

NEWSLETTER

National Pensioners Federation



PANDEMICS:

DO THEY CHANGE HOW WE ADDRESS AGE AND AGEING?

Our Nation must now be laser focused on essential priorities in the development of: *Pharmacare and *National standards for Long Term Care

It is imperative that we understand the impact of COVID-19 on older persons in relation to health care policy, planning, and attitudes.

We call on the Federal government to take leadership on this with each of our Provinces & Territories.

Join with us.



Alma Felicia (Johnston) Tynes

April 29, 1940 – October 21, 2020



With deepest sympathy we give a farewell to a dear friend and colleague.

Achieving distinction in her profession and as an educator, Alma not only shared her knowledge and skills with her community she reached beyond to work tirelessly to improve the lives of many. Her dedication and involvement in the Nova Scotia Federation of Seniors, the Nova Scotia Seniors Advisory Council (formerly known as the Group of 9) and the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) was exemplary. Alma faithfully attended and contributed greatly in our National Conventions over this past decade and passionately gave her time to aid in committee work.

Alma served the NSFS as Treasurer for six years, First Vice President for four years, and held the positions of President for the past four years. Alma has enriched the lives of all those who were fortunate to have been part of her life's journey. She will be missed and so dearly difficult to replace. GODSPEED

Trish McAuliffe, President's Report

Since our last issue of the NPF June newsletter, almost daily I struggle to cope with the headlining news of COVID-19 and the tragic pandemic fall out. It certainly has been a confusing time of isolation, fear and change. Almost daily, I feel immobilized by the knowledge of suffering and fear for those who are struggling to pay their bills or for those who have been denied life-saving care in long term care, and families coping through the loss of a loved one without even an embrace. This is not the core of humanity we are familiar to. I know I'm not alone in this transfixed state while thinking about what will happen tomorrow. What have we learned? What is now politically viable that could not even be considered before? Our work, our collective efforts are vital today and each day forward.

One of the strange things about the COVID-19 moment is that through gripping fear and all plausible precautionary measures tomorrow appears. Even as people remain isolated and alone, massive systemic shifts are happening that were unimaginable only weeks ago – changes in how people work, how people care for others, how government supports individuals and businesses. How so much IS possible. Together we MUST master-plan a brighter post COVID recovery to ensure an equitable and safe society for all.

"If there is one thing history teaches us, it is that moments of shock are profoundly volatile. We either lose a whole lot of ground ... or we win progressive victories that seemed impossible a few weeks ago. This is no time to lose our nerve. The future will be determined by whoever is willing to fight harder for the ideas they have lying around."

Naomi Klein, Canadian author, social activist, and filmmaker

Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing? – October 1st 2020 UN IDOP

This year, 2020 celebrated the United Nations International Day of Older Persons 75th Anniversary. The UN has also launched a powerful decade long observance of Healthy Ageing initiative <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/ageing>

Globally we recognize this day as a powerful international advocacy tool. As countries around the world and here in Canada strive to keep up with an ageing society our task is to continue to ensure seniors priority concerns are delivered clearly to our respective government policy makers.

In August this year the NPF submitted three pre budget proposals to the federal government for consideration; Reforming Long Term Care, Affordable Housing and Pension Protection. The submissions have been shared with affiliates and can be found under the respective committee information tabs on our web site.

Today, all Canadians are pressing ahead to ensure seniors are kept safe by demanding LTC becomes part of the Canada Health Act and we see the final realization of a universal Pharma prescription drug and dental plan.

Trish McAuliffe, President's Report

WE CAN NOT TURN AN EYE AWAY FROM THE CURRENT ATROCITIES IN CANADA'S CARE FACILITIES

COSCO / NPF Long Term Care Reform Webinar

This first time event was delivered on Sept 25th in a timely way both federally and provincially to get our voices heard ahead of any government announcements that may politically distract the important initiative. The BC election, federal gov't proroguing, as well as predicted webinars leading into the International Day of the Older Person. Ultimately the event allowed us to engage with leading advocates in the LTC field, seek out the broader public interests and strengthen our ties with our allies. The 2 hour session was focused on developing national LTC standards; reforms that would essentially resemble the current federal funding initiatives for Home Care.

I would like to acknowledge key contributions in the development of the event; Pat Brady realized the idea for the urgent Task Force on LTC standards and took it to Sheila, President of COSCO and she led the way in great leadership style. Pat also contributed greatly behind the scenes and helped the committee draft the resulting LTC standards document for further collaboration.

Also I extend thanks to Leslie Gaudette, Barb Mikluc and Kathleen Jamieson for the webinar development; exemplary planning, panelist outreach and engagement, and technical support. Our panelists included; Dr. Pat Armstrong, distinguished research professor, York University and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; Dr. Penny MacCourt, HealthWell Educators and Consultant; Anil Naidoo, National Representative, National Union of Public and General Employees. (Link to webinar is available). Most helpful was the technical support provided by **PovNet**. We send our deepest appreciation to all for lending a great deal of time to host an exceptional event.

To further this campaign the working group at COSCO/NPF researched and developed our list of recommended LTC reforms and composed our brief document to send to the federal party leaders. The NPF followed up with a media release to national publications and federal government leaders. The NPF letter to all parties and the recommendations can be found in the Health Care tab of our web site.

Overall we can see all the signs that are leading to the co-opting, pro-privatization in the seniors health care delivery sector. I believe we all want federal action in this terrible state of LTC delivery. We are counting on all of our affiliates and members to rise up for the dignity and safety of our most vulnerable citizens living in care facilities. We **MUST** keep up the pressure as we lead into another election on the horizon. Our own life may depend on it.

Please be sure to follow us on our Web site and Facebook/Twitter links for all of our updates between publications.

*In closing, on behalf of all of us here at NPF I wish you a safe and happy holiday season with family by your side.
Masks up and keep well!*

Request from the Mental Health Commission of Canada

I am pleased to let you know that the **Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC)** has developed a [tip sheet](#) that offers practical advice on how older adults can protect their mental wellness during COVID-19. A [French version](#) is also available.

Bernie LaRusic, 2nd Vice President's Report

POST COVID-19

An activity that was post Covid-19 was the participation of over 60,000 Nova Scotian's in a survey entitled "Quality of Life in Nova Scotia". Once some of the survey information was broken down, I participated in a conference call on the preliminary findings where 8 domains of Health and 6 special issues were identified. This information is being furthered and reviewed with the intent to develop improvements, not only to assist in quickly indentifying an issue but also the corrective action needed.

NPF has continued to be a player within the workforce by way of promoting the CLC Campaigns "In the Loop." The "Write In" campaign to contact government MP's has gone well. Senior Clubs across Canada are still under strict health regulations for small gatherings/meetings. Clubs with halls are experiencing major financial losses as a result of being closed for 7 months. In Nova Scotia the Senior Advisory Council is the major voice for the senior community. Council members such as the Retired Teachers Organization, Retired Federal Employees, Retired Provincial Employees, and Retired Doctors Organization are very capable of reaching their members by email. Nova Scotia Seniors Federation (NSSF), a Founding Member of the Senior Advisory Council aka Group of IX, evolved from similar senior community Clubs that established NPF 75 years ago. Then, many of the seniors recognized early the need of sufficient income on retirement. Approximately 25% of the senior's community rely on government to assist with their needs. Having better conditions in health, housing and transportation for lower income pensioners was the foundation of NPF and NSSF. As well, others from union ranks have taken their experience & skills to the NPF where their values in equality are shared.

Christmas season will be the next response to the significant impact on our health and economy as a result of the pandemic. (health, exposure and economy). Many provinces are now experiencing the second wave of COVID-19. The response by some members of the public to the directives given by health authorities, both Federal & Provincial, has been interpreted as an infringement on their rights. Let's be clear, COVID-19 is the infringement, as opposed to such mandates to help minimize this infringement.

November 11, Remembrance Day, at the 11th hour of the 11th Month is a time set aside to honour those who made the supreme sacrifice to stop infringements on one's rights. During WWII, 44,000 Canadians paid the ultimate sacrifice so we can have the freedom of choice that everyone in Canada is entitled to. Of course there is honour in standing up for ones' beliefs, be it political, religious or personal but the good of the majority should prevail, "Lest We Forget", how & who gave us that gift.

During my working career, like many union representatives, I've been involved in campaigns, picket lines & demonstrations, to bring attention to an issue but other than hollering slogans, marching around offices and/or parliament buildings, the main focus was to get attention. Resolve (ACTION) should be understood when determining the outcome. If the activity produces a positive or negative effect, either response could be interpreted as a success.

In the last seven months 11,000 Canadians have died from COVID-19. Compare that number to Canadians who died during WWII, 44,000 casualties, not counting the 63,000 wounded or 8,000 POW's.

Health regulations are not put in place to infringe on anyone's freedom but to assist front line workers, similar to those WWII service men & women, to meet their objectives of defending and defeating the enemy. Battles are not won when differences prevail. Who's side are you on?

The number of meetings president Trish, along with other members of the executive have participated in with reference to housing & health has enabled NPF to be well represented at various Zoom presentations as well as correspondence to our Federal government. Our history of 75 years of being there, well before it became fashionable to be in a senior/pension organization, is and will continue to be a voice for the vulnerable in the senior community.

Barb Mikulec, 3rd Vice President's Housing Report

REVERSE MORTGAGE- FACTS

You may be interested in exploring a **Reverse Mortgage** as a way of freeing some funds for living now. Before signing up for this loan, consider the facts.

From the federal website on Reverse Mortgages, information contributed by the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada, a Reverse Mortgage loan allows a homeowner to get equity without having to sell the home. It is sometimes called 'equity release' as the homeowner may be able to borrow a percentage of the current value of the home, dependent on these factors: person's age, home's appraised value and your choice of lender.

You do not need to make payments until the loan is due-when you move out of your home, sell it or when you die. Since your loan has interest, the reverse mortgage grows the longer you have it, and may result in lower equity in your home. Conditions to meet: being over 55 years old and a homeowner of a primary residence.

If your spouse and you are both on the title of the home, both of you must be listed on the reverse mortgage. You must be mortgage free before you can get a reverse mortgage, but you can use these funds to pay any mortgage or home equity line of credit outstanding.

The reverse mortgage can be taken as a one-time lump sum, or take some money and the rest over time. Reverse mortgage may be used for anything-home repairs, healthcare expenses, repay debts, etc.

Repaying the money you borrow with a reverse mortgage has options-you do not need to make regular payments, or you may repay the principal and interest in full at any time. However, you may be charged a fee for repaying this loan early.

Since the interest is added to the principal, the loan amount increases over time. This is why homeowners may prefer to look at 'home equity line of credit' instead of reverse mortgage. Always get advice and understand what you are signing. The costs associated with a reverse mortgage may include: higher interest than traditional mortgage, home appraisal fee, set up fee, prepayment penalty if you pay it off before it is due and legal fees for closing costs or independent advice.

A reverse mortgage does not affect Old Age Security (OAS), or Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).



Photo- free images from Clip Art

Barb Mikulec, 3rd Vice President's Housing Report

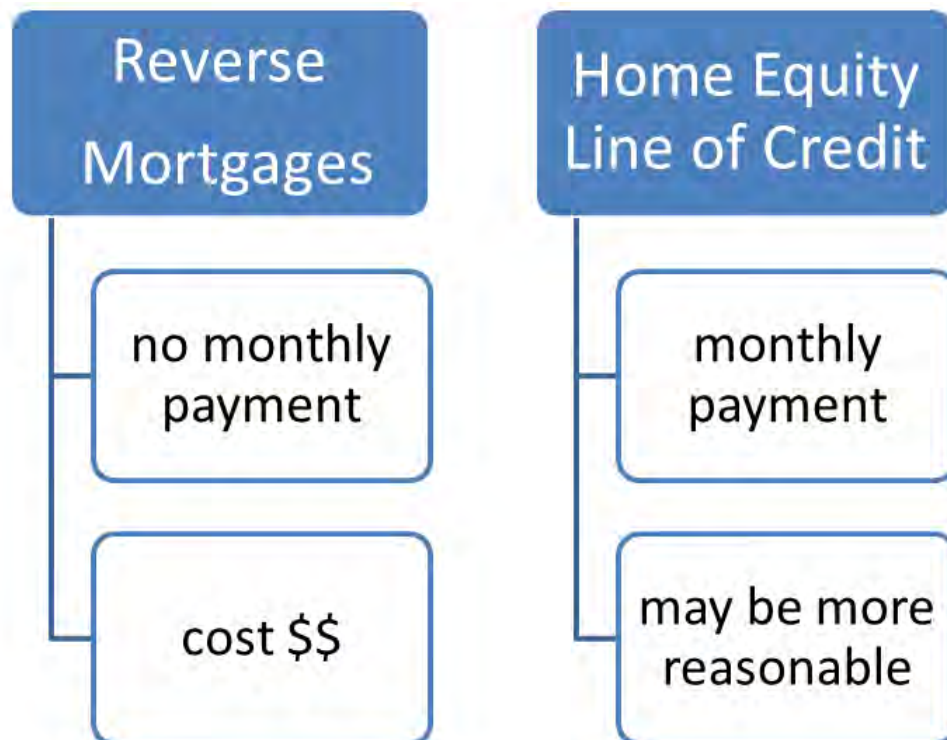
REVERSE MORTGAGE- FACTS

Another alternative to **Reverse Mortgages** are **Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC)** which may help a homeowner manage their finances by giving flexible access to funds. These funds may help with financing large purchases, home renovation or unexpected home repairs.

The benefit is that there may be monthly payments as low as interest-only. Here is no fee for having a zero balance, and you are only paying interest on the amount borrowed.

You may be able to combine your first mortgage and HELOC at the same time, or may be able to use the HELOC funds to pay out an existing mortgage. If you are mortgage-free, you may access a HELOC account, with no annual fee on your Access Card, depending on which financial agency/bank you deal with.

Comparing the rates and the benefits of Reverse Mortgages versus Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) would be wise before signing on the dotted line.





**National Pensioners
Federation**



**Fédération Nationale
des Retraités**

November 12, 2020

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I write to you today on a matter of urgency on behalf of our one million members across this country. We urge you to show swift leadership and to act on the number one priority of all Canadians today -- National Reform of the Long Term Care Industry.

- You can act now to bring long-term care fully into the public system and regulate it under the Canada Health Act.
- You can eradicate the current exorbitant profits from the “care” system by enacting and enforcing national standards that ensure proper staffing levels and high-quality care.
- You can save lives by doing what Canadians are demanding -- accelerating recruitment of care professionals and regulating the LTC sector to ensure the provision of safe and dependable services for our most frail citizens.

Life-saving action during a pandemic should not depend on the province or territory where you live.

A national plan for Long Term Care could resemble the federal-provincial-territorial agreements that were reached in 2018 on home care and mental health.

It's time for the government to start treating long-term care the same way, by making it an accessible, publicly funded, and universal service in all provincial/territorial jurisdictions.

In doing so, our most vulnerable seniors and long-term care residents of any age can place trust in a care system that puts their needs ahead of some stakeholders bent on making the most profit. All Canadians are deserving of national standards of care with reliable funding to ensure residents and workers in long-term homes are safe, healthy and treated with kindness and respect.

Again, on behalf of our members from coast to coast to coast I call on you and your government to take action now. The NPF membership awaits your actions in policy within Parliament and a reply to share widely.

Sincerely,

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

Cc: Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party
Erin O'Toole, Leader of the Conservative Party
Yves-Francois Blanchet Leader of the Bloc-Quebécois

COSCO - NPF call for National Standards for Long Term Care

In the Speech from the Throne the federal government pledged that national standards of care would be developed and that abuse and neglect of vulnerable seniors would be punished. In this document we have listed the factors that would need to be considered when the detailed Act was prepared. For instance, the width of hallways is not something we can define but the government would of course have access to expert knowledge. Our recommendations are as follows:

Staffing; qualified personnel; ratio of staff to residents; delineation of resident contact time; improved remuneration for staff; varied professional registered medical staff; on call medical staff, training of staff in a team based approach

Physical Surroundings; accessibility; directional signage; communication devices; temperature and lighting; emergency exits; bedroom privacy; bathroom facilities; staff safety provisions Services; food preparation (including preferences); individual nutritional planning; hygiene facilities; medication reviews and supervision; safety measures; recreation; outdoor access; visitor access; protection of money and valuables

Residents' Council; provision of a residents' council; inclusion of residents, family and staff; scheduled meetings; promotion of collective and individual interests; access to inspection reports

Inspections and Supervision; frequency; unannounced visits; itemized expectations/report preparation, report recipients, enforcement of report orders, penalties for non-compliance; posting of inspection reports

Funding; dedicated long term funding,; bilateral agreements; recipient reporting; regularized evaluations by federal authorities

Technology; standardized and integrated with current care facilities technological equipment and programs

Mixed Tenancy; safety from aggressive behaviour of other residents, particularly if there are significant age differences and/or "housing" of individuals with severe mental health issues and/or substance abuse problems

COSCO realizes that many of these provisions are obvious, but it is also evident that many long-term care facilities were not providing acceptable living conditions where dignity and respect were the norm. Nor were the authorities responsible for inspection and enforcement, doing their jobs. The lessons we are continuing to learn from COVID-19 are indeed harsh, but COSCO believes that the duty of the federal government to protect some of the most vulnerable Canadians is in line with human rights obligations and simple human decency.



CONGRATULATIONS

**Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO)
On 70 years of advocacy on behalf of all Seniors**

One Time Disability Benefit

Dear Minister Shulte

The Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of British Columbia (COSCO) is an organization that represents thousands of seniors throughout BC. We educate and advocate for seniors on many issues.

We would like to point out what we think is a discriminatory practice with the federal government's One-time Disability Benefit. The federal government has set up a one-time disability benefit of \$600 for those who are disabled and have met a certain criterion.

Everyone who has met the criteria is entitled to the \$600 benefit EXCEPT disabled seniors. The government announced that because disabled seniors received the \$300 benefit that all seniors got (or in the case of low-income seniors \$500), they would only get an additional \$300 (or in the case of low-income seniors \$100). As a result, a disabled person can receive up to \$600 but if this person is a senior his/her disability needs only entitle him/her to half that.

We do not understand why the government has combined the two criteria (seniors and disabled). The result is that disabled seniors lose out. We believe that if a person is a senior, he/she is entitled to \$300 (or \$500) AND if a person is disabled he/she is entitled to \$600. It is discriminatory to reduce the amount to people who are disabled only because they are seniors. It is costly enough being a senior and living in this pandemic, but it must be a huge burden to be disabled at the same time.

The government needs to give all disabled people in Canada the \$600 disability benefit and not discriminate against a disabled person because he/she also happens to be a senior.

Sheila Pither,
President, COSCO(BC)



BC FORUM (British Columbia Federation of Union Retirees)
On 25 years of advocacy on behalf of all Seniors

Mary Forbes, Financial Secretary Report

Here in Ontario Bill 175 has been enacted by the Ford majority government. “A bill to modernize the delivery of home care services”. The new regime for home and community care dismantles most if not all public governance of home care. All of the remaining publicly owned and controlled part of home care would be transferred to an array of provider organizations including for-profit and non-profit organizations. The provider organizations can structure, contract, subcontract and run home care in an array of different ways which they would develop themselves. Seems to me it's adding confusion upon confusion.

Many of the organizations that would take over previously publicly controlled home care functions either have no governance and public accountability structure (as in the Ontario Health Teams, OHTs, which are loose coalitions including for- and non-profits that self-govern with no public meetings, no access to information, no elected boards of directors, etc.) or are private (as in private for-profit home care companies) or are non-profit with often limited memberships and little public accountability. There are a small minority of non-profit agencies left in home care that are actually community-based and democratic. A very large part of the problem right now is no accountability. What are they thinking?

Meanwhile the Covid19 numbers in Ontario are rising dramatically. Again for-profit long term care homes in Ontario are experiencing large numbers of deaths due to Covid-19 spread. Premier Ford announced \$540 Million in funding to protect those in LTC. Money is to be spent on repairs, upgrades, and more staff. It took a pandemic to get the Government to fix the things we had been advocating for a long, long time. They've made plans for all these improvements to take place but where is the system accountability. Don't just put things in place and expect them to be done, as time has proven inspections are very, very important.

IT IS TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATION

Possibly due to the pandemic shutdowns, or the change made to Biennial Conventions NPF annual dues are very slow in coming in. Because of this change I have sent out reminder letters to everyone, thank you to those who have paid. We have been alerted that members have experienced some technical difficulties while visiting our web site as our communications service provider continues to update their systems. Please bear with us. We hope to smooth out our glitches in emails and membership signups soon. Recently we have been called on for donations to organizations that are working with us on the priority issues for seniors. We continue to support one another in our campaigns as we know it will take working together in unison to accomplish effective change.

Please email me at mary.forbes@npfmail.ca for contact updates and forwarding information.

Membership Payment to:

National Pensioners Federation c/o M. Forbes 2186 Stanfield Rd. Mississauga, ON L4Y 1R5

Note: Please use the annual membership form in this issue

Individual and Family Memberships are also available

THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to all those selfless frontline Workers for the sacrifices they make each day, especially during this pandemic. National Pensioners Federation express their deepest gratitude on behalf of its Members.

National Pensioners
Federation



Fédération Nationale
des Retraités

Policy on Donations:

2nd July, 2020

One non-profit organization can exchange gifts with another non-profit organization. There is no requirement to issue an official receipt for income tax purposes. Registered non-profit organizations should still provide their registration no and gifts must be kept track of.

On donating money to another non-profit organization consider whether the transaction advances the donor's non-profit mission. For example, a donation to another organization in support of an event such as Pension Protection which would be an essential part of National Pensioners Federation's mission.

National Pensioners Federation needs to make absolute certainty that there is:

- **No conflict of interest.** Any person or persons responsible for the transfer of the donated funds must not personally (their families, friends, associates, etc.) benefit in any way. Example: The donated funds are used to purchase equipment in some way connected to business interests of a Board member of the donor non-profit.
- **No violation of donor restrictions.** While exacting restrictions are not generally connected to most donations, nevertheless, the risk is that some donors would not approve of their money, in principle, going to another charity they did not choose, no matter how it fits or how worthy.
- **No misuse of the donated charitable resources by the receiving non-profit.** Should the receiving non-profit subsequently have publicized financial problems, even though the donated funds were not in fact misused, the overall perception of the receiving organization trumps the reality. Perception is everything. There could be serious trouble for the donor non-profit requiring it to justify its support of the ailing organization.
- **No question that donating funds in any way will imperil the donor non-profit's own financial health.** In other words, that the donation was not over the top, excessive, or out of the realm of good judgment.

HELP PROMOTE NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION ADVOCACY

REFER A FRIEND!

Help grow our collective voice by sharing our newsletter with a friend or Organization/Club.
Should they sign up your referral will bring you an honorary membership for the coming year.
Membership to National Pensioners Federation forms are found in every issue of our newsletter.

Annette O'Connor, Recording Secretary Report

Office
des transports
du Canada



Canadian
Transportation
Agency

Président et Chair and Chief premier dirigeant
Executive Officer

June 23, 2020

Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

Dear Colleagues,

This week, we reach an important milestone in our efforts to make Canada's national transportation system the most accessible in the world: the coming-into-force of most of the provisions of the new Accessible Transportation for Persons with Disabilities Regulations (ATPDR), which the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) finalized and published last year.

The development of the ATPDR drew upon experience with older regulations and codes, best practices across Canada and around the world, and consultations with disability rights organizations, industry, and the public. The result is an integrated, robust, and binding instrument that sets out accessibility requirements for airlines, airports, interprovincial and international rail, ferry, and bus services, and the terminals used by those services.

We're grateful to everyone who provided expertise and advice as we worked on these ground breaking regulations. And we're committed to implementing a program of education, monitoring, and enforcement to ensure that they're well-understood and respected in practice. To this end, we've already posted a series of plain language guides explaining ATPDR provisions in multiple formats -- including PDF, ASL, LSQ, and audio – and have more in the works.

In addition, we're collaborating with colleagues on the Council of Federal Accessibility Agencies to develop complementary policies and procedures and to ensure that people who want to file a complaint reach the right organization quickly and seamlessly, regardless of which one they approach first. In parallel, we're working to foster more effective and consistent approaches to accessible travel at the international level through engagement with the International Civil Aviation Organization and International Air Transport Association, and follow-ups to the report of our International Working Group on Mobility Aids and Air Travel.

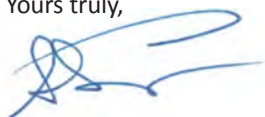
Finally, we're considering the feedback received in recent consultations around a number of outstanding issues, including how to extend ATPDR obligations to smaller operators, whether the one-person-one-fare requirement should apply to international travel, and what rules should be established in respect of emotional support animals. Further discussions on the first matter will be held in the coming months, even as we move forward with finalization of regulatory provisions related to planning and reporting requirements established by the Accessible Canada Act.

The ATPDR are a critical step towards realization of the fundamental right of persons with disabilities to accessible transportation services, but efforts towards this goal must continue on a range of fronts. We look forward to ongoing dialogue with the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) on actions we can all take to remove and prevent disability related barriers to travel.

Working together, we can create a more inclusive society in which no one's mobility is sacrificed because of their disability, and the dignity of all travellers is respected.

Although pandemic-related limitations have prevented us from holding the usual June meeting of the AAC, I look forward to gathering – in-person or virtually – later this year. In the meantime, my CTA colleagues and I wish you and your loved ones a safe and enjoyable summer.

Yours truly,



Scott Streiner

Kathleen Jamieson, Member at Large Report

What's the PMPRB got to do with getting a national universal pharmacare program?

The September 23, 2020 Speech from the Throne setting out government policy for the new session of Parliament states:

"The Government remains committed to a national, universal pharmacare program and will accelerate steps to achieve this system including:

- Through a rare-disease strategy to help Canadian families to save money on high-cost drugs;
- Establishing a national formulary to keep drug prices low;
- And working with provinces and territories willing to move forward without delay."

The task of keeping drug prices affordable and having a rare disease strategy for drug prices through regulation lies largely with the federal Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB). New PMBRB Guidelines controlling drug costs that have been spiralling out of control, will come into effect January 1, 2021 despite concerted efforts by big Pharmaceutical corporations to derail the process through the courts among other things.

A key feature of the changes to the PMPRB Guidelines to control new drug prices is that the US, which has the world's highest drug prices, will no longer be one of the comparator countries for Canada when negotiating prices for new patented drugs.

Extensive public consultations have been a key feature of this PMPRB process over the last two or three years. Among other stakeholders, the National Pensioners Federation was invited to a December 2019 consultation in Ottawa. Kathleen Jamieson NPF Health Portfolio Chair participated on behalf of NPF.

The PMPRB held a webinar to explain the changes by Zoom November 20 at 1:30-2:30 EST.

Meantime keep watching. We need to ensure this important stepping stone to a sustainable national universal pharmacare program comes into force January 1, 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/patented-medicine-prices-review/services/legislation/about-guidelines/guidelines.html>



UNIFOR

Unifor statement on 7th October, 2020

Today is World Day for Decent Work.

This year, it's all about essential workers and essential rights.

Here is Unifor's statement on WDDW:

"We believe that 2020 should be remembered as the year of the essential worker. We hope that we will forever understand, as a society, that the best way to recognize, thank and applaud the work of essential workers is to provide them safe and sustainable working conditions, including a living wage."

Patrick Thomas Brady

March 14 , 1937 - November 21, 2020



Farewell to another dear Friend and Colleague with deepest sympathy

Pat was a friend and colleague whose life was devoted to service and advocacy, both in his teaching profession and in advocacy. As past president of BCRTA he instituted organizational changes which still continue today. Pat had also served as the Prince George District Teachers' Association, President of the BC Teachers' Federation and President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. He was also involved in several International Teacher's organizations, drafting the International Labour Organization Conditions of Work for Teachers" protocol.

Pat was also involved in the Community and served as an Alderman and on several local Committees. Pat served National Pensioners Federation as our Secretary and then as our 3rd Vice President. One could always count on Pat to keep us on track with protocol, correct wording of our resolutions and wherever needed. We will all sorely miss his guidance, sense of humour and advocacy.

JoAnn Lauber, BCRTA

Grace Wilson, President BC Retired Teachers' Association

Save Canada's **PUBLIC** health **CARE**

Cambie ruling a victory for public health care in Canada

(Unceded Coast Salish Territories - Vancouver, BC) In today's landmark ruling in the Cambie Surgery Centre case, Justice Steeves dealt a strong blow to the efforts of Dr. Brian Day and others to undermine Canada's publicly-funded health care system. The decade-long legal attack launched by one of the largest for-profit surgical centres in Canada sought to invalidate key sections of the BC Medicare Protection Act (MPA). This decision ensures that access to health care will continue to be based on need and not on ability to pay.

"This is a historic victory against profit-driven health care in Canada," said Dr. Danyaal Raza, Chair of Canadian Doctors for Medicare. "We know that single-payer publicly-funded health care is the fairest way to pay for health care, rather than forcing patients to pay out-of-pocket or buy private insurance. This case was never about wait times - it was always about profit."

The sections of the MPA that the plaintiffs sought to strike down are in place to preserve a public health care system in which access to necessary medical care is based on need and not an individual's ability to pay. This case has always been about increasing profits for doctors and investor-owned health care facilities.

"As a group of patients, doctors and health care advocates, we became involved in this case in order to defend and protect public health care," said Edith MacHattie, co-chair of the BC Health Coalition. "This is a victory for everyone who uses health care in Canada. Even though the attack had been launched in BC, it took aim at the very heart of the Canada Health Act and every provincial health care insurance plan." Justice Steeves' ruling affirmed that access to health care be based on need and not the ability to pay. He wrote that the sections of the MPA challenged in this case are in keeping with the "objectives of preserving and ensuring the sustainability of the universal public healthcare system and ensuring access to necessary medical services is based on need and not the ability to pay."



SimplyConnect

National Pensioners Federation  Fédération Nationale des Retraités

Donation made to NPF for each activation

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- ✓ **Canada/U.S. plans** for snowbirds
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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



National Pensioners
Federation



Fédération Nationale
des Retraités

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Individual OR Clubs / Group Includes:

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

Please complete full application for Club Membership and or Individual Membership

Name of Club OR Individual:
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Under 100 Members	\$35.00
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501 to 1,000 Members	\$125.00
1,001 Members and over	\$350.00

Total amount payable \$ _____

Donations gratefully accepted \$ _____

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

Registration forms and payment can also be forwarded to:
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Saluting the National Pensioners Federation

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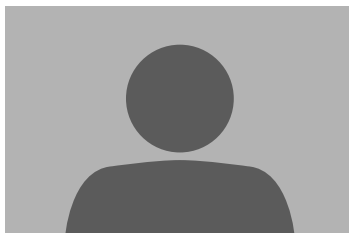
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TBD

1st Vice-President



Annette O'Connor

Recording Secretary
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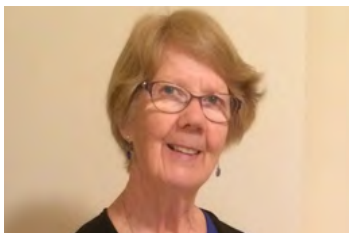
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To the Readers,

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

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

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

Please send your articles to the publication's editor, Mary Forbes at mary.forbes@npfmail.ca.

Thank you Maria Pinto for her assistance.

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www.nationalpensionersfederation.ca



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