

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

**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

**President’s Report**

**Executive Conference Call**

**March 14, 2019**

**Vibrant Voices**

I want to extend a sincere thank you to Gerry, Gordon and Roger who represented ACER-CART at the Advocacy Day on February 20, 2019. I understand that Minister Tassi spoke at the reception and provided information on the Liberal party’s accomplishments to make seniors lives better in Canada. I also understand Gerry gave the best speech when speaking on behalf of our organization.

I was very impressed with Sayward Montague’s collaboration with all organizations in developing information on the three themes of the campaign. She was very receptive to changes and reacted quickly to any suggestions. I would like to thank JoAnn for her knowledge and wisdom on these themes and therefore helped Sayward focus on the key messages intended for the members of Parliament.

The next step in our campaign will be working with Gordon and his Political Advocacy Committee in formatting the three themes in a manner which is conducive to the needs and understanding of our members. I would expect that the feedback from the Advocacy Day would provide a greater perspective in what is going to resonate when our members speak to the federal candidates in the upcoming months.

**E-Petition 2039 (Pension System)**

I also want to thank Gerry for his hard work and efforts in having the petition up and running on February 7, 2019. Gerry also needs to be commended for having Mark Warawa, Conservative Member of Parliament for Langley-Aldergrove in agreeing to present the petition in the House of Commons on June 6, 2019. I think we all look forward to being in the visitors’ gallery and watching this unfold on that date.

I was very fortunate to present the petition at a meeting with my Executive and Branch Presidents on February 20, 2019. I also presented the petition to the other eight organizations on my Seniors Advisory Council on February 28, 2019. Lastly, I was able to convince NSTU President Paul Wozney to provide the petition at the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour meeting on March 7, 2019.

**National Pharmacare Program**

No doubt all of you are concerned about the rumours we are hearing about the upcoming Liberal government’s budget and the possibility of the announcement of a “fill in the gaps” pharmacare program. Interesting to note that a year ago Finance Minister Morneau announced such a program as the government was announcing Dr. Eric Hoskins Advisory Council On the Implementation of National Pharmacare.

**Conclusion**

With the current turmoil in Ottawa and these rumours I am very concerned that what we were hoping was within reach after the October 21, 2019 election might be now slipping through our hands. Our campaign will now have to be laser focused in providing Canadians with the facts on how this program will provide tremendous value and savings.

In writing this report I seem to feel a little remiss in my duties as President, but I know that I am indeed fortunate to have an excellent Executive that will step in at any time in promoting our great organization.