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



**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

 **SENIORS VOICE**

 **AGM 2018**

A priority for ACER-CART is to work with other groups who hold similar goals of promoting the well being of older adults. *Seniors Voice*, one of these collaborations, specifically seeks to highlight the concerns of older Canadians through events around October 1, the UN International Day of Older Persons. Other goals relate to advocacy on the common concerns of health care, housing, financial security in retirement, and inequality.

*The Steering Committee* is comprised of reps from ACER-CART (JoAnn Lauber), the Congress of Union Retirees (Pat Kerwin, Lucienne Bahuaud), the National Association of Federal Retirees (Sayward Montague), and the National Pensioners’ Federation (Herb John & Trish McAuliffe).

In the past year C2V2 (*the Coalition citoyenne pour mieux vivre et vieillir*) has withdrawn from the Coalition. The remaining organizations and their provincial branches and affiliates engage in *Seniors Voice* by registering October 1 recognition events on the websites: seniorsvoice.org and [voixdesaines.org](http://voixdesaines.org/). In the past, several ACER-CART Members have joined the meetings of *Seniors Voice* in person or by conference call. This is good in that *Seniors Voice* grows stronger as organizations of seniors join the collaboration; numbers mean power.

My hope is that eventually we will speak with one powerful national voice – (not CARP!) -- on issues of importance to older Canadian adults. This is difficult to achieve as every organization seeks to speak for a special segment of seniors, and no national organization wants to be subsumed by another or have another organization speak for it. One forward step, however, has been taken. In our last conference call meeting on May 9th, it was agreed to and recommended that, while each separate *Seniors Voice* national member might advocate in its own way to call for the establishment of federal ministry for seniors, just before the 2019 election we could send a single joint letter to each of the political parties expressing this expectation of the new government.

***October 1, the UN-designated International Day of Older Persons*:** In accordance with the main objective of *Seniors Voice*, which is having provincial and municipal governments across Canada formally declare October 1 as the day of older persons, many declarations have been made and related events have occurred in communities across Canada. Two provincial governments, Alberta (Jan 2018) and Saskatchewan (?), have formally recognized the day. An objective for this year is to have the other provincial governments and many other municipalities also declare October 1 as the day recognizing the contributions and the concerns of the older adult segment of our society.

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

*The Seniors Voice website gatekeepers:*

*For events/photos posting -- Deborah Duffy:* *DDuffy@nupge.ca*

*For posting documents related to advocacy issues – Pat Kerwin:* *patjkerwin@gmail.com*

A final issue for Members of ACER-CART: Do you wish for a representative of your association to be on the distribution list for *Seniors Voice*? Pat Kerwin, who is record keeper and unofficial communications person, very conscientious and thorough, would like to have your Association’s information so as to keep you apprised of the actions of *Seniors Voice.*