

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION

2023 BIENNIAL CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS BOOKLET



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NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION RESOLUTIONS 2023

POLITICS

23.1.1 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Call upon the Federal Government to create a federal registry, with an annual registration fee, for all automation devices and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Units used in manufacturing service and communication industries in Canada.

BECAUSE: Workers are being displaced by automation and AI growth:

AND: The Registry should monitor the automation and AI growth and the data should be used to formulate fees or taxes on such devices so that displaced workers would receive compensation and re-training:

AND: Lobby the Federal Government to limit the expanded use of automation and artificial intelligence and to ensure that employers in the digital platform field pay their fair share of taxes and honour their obligations.

Affiliated Group/Club: Unifor Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

President: M. McCue

Secretary: M. Kontor-Taylor

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Passed on Date: May 17th, 2023

23.1.2 AUTOMATIC TAX FILING SYSTEM

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Strongly support the implementation of an automatic tax filing system as outlined in the 2023 Federal budget while ensuring no negative impacts to those receiving government income supplements;

AND: Strongly urge the Federal Government to expand the system of automatic tax filing so it is available to all Canadians who wish to take advantage of it.

BECAUSE: many Federal and Provincial benefits are only provided through tax credits, and require the filing of an annual income tax return to qualify for benefits low-income Canadians are entitled to, yet miss out on;

AND: filing income tax returns can require computer access, or completion of complicated paperwork which may negatively impact the ability of many senior citizens to access available benefits.

Affiliated Group/Club: Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO BC)

President: Leslie Gaudette

Recording Secretary: A. Lemonnier

Location: British Columbia, CA

23.1.3 SERVICES CANADA

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Oppose the privatization of Service Canada call centres to Gatestone a call centre corporation based in the USA,

AND: Work with allies, including but not limited to the Public Service Alliance of Canada to oppose the privatization of Service Canada Call centres and to advocate for better and improved publicly run Service Canada Call Centre services.

BECAUSE: the Public Service Alliance of Canada has recently raised concerns about the Federal Government's plan to contract out Service Canada call centres:

AND: this work has been recently contracted out to Gatestone a private call centre corporation headquartered in the USA, that specializes in debt collection and has a bad reputation as an employer:

AND: seniors need trained workers who have the experience, knowledge, to assist seniors:

AND: studies have shown that privatization costs more, is associated with poor service:

AND: the Federal Government should be enhancing and improving Service Canada call centre services, not privatizing them.

*Submitted By: BC Federation of Retired Union Members
Location: British Columbia, CA*

23.1.4 EXPANSION OF CANADA POST

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: advocate for the expansion of services offered by Canada Post by offering a national check in service programme for seniors and persons with mobility issues.

BECAUSE: The phrase “ageing in place” is being increasingly used to mean having the health and social supports and services seniors need to live safely and independently in their own home or their community for as long as they wish:

AND: ageing at home can be more cost effective than receiving the same assistance in an institutional setting:

AND: Many Countries already have successful services in place: For a senior to successfully “age in place” a range of programme and services is needed and a senior check in by Canada Post would be a new and innovative way to support seniors.

Submitted By: Affiliated Group/Club: Unifor Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

President: M. McCue Recording Secretary: M. Kontor-Taylor

Location: Toronto

Passed on Date: May 17th, 2023

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION RESOLUTIONS 2023

COMMUNICATIONS

23.2.1 CANADIAN COMPANIES AND OFFSHORE CONTRACTS

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Make the necessary representations to the federal government so that companies who receive federal government subsidies are required to disclose data on the volume of work which is being sent outside Canada.

BECAUSE: Will lobby the Federal Government to ensure that the telecommunications sector remains in Canadian hands and will resist any acquisition of Canadian Telecom companies by foreign investors and to put measures in place to limit offshore “loopholes” or tax avoidance techniques.

AND: Banks, Insurance Companies, Airline Companies etc. outsource work to foreign companies that could be performed by Canadians in their own homes:

AND: Oppose the outsourcing and offshoring of Canadian jobs as it reduces job opportunities for Canadian workers, and it also hurts competitiveness in the global economy.

Affiliated Group/Club: Unifor Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

President: M. McCue Recording Secretary: M. Kontor-Taylor

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Passed on Date: May 17th, 2023

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION RESOLUTIONS 2023

HEALTH

23.3.1 FOOD BANKS

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Call upon all levels of Government to put poverty reduction in their agendas and enact policies that will help to build economic and social resilience and ensure the right to food for all individuals.

BECAUSE: data proves that food bank visits directly rise with increases in rent, the scarcity of affordable housing, with falls in minimum wage and with reductions in the disability benefits available to individuals requiring social assistance.

AND: Governments need to continue to raise the minimum wage and social support benefits in the face of inflation and control rent increases if they want to keep food bank usage from rising.

Submitted By: Affiliated Group/Club: Unifor Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

President: M. McCue Recording Secretary: M. Kontor-Taylor

Location: Toronto, ON

Passed on Date: May 17th, 2023

23.3.2 UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE BENEFITS UNDER ATTACK

NATIONAL PENSIONS FEDERATION WILL: Call upon other Seniors' Organizations and allies, to fight against the privatization of our universal publicly funded healthcare system and call for a National Day of Action to support universal Healthcare.

BECAUSE: Provinces across the country are moving towards privatizing services that are currently under the public healthcare system;

AND: People will be paying out-of-pocket for now-covered healthcare services;

AND: Private healthcare has never proven to be beneficial to anyone.

Affiliated Group/Club: Unifor Retired Workers Council Executive

Location: Toronto, Ontario

23.3.3 HEARING AIDS AS A MEDICAL DEVICE

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Urge the federal government to have audiology equipment and hearing loss treatment recognized as a necessary medical treatment fully funded under the Canada Health Act.

BECAUSE: hearing loss is a common condition that affects seniors;

AND: hearing loss leads to isolation and distress;

AND: Alzheimer Society Canada has reported that hearing loss is considered a modifiable risk factor for dementia and recommends that individuals maintain their hearing;

AND: Alzheimer Society Canada has called for governments to take action to support programs and policies that promote better brain health which may reduce the prevalence of dementia;

AND: the provision of various rates of support for audiology equipment and hearing loss intervention treatments is in contravention of the Canada Health Act for a publicly delivered system with treatment and pharmaceuticals equally available across Canada.

Affiliated Group/Club: Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO BC)
President: Leslie Gaudette Recording Secretary: A. Lemonnier

23.3.4 NEW LONG-TERM CARE STANDARDS AND SERVICES

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS WILL: Hold the federal government to account for its commitment to improving the provision of long-term care services across Canada;

AND: Hold the federal government to account for working collaboratively with the provincial governments on a plan to ensure implementation of the new long-term care standards and report progress on the plan to the public.

BECAUSE the COVID-19 pandemic shone a spotlight on the vulnerabilities of long-term care services in Canada which highlighted the need for standards and accountability measures to enable the delivery of quality, safe, and resident-centered care;

AND the Health Standards Organization has developed new national standards for long-term care to address the delivery of safe, reliable, and high-quality care;

AND the Canadian Standards Association has developed new national standards for long-term care to address the design, operation, and infection prevention and control practices;

AND new national standards for long-term care have been developed by the Canadian Standards Association to address the design, operation, and infection prevention and control practices.

Affiliated Group/Club: Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO BC)

President: Leslie Gaudette Recording Secretary: A. Lemonnier

Location: British Columbia, CA

23.3.5 THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO COVID-19 AND TO TRANSFORM LONG-TERM CARE IN CANADA

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Urge the federal government to;

- a) establish a National Inquiry into our governments' response to, and the impacts of, the Covid-19 pandemic on the lives of residents of long-term care in Canada,
- b) incorporate the lessons learned from this Inquiry into the development of the new federal Safe Long-term Care Act, dated March 1, 2023.

BECAUSE: Canada's long-term care homes had the highest proportion of deaths among all Covid- 19 deaths world-wide and caused national shame. "The crisis was predicted in more than 100 reports and inquiries in the 50 years preceding the epidemic",

AND: There is a need for accountability for long-term (LTC) care that focuses on ensuring that the human rights of residents of LTC in Canada are fully respected by, among other things, improving reporting on the quality of life of residents in LTC, improving timely access to needed medical care including mental health care,

AND: The documented safety concerns about the use and overuse of antipsychotics among seniors in LTC.

Affiliated Group/Club Name: NPF

Submitted By: NPF Health Committee, Kathleen Jamieson

President: Trish McAuliffe Recording -Secretary: Annette O'Connor

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION RESOLUTIONS 2023

PENSIONS

23.4.1 THE FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY OF COMPANIES WITH SINGLE EMPLOYER DEFINED BENEFIT TO PENSION PLANS SHOULD BE CLARIFIED TO LIMIT DIVIDENDS, SHARE BUYBACKS, ETC. IF PENSION IS UNDERFUNDED

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Advocate to ensure regulations make clear that the company's fiduciary responsibility to the pension plan and pensioner includes that the plan should be fully funded before company cash/assets are permitted to leave the company as dividends, share buybacks, executive bonuses, etc.

BECAUSE: Today, companies are free to use company cash/assets to pay executive bonuses, dividends, share buybacks, etc. despite an underfunded pension, putting pensions at risk.

Submitted By: Canadian Federation of Pensioners

President: Michael Powell Recording -Secretary: David Young

23.4.2 INFORMED CONSENT FOR PENSION CHANGES

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Advocate for the requirement that informed consent be obtained from pensioners and plan members before any change to their pension plan be implemented that could adversely impact their future financial security.

BECAUSE: Today, changes to pension plans that have the potential to adversely impact pensioners and plan members occur without the informed consent of pensioners and/or active plan members,

AND: These changes include increased risk and the potential of reduced pension benefits,

AND: Plan members and pensioners are groups with differing needs and objectives and must be independently represented.

Affiliated Group/Club Name: Canadian Federation Of Pensioners

President: Michael Powell Recording Secretary: David Young

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION RESOLUTIONS 2023

FINANCE AND INCOME

23.5.1 GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT [GIS] INCREASE

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Continue to press the Federal government to increase substantially the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

BECAUSE the federal government made no provision for an increase to the GIS in their most recent 2023 budget.

Affiliated Group/Club: Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO BC)

President: Leslie Gaudette Recording Secretary: A. Lemonnier

Location: British Columbia, CA

23.5.2 CALL FOR FAIRER TAX STRUCTURE

NATIONAL PENSIONS FEDERATION WILL: Call upon the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister of Canada, and all levels of Government to put in place a fairer system for taxing individuals.

BECAUSE: Currently, the super-rich pay a smaller proportion of their income and wealth and increasing tax rates on the highest incomes or putting a minimum effective tax rate in place would make for a fairer tax structure;

AND: the richest 1 % of the population controls 25% of Canada's wealth and increasing tax rates on the highest incomes or putting a minimum effective tax rate in place would make for a fairer tax structure;

AND: Closing tax loopholes which would only benefit the super-rich, an inheritance tax on high-wealth estates and a meaningful luxury goods tax would be fairer and the extra funding could benefit all Government programs.

Submitted by: Unifor Toronto Area Retired Workers Council

President: M. McCue Recording Secretary: M. Kontor-Taylor

Location: Toronto, ON

23.5.3 HIGH COST OF LIVING

NATIONAL PENSIONS FEDERATION WILL: Call upon other Seniors' Organizations and allies to participate in Days of Action, to address the social, political, and economic inequalities that are occurring in our society due to the high cost of living.

BECAUSE: Many Canadians are directly impacted by high interest rates, rising prices such as transportation, food, housing, shelter, and clothing;

AND: This situation does not affect all Canadians equally, it is felt more so by those with fixed incomes, low wages, retirees, the poor and single parents;

AND: Food banks are at a breaking point where they can't keep up with the increased demand for their services;

AND: Millennials are worse off than their parents in terms of owning their own house, while renting is also creating hardships. This further puts a strain on their ability to save for a home.

*Submitted by Affiliated Group: Unifor Local 707 Retired Workers Chapter
Location: Oakville, Ontario*

23.5.4 INCREASE THE CPP/QPP DEATH BENEFIT

NATIONAL PENSIONS FEDERATION WILL: Lobby the Federal Government (CPP/QPP) and the Quebec Government to raise the Death Benefit from \$2,500 to \$5,000, to make it non-taxable;

AND: To lobby all Retiree Organizations to organize a national campaign in favour of an increased, non-taxable death benefit.

BECAUSE: The amount of the death benefit has remained unchanged for many years;

AND: The amount of the death benefit should make it possible to pay for a decent funeral;

AND: In 1998, the cost of funeral expenses ranged from \$2,500 to \$5,000;

AND: Currently the same costs range from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

*Submitted by Affiliated Group : Unifor Local 62 Retired Workers Chapter
Location: Quebec*

23.5.5 OAS EQUITY FOR ALL SENIORS

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Push the Federal Government to revise the OAS augmentation of 10% for all seniors.

AND: Join with CURC and the Bloc Quebecois and other community groups to endorse Bill C 319 presented to the government in May 2023 to amend the Old Age Security pension so that people between the ages of 65 and 74 will also benefit from the 10% increase already granted to people of 75 and over.

BECAUSE: People between 65 to 74 cannot benefit from the 10% increase already granted to people aged 75 and over.

AND: People between 65 to 74 have similar obligations.

AND: Many people take their pension at the age of 65, and they no longer qualify for their Group Insurance and Medication Benefits.

AND: Augmentation creates an age related, two-tier class of seniors in Canada.

AFFILIATED GROUP/CLUB NAME: CONGRESS OF UNION RETIREES OF CANADA

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER NAME: LOUISETTE HINTON

President: Michael MacIsaac Recording-Secretary: Janice Bernier

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION RESOLUTIONS 2023

HOUSING

23.6.1 MULTIGENERATIONAL HOME RENOVATION TAX CREDIT AMENDMENT

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Urge the Federal government to amend the “Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit” to include new-build homes as well as renovated homes.

BECAUSE The cost to adapt a new house to accommodate seniors and persons with disabilities can be just as costly as renovating an existing home.

*Affiliated Group/Club: Council of Senior Citizens’ Organizations of BC (COSCO BC)
President: Leslie Gaudette Recording Secretary: A. Lemonnier
Location: British Columbia, CA*

23.6.2 HOUSING IS A RIGHT

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Ensure the National Housing Strategy policy has an action plan with timelines that focus on the right to adequate housing especially as it pertains to our senior citizens in Canada, funding the non-profit, co-operative and social housing needed to augment the supply of affordable, adequate and accessible housing.

AND: Ensure a consistent definition of ‘affordable housing’ based on household income-and not on market rent.

BECAUSE: The National Pensioners Federation notes addressing hidden homelessness issues are impacting our senior population

AND: Seniors in Canada are impacted greatly by a widening gap between their income/pension and current costs for homes including strata fees and utilities

AND: Allowing seniors to age in place may ensure their ability to remain in the neighbourhood where they are connected to the services of the community they choose to reside in.

*Affiliated Group/Club Name: NPF
Submitted By: NPF Housing Committee, Barb Mikulec
President: Trish McAuliffe*

23.6.3 STABLE HOUSING POLICIES

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: Encourage all governments to use the measures of the Rapid Housing Initiative policy to make every effort to serve seniors as a priority group when offering housing to those in core need of housing such as vulnerable individuals including families, seniors and indigenous people.

AND: Encourage all sectors of governments to recognize senior homelessness affects many seniors over the age of 55 who may be impacted by a shortened life expectancy with inadequate housing.

BECAUSE: The National Pensioners Federation notes that the numbers of homeless persons in Canada is remarkably high among seniors aged over 55 years

AND: The vacancy rate of affordable appropriate housing is low in many parts of Canada

AND: The lack of stable housing affects the long-term health of our vulnerable senior citizens in Canada.

*Submitted By NPF Housing Committee, Barb Mikulec
President: Trish McAuliffe*

NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION RESOLUTIONS 2023

EQUALITY

23.7.1 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS FEDERATION WILL: work with affiliates and allies encourage and support the development of a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

BECAUSE: Despite the existence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, older people are not recognized explicitly under the international human rights laws that legally oblige governments to realize the rights of all people. The Declaration is not legally binding.

AND: A UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons is necessary to ensure that older women and men can realize their rights. With a UN convention, and the assistance of a Special Rapporteur, governments can have an explicit legal framework, guidance and support that would enable them to ensure that older people's rights are realized.

Affiliated Group/Club: Unifor Toronto Area Retired Workers Council
President: M. McCue Recording Secretary - M. Kontor-Taylor
Location: Toronto, ON

23.7.2 UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

NATIONAL PENSIONS FEDERATION 2023 WILL: Work with affiliates and allies to encourage and support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

BECAUSE: Despite the existence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, older people are not recognized explicitly under the international human rights laws;

AND: Demographic change is resulting in unprecedented numbers of older people worldwide. Greater numbers of people will be affected directly by age discrimination and ageism;

AND: A United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons is necessary to ensure that older women and men can realize their rights;

AND: When Human rights are respected, people are able to live with dignity, equality and free from discrimination.

Submitted by: Unifor Local 1459 Retired Workers Chapter
Location: Toronto, Ontario