**Pension Committee report – January 11, 2018**

1. **Submissions to the Federal Government consultation on retirement security**
   1. To my knowledge, the following Associations responded in writing to the Minister:
      1. ACER-CART
      2. Alberta
      3. BC
      4. Newfoundland
      5. Quebec
      6. Nova Scotia
      7. Others?
   2. I would assume that at least the same provincial associations encouraged their members to make on-line submissions too.

Alberta reported at Dec. 20 the following

* 12907 out of 18498 members opened their email (69.78%)
* 5002 clicked on the link in the email to read the full letter *(blog post)* (27.04%)
* 3394 clicked on the link in the letter *(blog post)* to fill out survey (18.35%)

BC doesn’t have the capacity to report out at the same level of sophistication but about 1000 saw our article in our electronic newsletter and another 1000 saw it on our Facebook page.

* 1. As this is our first coordinated lobbying effort, at least that I can recall, I would say that this is an encouraging level of engagement. And there’s still lots of room to grow!

1. **Bill C-17 Petition.**
   1. BCRTA has continued to collect signatures and present petitions in the House of Commons asking the government to withdraw Bill C-27. Eight petitions have been read out so far.
2. **Possible e-petition**

As a next step in our Bill C-27 campaign I would like us to consider submitting an e-petition on the Government of Canada’s site. Some thoughts:

* 1. I think we need to do it by the end of January so it is completed and read in the HofC before the house recesses. There are new rules about how long the petition is open and we can now choose 30, 60, 90 or 120 days. If we go for 90 days, that means we could launch on Feb. 1 and be read for submission in May. Or we could go for a 60 day term.
  2. We need a MP to ‘sponsor’ the petition and I would like to get a Liberal or Conservative Member to do that. We have had great support from NDP MPs which we appreciate but I think it would be more effective to get a sponsor from one of the other parties.
  3. There are other groups that could be asked to participate. We met some of them at the Vibrant Voices meeting in Toronto and I know that some like-minded groups in BC would join in.
  4. Here’s some draft language. I suggest we take the focus off “Bill C-27” as it will likely disappear when the election is called although the provisions will reappear with the forming of a new government.

**Proposed ACER-CART petition:**

**Whereas:**

* Canadians who have received deferred wages in the form of contributions and who have contributed themselves to defined benefit pension plans should not live in fear that these 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 pension through bankruptcy or mismanagement of their pension administration and investment.

**Therefore,** we, the undersigned citizens of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to commit to promoting and protecting earned pensions for **all** Canadians in the future, to withdraw Bill C-27, and to establish a national pension insurance program to ensure that our seniors can live with financial security.

**There is another, similar petition that is currently on the government web-site**: <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Search?category=All&text=pension+security>

Whereas:

* Canadian workers rely on their pensions and benefits so they can live and retire with dignity;
* Canada’s inadequate bankruptcy laws allow failing corporations to take the money intended for their employee’s pensions and benefits, and use it to pay off CEOs, banks and investors instead; and
* The Liberal party campaigned on improving retirement security for Canadians.

We, the undersigned, **residents of Canada**, call upon the **government of Canada**to fix our bankruptcy laws to stop corporations from putting shareholders, banks and creditors ahead of their employees when they file for bankruptcy protection.

[Scott Duvall](http://www.ourcommons.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members/Scott-Duvall(88780))

Hamilton Mountain

NDP

Ontario