service Providers (WSPs) to do more for Canadians. Their list of demands includes calls for unlimited internet access and low-income Internet and wireless plans to help all Canadians stay connected while isolating at home. "Canadian government has told Canadians to stay at home which we are doing," said John Lawford, Executive Director and General Counsel of PIAC. "But this means that Canadians must have affordable Internet and wireless service to survive and stay informed. We demand that the government, the CRTC and ISPs and WSPs do more for all Canadians," he added.

PIAC Calls for CRTC Oversight of Contact-Tracing Apps and Networks

Monday, May 4, 2020

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) today filed an Application with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) requesting oversight of pandemic "contact-tracing" apps and network services that may be offered for Canadians to download to their smartphones. The Application requests that the CRTC ensure that all Canadian telecommunications service providers' involvement in potential or actual pandemic contact-tracing for public health purposes is in accordance with privacy requirements under Canada's telecommunications legislation. PIAC Executive Director John Lawford stated: "PIAC is seeking oversight, clarity and transparency from the CRTC so that Canadians know what role their mobile wireless service providers and home internet providers may play in COVID-19 tracking and that they appropriately safeguard privacy while not in any way impeding appropriate public health measures."

For more information, please contact: John Lawford, PIAC Executive Director and General Counsel

Public Interest Advocacy Centre: lawford@piac.ca Office: 1-613-562-4002 ext. 25



National Pensioners
Federation



Fédération Nationale
des Retraités

March 30, 2020

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Ministers Morneau and Schulte,

URGENT: Protection for Canadian Pensioners Needed Now

The National Pensioners Federation joins with our national partner coalitions, in step, with the Canadian Federation of Pensioners calling on the federal and provincial governments to work together to protect pensioners today. In light of Federal and Provincial governments rallying to mitigate the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses and Canadians we need to express that immediate action is equally needed to protect Canadian pensions in the case of corporate insolvency.

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic is placing businesses under severe stress and undoubtedly will result in business insolvencies and pension failures. As The Globe and Mail has been reporting, pension liabilities in Canada are skyrocketing. Mercer Canada's Pension Health Index has fallen 23 per cent since the global outbreak of the coronavirus and Aon PLC's measure of pension solvency reports solvency funding has dropped 11.9 per cent since January.

The focus to date has been to put in bridging mechanisms to get through the pandemic. To provide income to people who are laid off, forced into isolation or forced to stay home to care for children or others. To aid businesses by maintaining liquidity, ensuring access to credit, and improving cash flow. Once again pensioners seem to have been forgotten.

As an immediate first step, the federal government must introduce a recurring refundable tax credit equal to the annual pension loss experienced by a pensioner in the event that a company becomes insolvent and is not able to meet its pension obligations. Pension insurance is key to pension security. We are calling on the federal and provincial governments to create a pension insurance programs that insure 100 per cent of the pension liability. These programs could be modeled on the Ontario Pension Guarantee Insurance Fund (PGIF). In Ontario, where insurance is capped at \$1500/month, the government should also consider increasing corporate contributions to the PGIF to fully cover all pension losses.

Despite the government's efforts, there is a strong likelihood that companies will fail and, based on current legislation, pensioners will suffer income reduction for the rest of their lives. Not just for the time span of the COVID-19 pandemic. Large companies like Nortel, ubiquitous companies like Sears and small companies like Co-Op Atlantic and many others have failed in normal economic times. These companies left pensioners facing reduced incomes of 20 - 40 per cent for the rest of their lives, even though the funding rules for these pensions were 100 per cent solvency. The next round of pension failures will likely be worse.

In the past few years many jurisdictions have reduced pension solvency requirements, putting vulnerable seniors at greater financial risk. For over a decade, the National Pensioners Federation and other senior's advocacy groups have carried a consistent message to governments. Pensioners should receive 100 per cent of the pension. The time for action is overdue.

Your urgent reply to the national concern awaits you and pensioners everywhere want to rely on the safety net they spent years building. We look forward to hearing about your plan to protect pensioners now and for years to come.

We await your reply.

Respectfully,

Trish McAuliffe, President
National Pensioners Federation

Mary Forbes, Treasurer's Report

The day the world stood still. I know it's the earth and there were no aliens or robots. There was also no traffic on the roads, empty malls and stores. There were line ups for groceries, banks etc., and the liquor and beer stores in our local strip mall always had line ups. Everyone is social distancing and wearing protective equipment.

Things are slowly returning to the new normal and I agree that slowly is the way to go. And what will the new normal be? I will admit as a user of public transportation I am a little bit afraid, and the sooner they come up with a vaccination to combat this the better.

Will shoppers post-pandemic be more inclined to shop online for their needs rather than visit a store, therefore layoffs, people out of work would be the sad outcome. How will it be in an office environment, plexiglass between desks? The same in a manufacturing environment? Many groups now choose to participate in conference calls rather than meet as a group. Something Andrew Scheer should consider rather than taking his whole family on a small plane with other travellers to attend a meeting. With some of our politicians It would appear to be a case of "do as I say, not as I do".

Unfortunately, it took a pandemic to highlight the problems in the health care system, in long-term care and retirement homes which are critically understaffed and the workers poorly paid. We have been telling the government this for years and that care and staffing levels in for-profit homes are sub-standard compared to care and staffing in not-for-profit homes. The much higher number of deaths in for-profit homes proves this fact. Now they are listening, so let us keep up the pressure.

We are in a fair financial position, because we are not hosting a convention this year. We would have had to start booking the venue in March and arranging for speakers, etc. Therefore, a biennial convention proved to be a good decision. Our affiliate dues are a little slow coming in probably due to the pandemic. Many clubs are on lock down. We settled a copyright issue regarding a cover page from a 2015 newsletter in which the complainant claimed the cost of a license. We were able to solve the issue without the cost of a lawyer and a substantial decrease in the original claimed amount. We caution you to ensure if you are using anything from another source please be aware. We continue to work with other organizations, mailings, phone calls, updates to our website and Facebook and Twitter, any way we can get our message out. Work with seniors, not for seniors and listen to seniors. Be safe everyone.

Please advise maryforbes@npfmail.ca of any changes in Leadership contact persons.

It is time to renew your 2020 Affiliation

You can renew online at: <http://www.nationalpensionersfederation.ca/membership>

Payment to: National Pensioners Federation, c/o M. Forbes, 2186 Stanfield Rd, Mississauga, ON L4Y1R5

Note: Please use the annual membership subscription form in this newsletter or on our website

Individual and Family memberships are available

Letter to the Prime Minister

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

Transformational Reform of Long-Term Care

First, we would like to thank you and all members of our government for your swift and compassionate response to COVID-19. As senior citizens we are also proud and extremely grateful for the way that Canadians have responded to the call for action to reduce the transmission of the COVID-19 virus to others and especially to vulnerable people like ourselves.

However, as a senior's organization with a membership of almost 100 thousand seniors across Canada, we are and have long been extremely concerned about the historical and ongoing dehumanization of seniors in long term care.

The fact that almost half of all deaths from COVID-19 in Canada are of institutionalized seniors is a wake-up call for all Canadians. At the same time, the appalling conditions in many long-term care homes are being exposed as predated this pandemic. It's not entirely new news. It's just that no one with the power to make change has been listening.

In BC, the Seniors Advocate has provided two successive governments with reports documenting the deplorable state of long-term care in BC. Research from her office shows that about a quarter of residents are now administered anti-psychotic drugs with no diagnosis of psychosis, that about half say they don't want to be there, that many are depressed, that many are sedated and that they are sometimes crowded two, three or four to a room. The many deaths and other emerging evidence from other provinces indicate that conditions are no better and may be worse.

We believe that the ongoing mistreatment and the many deaths of seniors in long term care in all provinces in recent weeks represent a violation of basic human rights and that these tragic outcomes are the result of:

- 1) Deeply entrenched ageism and inequality in Canada and all of western society;
- 2) The chronic underfunding of the health care of senior and other vulnerable human beings in Canada;
- 3) The accelerating privatization and commodification of seniors' health care;
- 4) The view of some that seniors are commodities that can be exploited for profit
- 5) A lack of effective government oversight of international investment in seniors' care

We are now reaping the consequences of these discriminatory practices and we have to acknowledge that we are still perpetuating discrimination by allowing so many institutionalized seniors right now to be left to die alone, completely isolated and often in miserable conditions. It doesn't have to be this way.

Continued...

We are, therefore, calling for a complete reform of long-term care provision in Canada

We see this tragedy as a time for our governments to plan and implement transformational change in how we care for our most vulnerable older citizens. We need to make that change right now.

As many of us remember, the institutionalization of children and adults because they were deemed to be mentally ill or disabled in some way, and the legalized sterilization of people deemed to be unfit to reproduce were legal and publicly sanctioned for most of the 20th century in Alberta and B.C.

These practices are now recognized to be inhumane and a violation of human rights.

However, the institutionalization of seniors in large long-term care homes continues to be normalized and is a deeply entrenched practice in developed countries. These institutions even when, or even because, they are publicly funded have come to be regarded internationally as a lucrative market for investors.

To maximize profits for investors, support workers in these care homes, who are mostly women and often recent immigrants, are poorly paid and are given few consecutive hours of work so they have to work in multiple residences and several private homes to make a tolerable wage. In the wake of the current pandemic, frantic government efforts to supplement the pay of these care providers and to take measures to protect their safety are being introduced. But it looks like it's too little and too late for many.

On another front, discrimination on the basis of age is evident in new provincial "ethical" guidelines for medical staff about rights to or cut-offs for life-saving treatment in the event of a scarcity of medical resources. We are told these guidelines are based on utilitarian concepts. These 18th century ideas have been long discredited as the realm of dictators and other tyrants who decide what is the greatest good and for whom. We are concerned that such guidelines discriminate on the basis of age and also sex and normalize further discrimination against seniors in and out of health care situations.

We seniors believe that quality health care for seniors regardless of age or income level needs to be an essential component of our health care system and equally available, whether seniors live in long-term care or not, everywhere in Canada.

Continued...

We therefore recommend that:

- 1) The federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, immediately begin transformational reform of long-term care laws, regulations, practices, and funding levels.
- 2) The federal government initiate a national inquiry into seniors' human rights, and the ongoing privatization of seniors' health care;
- 3) Seniors' health care in long term care become part of Canada Health Act;
- 4) Federal and provincial government ban international investment in private care homes and phase out private ownership of long-term care homes;
- 5) National principles grounded in national and international human rights legislation be developed specifically to protect the rights of seniors in long-term care in Canada;
- 6) Accountability measures based on a national reporting system for monitoring seniors care be developed;
- 7) An independent Canadian Seniors Advocate be appointed to monitor the implementation of these changes and to report directly to parliament.

We look forward to having a productive discussion with you on the way forward as soon as possible.

Trish McAuliffe,
President
National Pensioners Federation

Kathleen Jamieson,
NPF Health Committee Chairperson

“I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places plains, and the crooked places will be made straight, and before the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the mount with.”

- Martin Luther King Jr.

- “The time is always right to do what is right.”
- “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.”
- “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
- “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Sam Wiese, 1st Vice President's Report

COVID -19. We hear that dreaded acronym every day. Sitting in our protected space, doing our best at “sheltering in place”, remembering the “new” rules for when we sneeze or cough (gone is the simple cover your mouth), washing our hands so often our skin is actually breaking down, and donning non-surgical masks as we go out in public where we must keep two metres (six feet) apart. We are frequently reassured that these steps will flatten the curve of infection to such a degree that it will be safe to venture out before a vaccine is actually prepared.

But what about the other toll? You know, that one that is often missed, considered taboo or simply too painful to discuss – our mental health.

Like many individuals who become involved with groups such as the National Pensioners' Federation, I am a true extrovert. I thrive on physical and emotional connection with others. I am the antithesis of the “Don't talk to strangers” caution our mothers gave us and that we frequently give others. I have met people on a flight and immediately gone from the airport to their house as a guest to a family reunion. I have never seen this as reckless behaviour; rather it is my need to be connected and interactive with others.

So, it may be understood how easily I was able to slip into something of a fugue given the restrictions placed on us by this pandemic. Me, depressed? Never! I tell myself. This laying around watching hours of television isn't bad, heck, I'm the cool Gramma, getting into “binge watching” all those shows on Netflix. It's okay if I can no longer do the button up on my jeans, sweat pants and all-day pajamas are the “coronaviral” fashion rage. I'm not ignoring those e-mails and action requests, mañana. That's a vacation theme, and isn't this hanging around home a vacation kind of thing? And I really wasn't being a shrew to my husband, after all he wasn't quite right and he DID slurp his soup!

Yes, indeed, it was so easy to fall into a state of melancholia, as I expect many of us have. On the norm we are social beings, nurtured by the proximity and connection with others. Even those of us who prefer to keep more to ourselves are negatively affected by the fact that such distance is imposed rather than chosen.

I know that we are slowly expanding our “bubbles”, some provinces sooner and more rapidly than others. We know this reopening of businesses and services is going to be quite different than we were accustomed to a few short months ago. Much continues to change and there are still so many unknowns. I definitely don't know what is going to happen over the next few months. I do know that I can easily fall back into a feeling of morose so I am happy to hear and see the frequent public safety announcements encouraging us to reach out for help if our mental health is failing. For me, it was picking up the tools and some old lumber. If social isolation carries on, the grandkids will end up with quite the tree house.

Keeping Connected

Please be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and log onto [our website](#) to keep us connected and supported.

Bernie LaRusic, 2nd Vice President's Report

In April, the COVID-19 Pandemic contributed to a terrible month in Nova Scotia. The murdering of twenty-two innocent people, the crash of the armed services helicopter killing all on board, including members from Nova Scotia. May didn't start well with the loss of a three-year-old child, presumed drowned, and he was with his grandparents. The community has been saddened by these tragedies including the passing of seniors residing in Long-Term Care facilities and the numbers continue to increase.

Federal & Provincial governments took action to address and minimize the effect of the Pandemic on both the economy and health. Much was initiated by these levels of government. Long-Term Care and Home Care were the last to be considered in the health care scenario.

Governments' initiatives in the recovery of the economy are moving forward. Much is being directed to the sustainability of jobs. All good and needed but once again, the senior community doesn't appear to be a consideration. Many senior organizations have operated halls in their community for years. Will the inability of these senior clubs to operate in maintaining their halls be a consideration?

NPF is involved with action on a National Pharmacare Program, activity on extending GIS payments and the one-time senior payment under OAS/GIS. The additional impact from the senior community involvement speaks volumes to politicians. NPF is encouraging their affiliates to remind the higher authority of these concerns.

In early April, I had one of those 30-second spots on CTV, and I had a letter to the editor published all relating to the above. Senior organizations like NPF can put it on the table but its importance will be measured on how it is being heard by the local politicians. I never invented the system: I just know how it works.

Stay safe. Stay home. Stay connected. Stay involved.

Update: Because of the efforts of groups such as NPF and Seniors writing and telephoning their government representatives we are to receive the one-time payment under OAS/GIS, GIS and allowance payments deadline extended, drug co-payments for prescriptions 30+ days dispensed in installments under ODB no charge and at last problems in long-term care, which we have long been talking about came to light.

That is why we have to stay connected, stay involved and keep up the pressure.

Barb Mikulec, 3rd Vice President's Housing Report

Is housing a right?



All levels of government must understand Canadians are feeling stress about their housing needs. Homelessness, tent cities and shelters are not amenable for social distancing. Living on a sidewalk, doorway, crowded tent city or shelter does not allow for sanitation and distancing protocols to be observed.

Is the example from Finland a possible solution? Finns house all people, then work on solving social problems and give services to those needing to connect to social service providers and counsellors. Housing First, in many parts of Canada, uses the principle of finding a housing model which supports the individual with their pet, in a safe environment. The individual is connected to agencies which will help their health issues, and provide enrolment in funding channels which would build stability in their lives.

Where do we make adjustments in this time of COVID-19? Initiating housing for vulnerable citizens is essential, but not for three months, as the longer term must be planned for. Each individual needs to have secure, safe housing. Security of a roof over their head, sanitation, and access to healthy food sources is essential. The outcome would be: less crime, fewer visits to the emergency ward at the hospital, health issues being noticed and treated more quickly, and longer life spans for affected people who had formerly been in precarious housing.

Do we have the will and funds for housing initiatives which will enable all to have secure housing? The federal government has addressed many questions about how health and funding must be found for treating our citizens with compassion as an urgent need, however it must be for the long term.

Another grave concern in the COVID-19 crisis is our housing requirements of our elderly population in long-term housing. Initiatives of having workers engaged in several homes has been recognized as detrimental to health, as a virus can spread. Some provinces quickly initiated only one seniors' residence could employ each worker, not multiple homes. Care workers also need to be paid enough funds and recognized for their essential duties they do for our elderly citizens. Two to four beds to a room do not give adequate space for containment of an infected person. It is essential that long lasting resolutions to the training, funding and support for workers at long-term care facilities must be solved.

Housing some hard-to-house people in seniors' residences also has caused concerns. Persons with mental health issues and addictions may disrupt the seniors in their residences and cause anxiety for their population interactions.

Continued...

Actions:

1. The NPF encourages governments to enforce policies which enable homeless populations to have adequate housing.
2. The NPF urges adequate funding for training, paying workers, and ensuring the safety of long-term patients in all of Canada. Single bedrooms must be the norm.
3. The NPF encourages governments to set up Rent Banks. Seniors, forced out of housing for one-time expenses which a Rent Bank could solve, must have access to lower cost re-payment loans.
4. The NPF urges construction of seniors-only subsidized housing projects or co-operatives and arrange a registry of seniors wanting shared accommodation.
5. Governments could use creative solutions - such as linking housing providers with a funding bridge to enable lower income senior tenants to have secure housing.
6. The NPF asks for consideration of seniors' residences being safe places, with concern over hard-to-house populations increasingly being placed in seniors' buildings.
7. The NPF urges increases in the SAFER grants for housing.

Joint the Housing committee-contact Barb.mikulec@npfmail.ca

Motivation is how we get things done. And achieve big goals in life.

Unfortunately, it's a finite resource - we can run out of motivation unless we replenish it daily.

Listening to music that motivates us, using positive affirmations, reading motivational books and listening to podcasts can all make us want to jump right back up again.

Because, a lot of staying motivated comes from feeding yourself with a steady diet of things that motivate.

<https://thegoalchaser.com/motivational-words-list/>

Kathleen Jamieson, Member at Large Report

“Do not go gentle into that good night ... Rage, rage, against the dying of the light.” (Welsh poet, Dylan Thomas)

The seniors who die alone in long-term care homes across Canada, hostages to COVID-19, did not “go gentle into that good night.” They are trapped in their rooms, continually exposed to infection, and too often living and dying in appalling conditions. Not one single familiar person is permitted to be with them or allowed to visit them even though care aides, nurses, students and even army personnel come and go. It’s as if they are no longer sentient human beings with human rights.

As seniors and as advocates for seniors we hear reports from traumatized care aides, and the nurses and doctors who cared for these seniors as they suffered and died alone. We don’t hear from the residents themselves, they are silenced, and all we see are sad faces in the windows of unmemorable buildings.

The conditions in these long-term care facilities may still not be completely safe for residents and staff. The Globe and Mail (May 10, 2020) quotes Dr Michael Schwandt, a BC Medical Health Officer, as saying: “in some cases, they found COVID-19 to contaminate equipment or parts of the facility ... equipment carts or blood pressure cuffs” after safety testing for the virus showed “the risk of contamination within buildings with COVID-19 is something we have been learning about.”

So, is this an apocalyptic moment where new, hitherto unknown, evidence has emerged about the state of long-term care?

On the contrary, an extensive amount of research has documented serious problems with the provision of long-term care in Canada and how seniors suffer as a consequence. Somehow that information hasn’t entered into the public consciousness until now. And seniors advocating for seniors have lobbied for years for major reforms without much success.

Indeed, instead of improving the lives of those unfortunate enough to be vulnerable seniors, our governments have expedited the privatization of seniors’ long-term care homes. The result is that in Canada and elsewhere long-term care homes, complete with residents and guaranteed government funding, are bought and sold, and marketed internationally as excellent investments. The profit motive then rules not the quality of care and seniors have died as a consequence.

All Canadians need to mourn and to learn from these unexpected deaths of seniors in long-term care residences - currently 80 per cent of all deaths from COVID-19 in Canada.

We need to know who these seniors were, why they were there, and why they had to live and died alone. We are puzzled because the vast majority, the 93.2 per cent of all seniors over 65 years of age, and the 70 per cent over 85 years who do not live-in long-term care (according to Statistics Canada), are not dying unexpectedly. They may be receiving home care or support services in their own homes from family members or from the same undervalued and underpaid care aides that work in long term care homes. If seniors are affluent enough, they may live in expensive assisted living facilities or engage a private care aide or nurse. We don’t hear about any deaths of seniors from COVID-19 in these living arrangements.

Continued...

Statistics Canada admits that it has collected little in the way of statistics about who is living in long-term care. What they know is that there are more likely to be women than men, more likely people who were living alone, more likely people who do not own their own home, and more likely to be Canadian-born women than immigrant women. Given what we know about senior women's poverty, even these meagre statistics suggest that the income and social inequality that many women experience throughout their lives persists into the treatment they receive in their final years of life.

According to recent reports of the BC Seniors Advocate, about half of the seniors in long term care in BC do not want to be there. About half are likely to be depressed, about half are likely to be sedated even when there is no diagnosis of depression, and more than one fifth are administered anti-psychotic drugs even when there is no diagnosis of psychosis.

The lesson from all of this for all Canadians is that we need to stop institutionalizing vulnerable seniors, that we must adapt or create new models of long-term care and that we must build a home support and home care system in every province and territory that, as many opinion polls show, seniors desperately want. We must allow seniors to live safely in their own homes as long as possible.

We now ask that for a start:

- 1) Our federal government immediately set up an independent national inquiry to investigate the circumstances that led up to these tragedies in long-term care homes across Canada to ensure that the history of neglect now revealed does not repeat itself.
- 2) Our federal government implement national standards of care and strong regulations to ensure that we have high quality seniors care available to those who need it across Canada.
- 3) The care for our most vulnerable seniors be publicly funded and delivered, that it not be for profit care or be contracted out to private providers and be operated by publicly accountable bodies responsible directly to Canadians.



Annette O'Connor, Recording Secretary Report

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM A PSYCHOLOGIST:

These are challenging, uncertain times. There are a lot of real reasons to be anxious and stressed.

Here are some suggestions:

MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS TIPS FOR QUARANTINE

1. Stick to a routine. Go to sleep and wake up at a reasonable time, write a schedule that is varied and includes time for work as well as self-care.
2. Dress for the social life you want, not the social life you have. Get showered and dressed in comfortable clothes, wash your face, brush your teeth. Take the time to do a bath or a facial. Put on some bright colors. It is amazing how our dress can impact our mood.
3. Get out at least once a day, for at least thirty minutes. If you are concerned about contact, try first thing in the morning, or later in the evening, and try less travelled streets and avenues. If you are high risk or living with those who are high risk, open the windows and blast the fan. It is amazing how much fresh air can do for spirits.
4. Find some time to move each day, again daily for at least thirty minutes. If you don't feel comfortable going outside, there are many YouTube videos that offer free movement classes, and if all else fails, turn on the music and have a dance party!
5. Reach out to others, you guessed it, at least once daily for thirty minutes. Try to do FaceTime, Skype, phone calls, texting—connect with other people to seek and provide support. Don't forget to do this for your children as well. Set up virtual playdates with friends daily via FaceTime, Facebook Messenger Kids, Zoom, etc.—your kids miss their friends, too!
6. Stay hydrated and eat well. This one may seem obvious, but stress and eating often don't mix well, and we find ourselves over-indulging, forgetting to eat, and avoiding food. Drink plenty of water, eat some good and nutritious foods, and challenge yourself to learn how to cook something new!

Be safe.



April 15, 2020

Letter to the Editor

Today the Canadian government announced relief for federally regulated pension plan sponsors.

Once again, government has prioritized business over pensioners, bonuses over pensions.

The Canadian Federation of Pensioners supports government efforts to support businesses through these dire economic times, but not at the expense of pensioners.

Because while the measures announced “a moratorium, through the remainder of 2020, on solvency payment requirements for defined benefit plans” and hinted at similar relief for 2021, there was no provision to protect pensioners in the event of insolvency. If the economy is in dire straits to the point that the government is willing to provide this relief insolvencies are likely.

As announced, there are no restrictions on companies buying back shares, paying bonuses or special dividends. There doesn't even seem to be a means test to qualify for this relief.

This is simply a transfer of millions, perhaps billions, from pensioners to companies which will be exposed should any of these companies file for insolvency. A transfer that pensioners did not approve or, in fact, have any input to.

Governments, through legislation, have ensured pensioners have no input to the management of their pensions. Governments have reserved this control for themselves. Time and time again, governments have abused this power.

This is only the most recent example.

Michael Powell, President
Canadian Federation of Pensioners
www.pensioners.ca

*The Op-Ed was submitted (but not printed to the Globe and Mail and other media contacts.

**It was also forwarded to the federal government and generate a discussion with the Federal Seniors Ministry and the Federal Ministry of Finance.

Post Pandemic

Initially, the mandated responses to economy and health as main categories were necessary. Funding to a variety of concerns with businesses/employees were put forward. When the Health Authority was given the green light to prepare for COVID-19, hospitals were advised to put in place protocols to assist in delivering care. The main message to the general population, including signs of COVID-19 as well as: “Stay Safe” “Stay Home” “Wash Hands” Home Care & Long-Term Care are front line employees involved with the senior community, including those defined as low income, disabled, more vulnerable. Collectively, Health Authorities focused on hospital care services. A bell should have gone off when the discharge of patients/seniors could not occur due to another necessary protocol: self-isolation.

Home Care and Long-Term Care administrators’ roles increased dramatically. Initially it was the limited direction received from the health authorities compounded by the increase and leading to short supply of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE): gloves, masks, gowns.

The canceling of Community Health Teams is another example of limited communication. There are three, located in Halifax/Dartmouth area where most of Nova Scotia’s significant health care facilities, hospital, research, university training, are located.

Communication is said to be a two-way street. There appears to be a STOP sign from those on the front-line, in-home care and long-term care in reaching decision makers. When a review of the response to the pandemic is put in place, I encourage a better understanding relating to the benefits of a two-way street in dealing with continuing care communications.

Bernie LaRusic
Senior Advocate

History repeats itself. This poem was written in 1869 by Kitty O’Meara, during the Irish potato famine and was reprinted during the 1919 Spanish flu pandemic.

This is timeless...

And people stayed home
And read books and listened
And rested and exercised
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped
And listened deeper
Someone meditated
Someone prayed
Someone danced
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed
And in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
Even the earth began to heal
And when the danger ended
And people found each other
Grieved for the dead people
And they made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of life
And healed the earth completely
Just as they were healed themselves.



The Ontario Federation of Union Retirees Report



The Ontario Federation of Union Retirees (OFUR), with funds provided by the Ontario Seniors Grant Program, held its first Seniors Fire Safety Symposium for senior leaders on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 in Hamilton, ON. This event brought together Hamilton seniors to network and connect with one another and enhance social participation, while focusing on key issues of seniors' wellness and safety for individuals and within their communities. Over 70 individuals representing residential settings, long-term care, retirement homes and local senior organizations participated in this well-received event.

Ontario long-term care facilities and private retirement homes are required by law to have safety plans in place for residents, including emergency planning in case of fire and other risks. As of January 1, 2019, all Ontario retirement and long-term care facilities are required to have automatic sprinkler systems in place. Despite this, there still seems to be a lack of awareness about fire safety in all seniors' dwellings and/or adequate systems and protocols to create safe living environments for older adults. We believe that fire safety in all types of seniors' dwellings is an issue that is often overlooked and one that should be more prioritized. We know from the heartbreaking stories we have seen in the news how important it is to increase awareness about fire safety and emergency preparedness in order to not only prevent, but to minimize, the devastating effects that can be caused by fires.

This fire safety symposium highlighted what to do in the event of a fire in your house, apartment building or retirement community, learn how to prevent fires, how to prepare for an emergency and how to become a Senior Fire Safety Ambassador for your peers.

OFUR is grateful for the help and support of the Hamilton Fire Department under Chief David Cunliffe for his opening remarks and for providing his staff and resources for workshops on Fire Prevention and Fire Safety, Claudio Mostacci, Assistant Chief Fire Prevention Officer, Hamilton Fire Department and Emergency Management and Emergency Preparedness, Connie Verhaeghe, Senior Emergency Management Coordinator, Hamilton Fire Department. OFUR also thanks Carla MacDonald, Assistant Deputy Chief, Hamilton Fire Department and Steve McArthur, Fire Safety Officer, Hamilton Fire Department for their initial interest and support of the idea and concept for OFUR's 1st Seniors Fire Safety Symposium.

The Ontario Federation of Union Retirees (OFUR) works on behalf of retired union members in the province, as well as for the welfare of all retirees. We educate and advocate for improvements to seniors' safety and wellbeing on issues of health care, long-term care, senior's housing, pension security and pharmacare. OFUR believes in improving aging experiences for Ontarians by increasing knowledge and capacity through the skills, expertise and experience of retirees.

Suzanne Clancy, President

OFUR

sclancy3@cogeco.ca

905-807-7173

Thank you to all those workers who are out there
risking their lives on our behalf:

- Doctors** **Personal Support Workers**
Nurses **Ambulance Drivers** **Firefighters**
Healthcare Administrative Support
Gas Station Attendants **Maintenance Staff**
Police Officers **Security Personnel** **Truck Drivers**
Cleaning Staff
Public Transportation Employees **Taxi Drivers**
IT Support Staff **Utility Workers** **Public Servants**
Store and Warehouse Staff
Restaurant Employees **Bank Employees**
Media Staff Newspapers, Radio and Television

**Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies
University of Regina**

**PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR
RESEARCH IN**

Leisure, work, and retirement

We are looking for people born between 1946-1965 to take part in a study of *work and retirement transitions among baby boomers*.

As a participant in this study, you will be asked to participate in an online blog by sharing your experiences and perceptions of leisure, work and retirement.

Your participation would involve 4 sessions per year for three years, each of which is approximately two weeks. You will be asked to log on to the blog about 5 times in each session.

You will receive a screen name to protect confidentiality.

In appreciation for your time, you will receive a *\$50.00 gift card annually*.

For more information about this study, or to volunteer for this study, please contact:

Rebecca Genoe
Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies
at
306-585-4781 or
Email: rebecca.genoe@uregina.ca

**This study has been reviewed and received approval
through the Research Ethics Board, University of Regina.**

Some Good News for Seniors for a Change

Prime Minister Trudeau has now announced (May 12, 2020) some new measures that will help to alleviate some of the stress that seniors experience because of COVID-19.

First of all, seniors receiving OAS will receive a one-time non-taxable payment of \$300. Low income seniors receiving GIS will get an additional non-taxable \$200. Seniors do not have to apply for these payments.

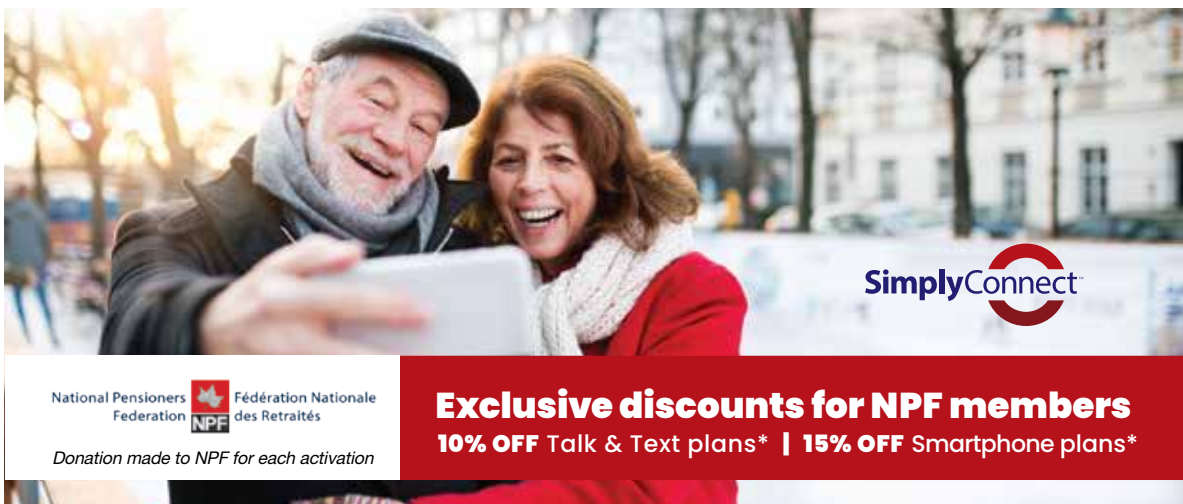
In addition, funding to the government New Horizons Program has been extended by \$20 million for community-based projects that help seniors.

Minister of Seniors, Deb Shulte, previously announced a one-time payment through the GST tax credit and the reduction of minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income funds by 25 per cent in 2020.


These are all meant to be one-time responses to the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on seniors.

PM Trudeau said that more work needs to be done for seniors in the longer term. During the last election he promised an increase in the OAS for seniors over 75 years and an increase in CPP survivors benefits. Putting that promise into action would also help right now.

Submitted by Kathleen Jamieson



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*Some conditions apply, call for details.

COSCO Health Committee report, May 6, 2020

Seniors Health Care Issues in the Age of Covid-19

Seniors are deeply impacted by everything that is happening around COVID-19 but, as I noted in my April report to you, we seniors have little or no say in any of the policy-related planning around improvements in seniors' care now or in the future. Seniors are constantly reminded that we are most at risk but we are not partners in our own health care. Instead we seem to be viewed as passive victims or a possibly demented minority.

The COVID-19 deaths in long term care homes in Canada - now being reported by Canada's Dr Tam as 79 per cent of all deaths from COVID-19 - and the ongoing revelations about the grim conditions and seniors' suffering in many long-term care homes is the outcome of the way that our society has come to regard seniors - superfluous at best and now collateral damage.

As members of seniors' organizations; we meet, we learn, do research, attend conferences, write articles in newsletters, submit briefs and letters to governments, lobby politicians on health care matters and seek out allies. Despite all that we seem powerless to affect the health care policies that impact on us most.

We still hope for a better future. Since our last meeting, I drafted a letter for NPF in consultation with President Trish McAuliffe on long term care with specific recommendations on the way forward. The letter went to Prime Minister Trudeau and other federal ministers. I also write on the issues for COSCO as Health Committee Chair and work on raising awareness on seniors' issues as co-chair of the BC Health Coalition.

For the NPF newsletter, I am writing an article reviewing the more positive findings of the academic research on long term care in other countries.

In BC, seniors do not have a voice in government plans for seniors and we have not been asked to comment on what is happening to us by government or the media. We are invisible.

There still does not appear to be any national coordinated plan or strategy for seniors' health care that responds to COVID-19 far less than for the future.

In BC, a special COVID-19 committee of five MLAs headed up by the Seniors Advocate has been established to look at seniors' issues. We assume they are making policy decisions but no seniors' organizations have been invited to participate in any way.

We want to see a coordinated plan for seniors' health care and to be consulted on matters that affect us and that we are knowledgeable about.

We may need to do things differently to make our voices heard.

Long term care

The Face in the Window

The image of a sad lonely face in the window of a long-term care home will long remain emblematic of the COVID-19 Pandemic. It is particularly shocking for seniors to see these faces since they could be any one of us.

But even more shocking is that despite the many public protestations of horror that almost half of all the deaths from COVID-19 are of seniors in long term care and the acknowledgement that the care that was provided was second-rate all along, the lives of those remaining in long term care homes may now be worse than before.

These seniors who helped to build Canada are now prisoners locked in their facility, fearful, lonely, unable to go outside even when there is a garden, and unable to have even one family member visit or stay with them even when they are ill or dying. They may indeed die all alone.



Much could be done to improve their situation immediately. For example, a partner or relative could be tested, gowned and masked and allowed to remain by the bedside of those seniors who are bed-ridden or dying. Tablets or laptops could be acquired to facilitate regular and direct communication with friends and relatives. Entertainment and special food could be provided. Monitoring reports should be frequent and available to the media and the public.



By Kathleen Jamieson

On the road to a two-tier health care system in B.C.

Tommy Douglas must be turning in his grave.

The BC NDP government has suddenly announced that it plans to use private surgical clinics in BC to reduce the backlog of elective surgeries that were put on hold because of COVID-19. It looks like the contracts with BC private clinics are signed and it was all negotiated behind closed doors.

This dramatic right turn from the arguments made by the BC NDP government and others in the 10-year Cambie case that recently concluded is hard to understand. Until three months ago, the BC government was arguing in court against the use of private surgical clinics in BC saying that these clinics provide inequitable access to needed surgery and so create a two-tier system that benefits the affluent over everyone else. They also argued with others that it undermines the important principle of equal access to medically necessary health care services enshrined in the Canada Health Act. The BC government spent millions of our dollars fighting the case. We are currently waiting for the judgement to be handed down.

No-one thinks that keeping people waiting and in pain for surgery is acceptable. But turning to private clinics to provide this care is not just a failure of principle, it's a short-term solution that strengthens and normalises the private system using public funds instead of using public money to strengthen our public health care system.

Submitted by Kathleen Jamieson

NPF COMMITTEES NEED YOU!

"After the pandemic" discussions and policies are developing NOW and we need all hands-on deck! Seniors everywhere need to be involved and heard from as our governments begin to start listening. There is always work to be done and we need your skills and interests as committee members are an essential part of any advocacy group, please join with us!

1. Health
2. Housing
3. Resolutions & Political Action
4. Finance
5. Communication and Outreach

The President, with the support of the executive shall form committees of members to work on behalf of NPF. The terms of reference for these committees can be found on the NPF website under tab "Committee Terms of Reference" Your participation or input is always appreciated. Please contact mary.forbes@npfmail.ca

Thank you



Letter to Minister of Seniors

April 19, 2020

Greetings Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors

RE: COVID and Seniors

The COVID-19 pandemic does not discriminate. We are all included, but the senior community has been the hardest hit. The Federal and Provincial governments have been providing daily updates on programs to address the economy and health initiatives are all good but the reaction to address the senior community involving long-term care and home care has only now touched a sense of some priority. Terms like low income, the disabled, most vulnerable, not only have definitions, they are well-represented in our senior community. Many seniors are struggling on low incomes based on GIS/OAS payments. Disabled seniors have difficulties in caring for themselves and living in isolation. The deemed vulnerable could be viewed as a combination related to all of the mentioned. So what has changed under COVID-19?

First: The question of the protection of prescription drug supply. Seniors, many on 7-10 meds are now limited to a 30-day supply. They are facing additional cost with their 90-day supply cut, requiring additional trips to pharmacies, mounting dispensing costs as well as risking exposure to this highly infectious virus we all face. Has anyone truly justified such drastic impact on those living within marginal incomes?

Second: Accountable and proactive responses for seniors' health care providers. Those working in long-term care and home care were the last to receive more appropriate direction and supplies relating to protection, both for themselves and those being in their care. The national record of infections and death are indeed telling truths. The most vulnerable were last to be of concern for appropriate protocols.

Third: Hospitalized seniors not having support to be discharged due to self-isolation remain in hospital beds or left to tragically die in fear without family or familiar comforts.

Yes, the recovering of the economy is important as well as the health initiatives for the general population but there is an obvious missed mark by governments. Although not well known, earlier, the N S Senior Advisory Council aka Group of IX, recently put forward information on these concerns of the senior community to government, similar to their position in 2016 when there was a major proposal in raising the fees on pharmacare.

The intent of my letter today is to communicate to the decision makers that the most vulnerable is more than a definition. It is the voice of senior organizations when speaking on behalf of the senior community which should receive much better attention. Seniors organizations are built and thrive to improve our lives and communication for such problems in our society. Let's work together.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/mandate-letters/2019/12/13/minister-seniors-mandate-letter>

Respectfully,

Trish McAuliffe
President,
National Pensioners Federation

Bernie LaRusic
2nd Vice President,
National Pensioners Federation
and Seniors Advocate

Johnson Travel Insurance UPDATE

At Johnson Insurance, our core objective is to protect customers from unforeseen events. And today, with a worldwide travel advisory, our customers would never have expected such a challenging time for travel.

During 2020, we have already supported thousands of MEDOC® customers on their journey back to Canada and we continue to provide medical coverage for many Canadians who have been unable to return. The number of travel insurance claims has tripled and our teams are working around the clock to ensure that we serve all members to the standards that they deserve. Here are some important updates:

Existing Claims

The number of claims in 2020 is much higher than previous years and processing claims will take approximately 8-12 weeks. Customers can visit this claims portal to check on their claim but rest assured that all claims will be addressed and customers will be contacted. Thanks for your patience during this challenging time.

New Claims

To make a claim, customers can visit this claims portal operated by our claims partner Global Excel®. Please note that only non-refundable and non-transferrable amounts are covered.

Reissue Update

To ensure we focus our efforts on serving our travel insurance customers during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have delayed our reissue process and customers will not get a MEDOC reissue email in May. We'll provide an update in the very near future.

Supplemental Coverage Refunds

Annual travel insurance covers multiple trips and can be paid over 12 months. Partial refunds may be available only for extensions or supplemental coverage purchased if travel was cut short and additional coverage was not required.

MEDOC customers purchase an annual travel insurance policy for a variety of reasons. Some take a long trip in the winter and others travel one or more times throughout the year. For all customers we understand how this pandemic has impacted your plans. Rest assured that your Trip Cancellation coverage continues for trips booked prior to the travel advisory. Travel within Canada is also still covered, and your policy is still in force.

However, we truly understand the concerns of those who are unable to travel and we are reviewing how MEDOC can continue to provide exceptional value to all our customers now and for years to come.

We are pleased that the majority of our customers have already travelled during the busy winter season and we are happy to support the unprecedented numbers who have submitted a claim. Most travellers have returned safely to Canada, while we work with others who were unable to make it home and still have coverage in place with MEDOC. For more details and a list of common questions please visit [Johnson.ca/coronavirus](https://johnson.ca/coronavirus).

Thank you for your patience as we work extremely hard to support all our customers.

Johnson Insurance

Johnson Insurance is a tradename of Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance intermediary, and operates as Johnson Insurance Services in British Columbia and Johnson Inc. in Manitoba. MEDOC® is a Registered Trademark of JI. This insurance product is administered by JI and underwritten by Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company of Canada ("RSA"). Valid provincial or territorial health plan coverage required. Travel Assistance provided by Global Excel Management Inc. The eligibility requirements, terms, conditions, limitations and exclusions which apply to the described coverage are as set out in the policy. Policy wordings prevail. JI and RSA share common ownership. Call 1-866-606-3362 for details. ®"Global Excel" and the Global Excel logo are registered trademarks of Global Excel Management Inc.

Scholarship Program 2020

OPEN: April 22, 2020

*"Teacher's pet?
That's me."*



Johnson Insurance is proud to offer 50 scholarships, valued at \$1000 each, to eligible students completing high school in 2020 and starting post-secondary education in the fall of 2020.

Johnson Insurance has awarded over 1500 scholarships valued at more than \$1 million to support young Canadians across Canada in pursuit of their post-secondary education.

Application Deadline: July 15, 2020

To learn more, visit [Johnson.ca/scholarship](https://johnson.ca/scholarship)
Toll Free : 1-844-567-1237
scholarshipfund@johnson.ca

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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 - 2186 Stanfield Road, Mississauga ON L4Y 1R5
mary.forbes@npfmail.ca Phone # 905-306-1830

Thank you!

National Pensioners Federation

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.

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 that process that we each use to create our autonomy.

We respect affiliates autonomy while we unit together 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 annual 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 of 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 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 of their members through that annual affiliation fee. Each member who signs in to 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



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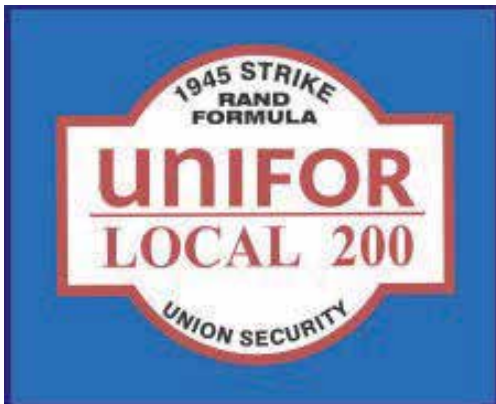
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Don't Plan for Seniors ...

Plan with Seniors



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Vice Chairperson: Pam Strong
Treasurer : Mike Lepine
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Windsor Essex/Chatham
Kent Area

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

Saluting the National Pensioners Federation

The Executive & Membership of the Retired Workers Chapter of **UNIFOR** Auto Workers Local 222

President - Les MacDonald

Vice-President - Lyle Hargrove

Treasurer - Art Field

Secretary - Wendy Rolfe

Sergeant at Arms - Mike Saunders

Female Member at Large - Debbie Korson

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**1425 Phillip Murray Ave., Oshawa, ON L1J 8L4
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www.local222retirees.ca



Letter to Prime Minister

May 27, 2020

House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Ministers Morneau and Schulte,

RE: Financial security for seniors, today.

I write to you on behalf of the one million seniors affiliated through membership to the National Pensioners Federation. Our economic outlook for seniors is no different than all others you are taking heed to support and secure financially. Our combined concerns outlined below are to ensure our economy survives during this pandemic lockdown and into the future.

To date we have to raise the question of your commitment to continue with the Liberal Party's 2019 election promise to increase OAS by 10 per cent once a senior turns 75, and boost the CPP survivor benefit by 25 per cent. These updates are supposed to take effect in July 2020 and be indexed to inflation. Our membership has taken notice the government hasn't indicated whether it's on track to implement these promises by that time. What information/update can you provide today?

Additionally, many of our seniors are being gravely impacted by the declining market valuations of their personal investment portfolios. Seniors who depend on their life savings are feeling very anxious and hope that you would provide more relief in the elimination of mandatory withdrawals in their RRIF and LIRA accounts. Noting the government has already lowered the required withdrawals by 25 per cent, we ask that you go further. Many Canadians could also benefit from a temporary elimination of taxes on RRSP withdrawals, with a repayment plan that would both help Canadians and our economy.

All that said, our aim is to provide a direct ask that you continue to provide seniors, and others, a sense of calm that the economy will improve and that you are ready to help them get through these lean times. I am looking forward to your immediate consideration and response so that I may report back to our affiliates across Canada. Your earliest communication on the election promise, so noted, would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Trish McAuliffe
President,
National Pensioners Federation
trish.mcauliffe@npfmail.ca



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

2186 Stanfield Road

Mississauga, ON

L4Y 1R5