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



**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

**PENSION AND RETIREMENT INCOME COMMITTEE**

**2019 AGM REPORT**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**:

Chair: Gerry Tiede

Members: JoAnn Lauber, Doreen Noseworthy

**The terms of reference:**

The Pension and Retirement Income Committee shall:

1. respond to requests regarding matters pertaining to pension concerns;
2. make recommendations to the Executive on matters pertaining to pension concerns;
3. receive concerns and recommendations from Members;
4. Provide support to Members in matters relating to pension and income
5. monitor the public service pensions and the private pension plans to identify trends, changes and threats to members’ pension and retirement income.

**Report:**

The work of the Pension Committee this year was the implementation of our strategy to combat Bill C-27, a federal Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, and allow the formation of new Target Benefit (TB) plans as well as the conversion of current Defined Benefit plans to TB plans. We also included promoting a pension insurance program, paid for by pension plans, that would be available to pay pensions when company pension plans have become insolvent. Our petition is as follows:

**Whereas:**

* Canadians throughout their working years have individually contributed to their pensions, and their employers have contributed to those pensions as deferred wages;
* Canadians who have defined benefit pension plans should not live in fear that their earned benefits might be reduced when they are in their most vulnerable senior years; and
* Canadians who have worked and contributed to defined benefit pension plans should be protected from the loss of their pensions through bankruptcy or mismanagement of their pension administration and investments.

We, the undersigned, **Citizens of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada**to promote and protect earned pensions for all Canadians in the future, to withdraw Bill C-27, and to establish a national pension insurance program to ensure that seniors can live with financial security.

The response of retired teachers to participating in our petition has been gratifying. 13,720 signatures were received from all provinces and territories in the 60 days that the petition was open. Of interest is that there are 730 past and current e-petitions listed on the House of Commons website and our petition recorded the 26th most signatures.

We are expecting to have the petition read in the House of Commons at 10:00 on June 6 and invite you to contact Roger if you are able to join us. We will be reporting on that during our AGM on June 8.

While we still have lots to learn about effective engagement with political leaders, this experience has shown us that we can mobilize a lot of support across the country for issues that affect retired persons.

I am looking forward to the sharing of effective strategies for advocacy that provincial associations have used during the Member Report period of our meetings together. BCRTA, for example, mobilized our branches to complete written petitions to their MPs and 22 petitions have been read in the House of Commons as of April 28 with 21 more already submitted for presentation.

Gerry Tiede

Chair

**Petition data**

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| **Province / Territory** | **Signatures** |
| Alberta | 5414 |
| British Columbia | 4107 |
| Manitoba | 492 |
| New Brunswick | 256 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 108 |
| Northwest Territories | 1 |
| Nova Scotia | 1356 |
| Nunavut | 1 |
| Ontario | 1585 |
| Prince Edward Island | 46 |
| Quebec | 290 |
| Saskatchewan | 57 |
| Yukon | 13 |
| Other Countries | 14 |