# *Seniors Voice/Voix des Aîné*

# March 9, 2018 Conference Call involving the Steering Committee Members

# This coalition is a collaboration of ACER-CART with the National Pensioners’ Federation (NPF), the National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR), the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC), [Coalition citoyenne pour mieux vivre et vieillir](https://ftq.qc.ca/syndicats-affilies/coalition-citoyenne-pour-mieux-vivre-et-vieillir-c2v2il-faut-voir-a-ce-que-les-gens-vivent-mieux-et-vivent-bien-surtout/)/ [Citizen Coalition for Better Living and Aging](https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=1&hl=en&prev=search&rurl=translate.google.ca&sl=fr&sp=nmt4&u=http://scfp.qc.ca/121269-2/&xid=17259,15700002,15700022,15700105,15700124,15700149,15700168,15700173,15700186,15700201&usg=ALkJrhiUOigScv_-KP94enIJSlmOiVNK8Q) (C2V2), as well as the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE). And with the understanding that all of the affiliates or branches of these associations are also a part of it!

1. A main objective of this coalition is to have October 1, the International Day of Older Persons, recognized officially (declared formally) across Canada in all provinces, cities and communities. It was felt that many events had been held in 2017 but that news of them has not reached our websites.

Groups of seniors in Canada who set up events marking the International day of Older Persons in 2017 are urged to post their photos and brief comments onto one of the Coalition’s two Websites: <https://seniorsvoice.org> or [voixdesaines.org](http://voixdesaines.org/). Or send them to Deb Duffy: DDuffy@nupge.ca for posting.

1. It was noted that many groups other than those involved with Seniors Voice strive to recognize the October 1 Day, these groups including International Longevity Centre of Canada and a Tai Chi group. The Steering Committee is eager to embrace groups that have goals in common and ask seniors groups across Canada to identify them.

1. NAFR and RTO/ERO have begun thinking about planning for October 1, 2019 in the context of the federal election that month. They want to develop a platform for seniors with a simple message. They thought that it would be used with candidates. Everyone liked the idea and wanted to see it work. JoAnn noted that in 2015 ACER-CART had done a booklet that was used to question candidates. It had worked well.
2. NAFR and RTO/ERO are planning joint action in the Ontario election with a focus on health care. They were open to the participation of other groups and would share messaging. This would not be a Seniors Vote undertaking as we are focused on the federal level. There could be a link to web site that might be established for this campaign.
3. It was agreed that along with the efforts around October 1, we would stay with our 4 founding policy areas: Health, Pensions, Housing and Inequality. Later in the discussion it was decided to add a very specific demand for a Minister for Seniors. ( Note: The Conservatives had Alice Wong as Minister of State for Seniors. The Liberals have set up no such position; instead, the Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development attends to matters dealing with seniors.)
4. Bill C-27: discussion ensued, with everyone in agreement that the establishment of target benefit plans is still on the horizon federally, the only question being “when”.

Seniors Voice is on board for supporting any further action related to Bill C-27.

**The next steering committee conference call was set for May 9 at 2 PM EDT**