

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

**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

**Federal Budget 2018**

**Seniors, Retirement Security and Health Issues**

Ottawa, Ontario

February 28, 2018

The Canadian Association of Retired Teachers, ACER-CART, is pleased that the Federal budget, which was tabled in the House of Commons on February 27, does address issues that are important for retired teachers and for seniors.

**Pharmacare**

For a number of years, our AGM delegates have mandated that ACER-CART lobby for *National Pharmacare Program* and now, along with other national organizations, we have been listened to. The budget calls for the creation of an advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare. This makes us cautiously hopeful as well as determined to continue to pressure the government to implement one Canadian purchaser national pharmaceutical formulary in the very near future. Too many low income Canadian seniors need this to happen to ensure their good health.

**Other Related Health Initiatives**

The budget does address other areas pertinent to seniors who were in Residential Schools and those potentially affected by the opioid crisis. The budget will also finance a New Brunswick Health Seniors’ Pilot Study, a community approach to dementia.

**Pension and Income Security**

The government has reaffirmed that “Every Canadian deserves Secure Retirement, free of financial worries.” We were pleased when the present government restored the OAS eligibility back to age 65, after the previous government had raised it to age 67. It appears that improvements to CPP and OAS will continue. ACER-CART is also pleased that the government intends to address the protection of workers’ contributions to a pension plan even in the event of a company going bankrupt. On the issue of Target Benefit Plans, the government was silent on its Bill C-27 and we must remain vigilant on this.

**Conclusion**

No budget results in universal satisfaction. Under this one, the National deficit continues to rise and many areas have fallen short of expectations and hopes; nevertheless, it seems to be a social budget with a focus on middle-class priorities.

Brian Kenny

President