

# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010

Volume 10 Issue 4

National Pensioners and  
Senior Citizens Federation



La Fédération National Des  
Retraîés et Citoyens Agés

4635 Whispering Willow Drive  
Navan, Ontario

K48 1J1, Phone: 613-835-3495

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



What a Challenge! After being elected President at our recent Convention in Ottawa I have had to hit the ground running to meet the many responsibilities of this position. Meeting potential new affiliates, researching documents passed along from the Past President, learning the many issues that need our support and presenting our priorities to federal government officials have kept me busy this November.

In particular, our meetings with the Minister of State for Seniors, Hon. Diane Ablonczy, and several bureaucrats in HRSDC allowed us to get to know each other a little better and highlight the pressing need for action on Home Care/Home Support, a 16% increase in the GIS, doubling the CPP benefits through a multi-year phase-in, a National Pharmacare program and setting up a National Health Literacy program modeled on the COSCO program in B.C..

.... Continued on page 4 ....

**If Not Delivered Please Return To:**  
FERN HAIGHT  
BOX 393  
HANLEY, SK., S0G 2E0

**New mail out for fall edition**

# THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS AND SENIOR CITIZENS FEDERATION INCORPORATED

National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation Executive

Website: [www.npscf.org](http://www.npscf.org)

Toll Free: 1-877-251-7042

---

## Executive for NPSCF 2009-2010

### President

**Barry Thorsteinson**

4635 Whispering Willow Dr  
Navan, ON.  
K4B 1J1  
Phone: 613-835-3495

Email: [barryt@cupe.ca](mailto:barryt@cupe.ca)

### Secretary

**Fern Haight**

Box 393  
Hanley, SK.  
S0G 2E0  
Phone: 306-544-2737  
Fax: 306-544-2757

Email: [fern.h@sasktel.net](mailto:fern.h@sasktel.net)

### Past President

**Art Kube**

16646-84 Ave.  
Surrey, B.C.  
V5N 4Z4  
Phone/Fax: 604-576-8000

Email: [aakube@telus.net](mailto:aakube@telus.net)

### Treasurer

**Sandra Carricato**

2389 Head Road  
Port Perry, ON.  
L9L 1B4  
Phone: 905-985-8170

Email: [Sandy.carricato@gmail.com](mailto:Sandy.carricato@gmail.com)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**John Gatens**

1 Joshua Blvd.  
Brooklin, ON.  
L1M 2J1  
Phone: 905-655-6314

Email: [johngatens@rogers.com](mailto:johngatens@rogers.com)

### Member at Large

**Winnie Fraser-MacKay**

75 Cape Rd. RR #1  
North Lake Harbour, PEI  
C1A 9J2  
Phone:  
Fax:

Email: [winniesbeachhouse@pei.sympatico.ca](mailto:winniesbeachhouse@pei.sympatico.ca)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

**Sheila Righi**

315 28<sup>th</sup> St. E.  
Prince Albert, SK.  
S6V 1X4  
Phone: 306-922-8238

Email: [frerig@sasktel.net](mailto:frerig@sasktel.net)

### Member at Large

**Jack Morrison**

P.O. Box 639  
Lundar, MB.  
R0C 1Y0

Email: [morri26@mts.net](mailto:morri26@mts.net)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President

**Mary Fleck**

Box 575  
Margaree Forks, N.S.  
B0E 2A0  
Phone: 902-248-2838

Email: [maryteapot@hotmail.com](mailto:maryteapot@hotmail.com)

**“Don’t Plan For Seniors,  
Plan with Seniors”**

# 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.

### **\*\* Notice \*\***

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

*All editorial matter published in this NPSCF newsletter represents the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the publication's editor or the NPSCF. Statements and opinions expressed do not represent the official policy of NPSCF unless so stated.*

*Seniors are an Asset  
not a Burden to Society*



## Table of Contents

President, Barry Thorsteinson	1
NPSCF Executive	2
NPSCF Objectives	3
President, Barry Thorsteinson continued	4
1 <sup>st</sup> V.P. John Gatens	5
2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P. Sheila Righi	6
Get Well Wishes	6
3 <sup>rd</sup> V.P. Mary Fleck	7
Treasurer, Sandy Carricato	8, 9
Secretary, Fern Haight	10
Member at Large, Winnie Fraser MacKay	11
Executive (Acknowledgement)	12
Jim Keon, President of CGPA	13
Diane Urquhart-Nortel Disabled Workers Bill	14, 15
Letters to Government by NPSCF President	16
Night Before Christmas	17, 18
Local 222. Retired Workers Chapter of CAW	19
CAW Retirees Area Council	20
CAW Local 200, Retired Workers Chapter	20
NPSCF Advertisement	20
Johnson Insurance Advertisement	21

... continued from page 1

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The five priorities above are all arising from our recent Convention. We will continue to lobby the Members of Parliament in the weeks ahead leading up to the federal Budget. We will also be pressing our other policies as adopted at Convention in our brief to be submitted to government. We have some persuading to do. Finance Minister Flaherty has just announced that there will be no money for major new spending in the budget. Well, he can do better than this. He is also promising another \$6 Billion bonanza for further corporate tax cuts. Seniors are far more important and we will be heard from!

We can do it. Two years ago in November this same Finance Minister tabled a financial update that said that Canada would still be in a budget surplus at the time and that no stimulus spending was necessary. He dramatically changed his mind (and numbers) by the time his budget was tabled three months later. The difference was political pressure. All seniors take note: pressure wins. We can sit back, do nothing and nothing changes. Or we can make a difference. Let your Member of Parliament know that you want to see meaningful progress on Seniors' issues. We are a growing and influential political force only when we make our voices heard. Politicians listen.

A few days ago the House of Commons supported a report from the Committee on human resources to pursue a strategy to reduce poverty. The report, three years in the making, includes seniors, as it should. Homelessness, the disabled and other areas such as skills training were also addressed.

The big question, even though the government members supported the report, is what will come of it?

The answer will be in the budget. Again, we have to pressure all Members of Parliament in their ridings to get moving now on seniors issues, especially where seniors live in poverty. We can do it. If you need assistance to contact your MP, let us know.

As you see, our priority for the next three months will be to press forward with government officials on our many issues needing attention. In your own way, help us help you by letting your elected officials know that action is needed. Now.

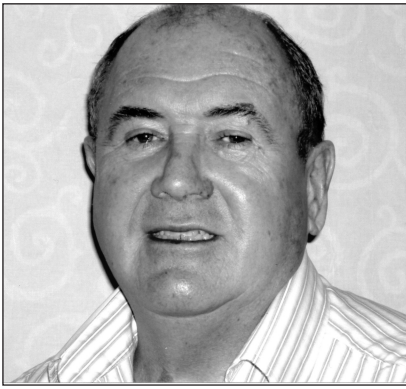
In closing, I would like to extend a special thank you to Art Kube, Past President and Jim Hayes, our Legislative Director, for their valuable assistance in acquainting me with the many needs of the Federation and their capable assistance in meetings with government officials as mentioned earlier.

Finally, I am extending a welcome to anyone to let me know of any matter that you feel needs attention especially in the area of building our Federation. Thank you for your best efforts in the days ahead.

Barry Thorsteinson, President

president@npscf.org

## Greetings from your 1<sup>st</sup> vice president: John Gatens



Once again we find ourselves at that special time of year, regardless of your faith or religious belief since there seems to be a celebration of some kind or other for most of us. My own happens to be Christmas. I still enjoy Christmas although not quite as much as I used to. For example it seems the older we get the sooner Christmas comes around and then there's the problem of choosing gifts. It is easy when your children and grandchildren are young but once they are grown we find money is the simplest solution but then again therein lies the problem for many seniors. Money! Living on a fixed income presents financial concerns all year round but for many seniors it is especially hard at this time of year. Each year there is an ever growing number of seniors using food banks and, relying on the good works from organizations like the Salvation Army. This is shameful in a country like Canada. It exposes the very real need for change and improvement in our pensions and guaranteed income level.

The other thing that comes to mind at this particular time of year is how many seniors are lonely, especially the older ones whose friends and family have gone, or those whose family neglect them. Those of us who can, should try to visit or adopt a senior who is lonely and bring some human contact to them, please do, you will feel good about it.

No doubt some of our executive will write about our last convention and that we now have a newly elected president, Barry Thorsteinson, he is a young man who has recently retired, who has excellent credentials and experience dealing with government officials. I believe he will take us in a proactive direction bringing with him the enthusiasm and drive required to take us to greater levels of success in dealing with the many problems a growing number of seniors face. Having said that I want to publicly thank our past President Art Kube for his great leadership, foresight, wisdom and guidance, whose energy was only foiled by age and the usual physical ailments it brings. Art thank you for your personal kindness and encouragement I know you will still play a very important role in our organization. I hope you will finally get some time now to travel abroad with your good wife Mary, you have earned it Art, and that both of you enjoy better health in the future. Welcome Barry and a great big thank you Art.

Best wishes and a merry Christmas to all our readers;

From John Gatens your 1<sup>st</sup> vice president.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents Report

### Sheila Righi



Our 66 Annual Convention was a very busy one, with 87 delegates, 9 executive and one visitor, lots of round table discussions, trying to make informed decisions on the best way to approach governments on behalf of the “Seniors” of Canada. Which is a difficult task with all the different organizations requesting grants or monies in other ways.

We did hear from Hon. Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State in charge of Seniors; Hon. Judy Sgro, Liberal M.P. and Hon. Wayne Maraton, NDP P.M. Remarks that were made does give reason for hope that some issues we are lobbying for, on behalf of seniors, could happen. These were in the area of health and better pensions.

Diane Urquhart gave another excellent presentation and continues to work on behalf of all Seniors.

Our President Art Kube has resigned as president and our new president Barry Thorsteinson has big shoes to fill, wishing you Good Luck in this capacity, and thanks to Art who was very compassionate toward seniors and issues concerning them.

Good Luck to all the Executive in the coming year.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Bright New Year.

Sheila Righi

---

---

“Friends are angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly.”

---

---

### ***Get Well Wishes From All Your Friends***

- ❖ NPSCF extends get well wishes to Winnie Fraser MacKay. We wish you a very speedy recovery after your recent surgery.
- ❖ Art Kube is not well. We hope that there will be improvement in your health in the days ahead

Our thoughts and prayers are with you both, ***GET WELL SOON.***

The Editor

## REPORT FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT Mary Fleck



As I am writing this report the snow is falling, gently and not really gathering. The world appears so peaceful that it's hard to believe the dismal happenings occurring.

We were supposed to be withdrawing troops, and they'd soon be home. That's not about to happen! God be with them, their families and loved ones.

The opinions on whether or not they should be removed varies from person to person and all are either definitely for, or definitely against their removal.

Now another civil war seems to be imminent ... South and North Korea. Another area for our young Canadians to "keep peace"??

I wonder how many remember taking history courses in high school or university. There we learned that as the worlds finances worsened, the more likely wars would be declared. This was supposedly the answer to it all. The employment of youth in the armed services, employment for adults in the manufacture of war machinery.

Then there is Haiti, the disastrous weather, the outbreak of life threatening illnesses. So much assistance is needed, but now arises the question of where the money is going, or has gone!

These are the world problems ... what about right here ... here in Canada?

We have senior citizens living without a home, HOMELESS! We have snior citizens unable to obtain needed medication, unable to eat healthfully, unable to have warmth in the winter, unable to buy suitable clothing.

When we, the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation, held our annual meeting/convention in Ottawa, we were told that the poverty level is \$19,000.00/yr. Personally, I know several people who would feel they were wealthy if they had that income!

After reading all this, we are made aware of the fact that, if one is wealthy enough, and smart enough, one can pretty well avoid paying ANY income taxes. This is very wrong.

Again I must say that the many problem situations which exist for senior citizens seem to be similar across our country. I believe that life is more difficult for the rural senior than the urban senior. The availability of resources is greater in the cities and their immediate suburbs.

As Christmas is approaching I know that a perfect Christmas is not always possible, but, may yours be as close to perfect as it can be, and may you find happiness in it!

To all those who do not clebrate Christmas, find happiness in your holiday and also enjoy it.

Bless you all,

Mary Fleck

## From the desk of the Treasurer Sandy Carricato



Has winter weather arrived in your part of the country yet? It is raining here as I write, but just a few days ago driving home from Sault Ste. Marie I experienced horrendous winter driving conditions. I suppose that is why Canadians always talk about the weather. Rain, snow, and warm spring like sunny days all in the same week, but we should consider ourselves lucky. We very seldom if ever have to deal with national catastrophes like they have to in some parts of the world. Enjoy the winter season after all we are CANADIANS.

On a more serious note I'm writing about a very serious issue. Our federal and provincial government and business leaders are negotiating a "deal" behind the backs of Canadians. It's called Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. (CETA)

"Free Trade" deals have had a very negative affect on our economy in my opinion. Our governments have not kept its citizens upper most in their thoughts when negotiating these deals.

We are told that "free trade" will create good jobs and better social service but in fact we have experienced major declines in our great country. Unprecedented layoffs, lowering of our environmental standards and weakening public services is a result of these negotiations.

CETA threatens to privatize and deregulate many of our public services. This includes electrical utilities, labour laws, financial and bank regulations and even our mail delivery.

How does CETA threaten our water? CETA would limit how our governments regulate the profit-making activities of private water corporations. How can we forget Walkerton and we had provincial regulations? This agreement could give multinational water companies unprecedented access to our drinking water services and maybe even a claim to our precious water itself.

It could allow European corporation's unrestricted access to the purchasing contracts of our governments. So instead of purchasing the goods and services they need from local companies, our governments may be forced to use our tax dollars to create jobs and business opportunities in Europe instead. This could result in job losses for our workforce using our taxes to send jobs overseas!



Treasurers Report continued .....

The European Union wants all of our public services covered by the CETA, including our health care. This will expose our Medicare to more privatization and higher generic drug costs. Drug costs are the leading cause of increased health care budgets across the country and this is/should be a major concern for seniors. According to Angelo Persichilli a political editor, we condemn our politicians when they spend \$200 for a dinner, but we ignore negotiations that can remove billions of dollars from our pockets and give them to multinational corporations. In the October 31, 2010 edition of the Toronto Star, he writes that the European Union is subtly pushing Canada to extend patent protection for brand-name drugs. If the pharmaceutical companies get what they want, billions of dollars will be taken out of our pockets and redirected straight into their bank accounts. There are two groups of pharmaceutical companies – the brand-name multinationals and the generic companies that can manufacture the same drugs, at a cheaper price when the patent expires. Most of the brand-name companies are based in Europe and the United States, while we have a strong Canadian owned presence among generic drug production.

Most recently Tony Clement has temporarily rejected the foreign takeover of our potash industry. Potash is a key component used in fertilizer. In the Toronto Star (Dec 1) the mining company Vale said it was evaluating a 2.9 million tonne potash project in Saskatchewan. Vale mining was given a Canadian grant in NFLD and closed the mine and look at what they did in Sudbury. Vale is a Brazilian company, but my understanding is that it is actually owned by a Chinese company.

How about the Hamilton Steel mill that is closing its doors to its workers, the owners have steel mills in the United States, they claim they are losing money in Canada and will close the mill. Many jobs will be lost.

I have heard the argument that these issues are not senior's issues but we have to consider the fact that if our young do not have jobs and good paying jobs, the government doesn't get the revenue from taxes and seniors social safety nets have to be cut. Someone has to pay the bills.

Our Prime Minister wants to review the secretive manner in which foreign takeover bids are evaluated and approved in Canada. These closed door policies are infuriating the opposition parties, which are demanding a more open and transparent process for assessing foreign investment.

***CETA is a bad deal for seniors and Canada. We must demand a national public consultation and debate on the CETA now. Contact your MP, MPP, and City Councilors to tell them you oppose this trade deal with the European Union.***

Well back to the duties of your financial officer. Please remember that January 1, 2011 is the start of a new NPSCF year. Please submit your Club dues as soon as possible in the New Year.

I conclude this report by wishing a very, Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season to all. Take care and be easy on yourself with the New Year resolutions only make ones you can keep.

Respectfully submitted by

Sandy Carricato, Treasurer

## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Fern Haight



### *FROM MY HOUSE TO YOURS*

As I sit here in my home I am starting to feel chilly. This is a sign that the temperature is dropping outdoors. I go and check my thermometer and yes it is -27C outside. A bit on the chilly side and winter isn't even here yet. That's according to the calendar. Well, let me tell you winter is here and so is the ice

and a lot of snow. So we must face up to the fact that yes, winter is here and here to stay. So turn up the thermostat Fern.

My next thought is safety during this icy, frigid time. Winter does make moving around more difficult, both by car and by foot. Going for walks during the winter, dressed in suitable clothing, is still the simplest and cheapest way of safely staying active. However, walking in the wintertime does, unfortunately, lead to falls, which can have serious consequences for seniors. Falls are a leading cause of death among the elderly.

Are there some safety features we can adapt? Yes, there are!

- Removable metal grips for shoes and boots appeared on the market a few years ago and they have proven very effective.
- A walking stick adapted to the users' height, with an ice pick fixed to the end, can help maintain balance on icy surfaces.
- Hip protectors (underwear fitted with protective padding), can be quite effective in preventing fractures in case of a fall.
- If you need a walker, use it.

We must do everything we can to keep seniors safe, independent and self sufficient as long as possible. This will have an enormous impact on our overworked health care system.

Christmas is fast approaching. I hope everyone will have an enjoyable time with family and friends. Merry Christmas to all and "STAY SAFE". Safety is a basic need for all human beings.

- Fern from Saskatchewan



## **Winnie Fraser MacKay - Member at Large**

### *Income Security*

As I write this report, I am in the pre-operating room in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown, awaiting surgery. Three years ago I was walking on the beach along the ocean in front of my house and fell on rocks, puncturing six ribs. Since then, I have been a regular visitor at the Radiology Department for X-rays and needle biopsies for chest trauma. The surgery is to remove the debris from the injured breast area. I've been told that the pathology report will take a few weeks. My fall shouldn't have happened. A lot of seniors (I guess that includes me) think we are still 25 years old!! Caution is the word.

To keep from thinking about the door to the operating room opening and my name called, I find myself thinking about the annual NPSCF convention in late October and the National diverse issues presented through the resolutions and demonstrated so passionately by retirees across Canada.

First, congratulations to our new president, Barry Thorsteinson, on his election. I know he will be an asset to NPSCF. Secondly, I want to thank past presidents Art Kube and Art Field for their active leadership over the past several years. It was my pleasure to have been involved with hard-working, experienced members, willing to accept challenges and continuing to be a strong voice for Canadian seniors.

The door hasn't opened yet. So I shall keep my nervousness at bay by reflecting on the many calls received from seniors and family members of seniors across Canada during the past few weeks. They expressed confusion and unfairness toward a proposed government pension policy. If this policy is approved in July or August, 2011, low income seniors could be driven into further poverty. The rules would change lump sum withdrawals. Registered Retirement Income Funds affect guaranteed income support payments (GIS). Lower income seniors may have their GIS payments lowered if they withdraw from savings. For example: if a senior with an annual income of \$13,000 withdraws \$5,000 from their RRIF for a one time expenditure to pay, let's say an unexpected uninsured health treatment, or a family member's funeral expenses, the new policy would treat this as income for the year of \$18,000 which would place them above the \$15,815.99 threshold for receiving GIS payments. GIS payments are meant to ease the financial burden of low income seniors. Many seniors use RRSPs to support their income in their income in retirement. RRSP's are turned into RRIF's no later than the year one turns 71.

I advise anyone affected by this policy change to be pro active and call and have meetings with their MP's.

On a positive note, national seniors organizations have been advised by the Public Service Pension Investment Board that CPP benefits will be protected for the next 75 years.

Oh, oh, the door to surgery is opening. Have a Merry Christmas and Peace in the New Year.

## The Executive of NPSCF

Our new, National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation President is Barry Thornsteinson from Ottawa. We welcome him to our Board and each extends their best wishes to him.

---

Arthur Kube, retiring President of NPSCF, is now the Past President of the NPSCF. We are grateful for all Arthur accomplished during his two year term as President and we extend our thanks to him.

We bid farewell to Art Field who was the Past President of NPSCF. Art served as President for several years and then as Past President for two years. We thank Art for his dedicated roll in this Organization over the years and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

---

Thank you to all of the NPSCF Board members for giving so freely of their time for another year. Through their volunteering this Organization is able to function and by so doing, better serve the seniors of this country.

Through their efforts this Organization will grow, gain strength and prominence, enabling seniors to receive the dignity they so deserve during their twilight years. NPSCF, you are putting “QUALITY INTO LIFE FOR SENIORS”

Thank you for all that you do. Keep up the good work.

---

The Editor

# Big Pharma Wants Longer Drug Monopolies Through Canada/EU Trade Deal

By Jim Keon

Brand-name drug companies and the European Union are pushing Canada for changes that would extend market monopolies for brand-name drugs and add hundreds of millions of dollars to Canada's prescription drug bill.

The brand-name pharmaceutical industry has convinced the European Union to table three proposals as part of the Canada-EU trade negotiations (CETA). These proposals are clearly in the interests of the European Union and brand-name drug companies headquartered in Europe, but they are certainly not in the best interest of Canadians and those who pay for prescription drugs.

One change would extend the patent period to compensate for delays in the approval process for new drugs. Another would lengthen so-called "data protection" period by about two years, delaying generic versions of drugs whether they are protected by patents or not. The third change being pursued most aggressively by brand-name drug companies would extend the current two-year automatic delay of generic competition under regulations of the Patent Act by an additional one to two years.

Pharmaceuticals are the EU's top export to Canada, comprising 16 percent of their total exports to Canada with a value of more than \$5-billion. The EU has not tabled these provisions to increase R&D investments by brand-name drug companies in Canada. They hope to increase EU profits in pharmaceuticals exports at the expense of Canada's health-care system and Canadian generic manufacturers.

If implemented, the changes would delay market entry of less expensive generic versions of prescription medicines in Canada. While the changes would mean more profits for European-based drug companies, it will only add to the problem of rising drug costs for Canadians.

For example, after years of litigation by Canadian generic drug companies, generic versions of the top-selling drug in Canada, Lipitor, are now available in Canada. The savings from just this one generic drug are more than \$800-million annually.

History has proven that chasing brand-name drug companies' investments with our health-care dollars is a fool's errand.

The federal government has increased monopolies for brand-name drug companies no fewer than eight times since 1987. Canada's intellectual property regime exceeds our international trade obligations, yet these increasing monopolies have not resulted in the investments that Canadians were promised in 1987 when the Mulroney government extended patent protection through Bill C-91.

Earlier this year, the federal government's Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) reported that research and development spending in Canada by brand-name drug companies has dropped to its lowest level in 20 years.

The PMPRB reported that in 2009, brand-name drug companies spent only 7.5 percent of their Canadian revenues on research and development in Canada, marking the ninth consecutive year that brand-name drug companies have broken their promise to spend at least 10 percent of their domestic sales on R&D.

The generic pharmaceutical industry is a strong supporter of trade. In fact, about 40 percent of the generic medicines produced in Canada are exported. However, adding hundreds of millions of dollars to our health-care costs for virtually no return is not a trade Canada should make.

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

To learn more, visit [www.canadiangenerics.ca](http://www.canadiangenerics.ca)

## Wall Street Journal

DECEMBER 3, 2010, 5:19 P.M. ET

### Nortel Disabled Workers Bill Stalled in Canadian Senate

By Caroline Van Hasselt  
Of DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

TORONTO (Dow Jones)--Canada's Senate, the upper chamber of parliament, continues to postpone a vote on a proposed law that is intended to prevent long-term disabled workers from being treated as unsecured creditors in corporate liquidations.

Bill S-216, which moves disabled employees up the queue to creditor status, is meant to help 375 Nortel Networks Corp. employees, who suffer from long-term disabilities such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease, who will lose their benefits at year's end because of a court-approved former employees' settlement this year.

The proposed legislation has stalled at committee level because of concerns expressed by Conservative-appointed senators under direction from the Canadian government. Industry Minister Tony Clement said last week that Bill S-216 would cause litigation because of the court-approved Nortel settlement agreement.

**"They have no data to support it. If you look at what they've presented, it just doesn't stand up to scrutiny," Greg McAvoy, a Nortel employee on long-term disability, said.** "The Conservatives have been instructed to vote it down. It's bad news for us."

**"Who would believe that this would happen in Canada?," he said.**

Toronto-based Nortel was North America's largest maker of telecommunications equipment. Since it filed for bankruptcy protection in Canada and the U.S. in 2009, Nortel has been auctioning off its assets.

The bill aims to protect Canada's workers from losing their disability benefits by increasing their priority on claims to an insolvent employer's assets.

Continued .....

### **Wall Street Journal - Nortel Disabled Workers Bill Stalled in Canadian Senate**

"I believe what Nortel did was not right," Conservative-appointed Sen. Vim Kochhar said in the Senate Thursday. "I am prepared to support the bill if for one minute I could be convinced that this bill will result in the desired results."

Friday marks the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, a day Kochhar said in the Senate should be celebrated.

Without the bill's passage, which would need to go through the House of Commons, the Nortel disabled say they will be pushed into poverty.

**"Surely our society has not become so revolting that our most vulnerable citizens are sued and kicked to the curb and forgotten," said Peter Hoyle, a reverend at Halton Presbytery of the United Church of Canada, in an open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Industry Minister Tony Clement and Senate Leader Marjorie LeBreton.**

A group of the disabled Nortel workers filed an appeal to an earlier court ruling.

"We've been trying to get something moving here for quite some time and they have just refused to do anything," McAvoy said. "There's a lot of money involved. There's a lot of lawyers who make a lot of money in insolvency cases. **There's a whole establishment that we're fighting both on the legal and the political side.**"

Company Web site: [www.protectourtomorrow.com](http://www.protectourtomorrow.com)

By Caroline Van Hasselt, Dow Jones Newswires; 416-306-2023;  
[caroline.vanhasselt@dowjones.com](mailto:caroline.vanhasselt@dowjones.com)

Sent on Behalf of the Rights For Nortel Disabled Employees by:

Diane A. Urquhart  
Independent Financial Analyst  
Mississauga, Ontario

## **HRSCD May 2010 Policy Decision re: RRIF impact on GIS/OAS**

Dear Minister Finley:

On behalf of our 1 million senior members in 350 affiliates across Canada, I am writing to request that your department repeal the policy decision taken last May to cancel GIS payments to seniors at the poverty level that have to cash out their RRIF saving.

We commend your decision to put a hold on further implementation of this heartless attack on our poorest Canadians pending a review. Your review can have only one honorable outcome: an outright reversal with overdue GIS payments promptly sent out to victims that are deserving of better treatment from our federal government.

We will understand why your department made on public announcement of this policy at the time. We look forward to your forthcoming announcement that the policy has been permanently rescinded. Please advise us of your quick decision in this very serious matter.

Yours truly,  
Barry Thorsteinson  
President,  
National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation.

---

### **Canada – Europe Trade Negotiations**

Dec.1, 2010

The Honourable Peter Van Loan      Minister of International Trade  
The Honourable Tony Clement      Minister of Industry  
House of Commons

Dear Minister:

The National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation (NPSCF) is a democratic, non-political, non-sectarian organization devoted entirely to the welfare and best interests of Canada's elderly.

For many years, we have worked to ensure that Canada's seniors have access to affordable health care, including prescription drugs. Seniors in Canada are prescribed more medicines than other sectors of the Canadian population, which makes this issue particularly important to us. As you are no doubt aware, prescription drugs are not covered under the Canada Health Act. This means that when costs increase, seniors are more vulnerable to attempts by governments and private insurers to increase the portion of costs paid by the patient. This can be very troublesome for those living on fixed incomes.

With these facts in mind, we are quite concerned that Canada is being pressured by the European Union to increase protections for patent medicines as part of the current trade discussions. If market monopolies are increased, it will increase prescription drug costs in Canada. It does not make sense to take money out of the pockets of Canadian seniors and out of our health-care system simply to increase profits for drug companies.

We understand that any negotiation requires compromise. However, Canada should not agree to compromise the affordability of our health-care system simply to further enrich drug companies that are among the world's most profitable businesses.

Please stand firm against the demands of the drug companies and the European Union for longer monopolies.

Sincerely,  
Barry Thorsteinson  
16 National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation



# The Night Before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas, He lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house, Made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney, With presents to give,  
And to see just who, In this home did live.

I looked all about, A strange sight I did see,  
No tinsel, no presents, Not even a tree.

No stocking by the mantle, Just boots filled with sand,  
On the wall hung pictures, Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, Awards of all kinds,  
A sober thought, Came through my mind.

For this house was different, It was dark and dreary,  
I found the home of a soldier, Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, Silent, alone,  
Curled up on the floor, In this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, The room in such disorder,  
Not how I pictured, A Canadian soldier.

Was this the hero, Of whom I'd just read?,  
Curled up on a poncho, The floor for a bed?

I realized the families, That I saw this night,  
Owed their lives to these soldiers, Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, The children would play,  
And grownups would celebrate, A bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom, Each month of the year,  
Because of the soldiers, Like the one lying here.

*The Night Before Christmas continued ....*

I couldn't help wonder, How many lay alone,  
On a cold Christmas Eve, In a land far from home.

The very thought brought A tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees, And started to cry.

The soldier awakened, And I heard a rough voice,  
'Santa, don't cry. This life is my choice.

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,  
My life is my God, My country, my corps.'

The soldier rolled over, And drifted to sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, So silent and still,  
And we both shivered From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave, On that cold, dark night,  
This guardian of honour, So willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, With a voice, soft and pure,  
Whispered, 'Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day, all is secure.'

One look at my watch, And I knew he was right,  
'Merry Christmas my friend, And to all a good night.'

*This poem was written by a peace keeping soldier stationed overseas.*

**Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to our Canadian service men and women for our being able to celebrate these Festivities. People should stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us. Let's give these heroes the credit they so deserve. Thank you, thank you, thank you, very much. We are forever grateful for all you've done for our great country.**

# *Saluting the National Pensioners & Senior Citizens Federation*

Best Wishes from the Executive & Membership of the  
Retired Workers Chapter of Canadian Auto Workers  
Local 222

*President - Les MacDonald*  
*Secretary Treasurer - Art Field*  
*Vice President - Gord Vickers*  
*Sergeant at Arms - Chief Lindsay*  
*Member at Large - Ron Gay*  
*Female Member at Large - Wendy Rolfe*  
*Trustee - Don Revoy*  
*Trustee - Bill Stacey*  
*Trustee - Ed Dwyer*



**1425 Phillip Murray Ave., Oshawa, ON L1J 8L4**  
**905-723-1187 1-800-465-5458**  
**[www.cawlocal.cz/222](http://www.cawlocal.cz/222) [local222@idirect.com](mailto:local222@idirect.com)**



## RETIREES AREA COUNCIL

*AJAX, OSHAWA, PETERBOROUGH*

### LOCAL 1090

Joan Fowler  
Sandy Carricato  
Armindo Vieira

### LOCAL 222

Art Field  
Lyle Hargrove  
Bart MacNeil

### LOCAL 524

Roger Lathangue  
Norm Wedlock  
Bill Woodbeck



### Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter

#### Salutes the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation

Membership-Retired Workers of Ford  
Motor Company

Chairperson – Herb John  
Vice Chairperson – Jack Gibbons  
Financial Secretary – Dan Robson  
Recording Secretary – Gerry Frain  
Sergeant-at-arms – Elzie Banks  
Guide – Rob McLean

## Did you know, you may advertise in this newsletter?

**Business Card      \$ 25.00**

**One Quarter Page \$ 40.00**

**One Half Page      \$ 75.00**

**One Full Page      \$150.00**

enjoy  of mind



All year, you dream about the chance to get away. Johnson will help you get there. With MEDOC<sup>+</sup> Travel Insurance you'll worry less no matter where you go. Also, we offer AIR MILES<sup>®</sup> reward miles on your home and auto insurance. Getting you closer to the rewards you've been saving for.

**Home & Auto Insurance:** 1.800.563.0677 • [www.johnson.ca/npscfc](http://www.johnson.ca/npscfc) (Provide Group ID Code: NF)

**MEDOC<sup>+</sup> Travel Insurance:** 1.866.606.3362 • [www.johnson.ca/npscfc](http://www.johnson.ca/npscfc)



Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance intermediary. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company, Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. Only home insurance is available in BC, SK and MB. An alternate plan is available in QC. Certain conditions may apply. AIR MILES<sup>®</sup> reward miles awarded on regular home and auto insurance policies underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company. At the time premium is paid, one AIR MILES reward mile is awarded for each \$20 in premium (including taxes). AIR MILES<sup>®</sup> reward miles not available in SK, MB or QC. <sup>TM</sup>Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and Johnson Inc. (for Unifund Assurance Company). MEDOC<sup>+</sup> is a Registered Trademark of Johnson Inc. MEDOC is underwritten by Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company of Canada and administered by Johnson Inc. Johnson Inc. and Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company of Canada share common ownership. (CAT05.09)

