

**Association canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants retraités**

**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

**SENIORS VOICE**

**Report to the 2017 ACER-CART AGM**

ACER-CART, in accordance with its priorities, works with other seniors groups who hold similar goals related to promoting the well-being of older adults. Seniors Voice, one of these collaborations, specifically seeks to highlight the contributions of older Canadians to society, and to advocate on the common issues of health care, housing, financial security in retirement, and inequality.

The Steering Committee is comprised of reps from ACER-CART, C2V2 (La Coalition citoyenne pour mieux vivre et vieillir), the Congress of Union Retirees, the National Association of Federal Retirees, and the National Pensioners’ Federation. These organizations and many other national and provincial associations have manifested their membership by registering on the websites: seniorsvoice.org and voixdesaines.org. ACER-CART is grateful to our Members who have engaged in several of the meetings of Seniors Voice in person or by conference call, and has suggested that should the coalition resonate with them, they, too, might become members.

October 1, the UN-designated International Day of Older Persons: Seniors Voice has sought to raise awareness of the contributions and the needs of older Canadians by asking members to approach their provincial and municipal governments with a request that, through a “declaration”, they formally recognize October 1 as the day of the older person. Such declarations have been made and related events have occurred in many Canadian communities. The response of local governments has been most positive. Seeking even broader recognition of older adults, Seniors Voice is asking that senior organizations in all of the provinces and territories, and in communities within them, collaborate to hold October 1 events honouring older citizens. The object is to hold as many events as possible to ensure that an event of recognition occurs in every provincial capital city or major city, and that every province and municipality formally declares October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons.

The Seniors Voice websites feature a “tool kit”, a flag source, and photos of activities that took place last year.

Canada’s 150th: As seniors advocacy groups, our focus usually is the ear of those who can act to implement changes we see necessary for our welfare and that of our peers -- the provision of good health care, appropriate housing, adequate retirement income, and the like. On this 150th anniversary year, Seniors Voice suggests that we move beyond advocacy. Accordingly, we invite national and provincial seniors groups across the country – all of you -- to highlight on the website the roles you play in your communities and the contributions you make. Volunteer hours, caregiving, relationships with schools, and wellness and retirement workshops have been suggested to trigger ideas of what could be posted.

The Seniors Voice website “gatekeeper”

*For events/photos posting -- Deborah Duffy:* [*DDuffy@nupge.ca*](mailto:DDuffy@nupge.ca)

*For posting documents related to advocacy issues – Pat Kerwin:* [*patjkerwin@gmail.com*](mailto:patjkerwin@gmail.com)

JoAnn Lauber

ACER-CART Representative

Seniors Voice