**ACER-CART Pension Committee Report – March 7, 2019**

The majority of the committee’s work since January, 2019 has been the implementation of the e-petition:

Feb. 8 – Petition launched

Mar. 7 – 2200 signatures so far

April 9 – Petition closes

June 6 – Petition read in House of Commons

June 7 or 8 – video of Mark Warawa reading our petition shown at our AGM gathering?

Given that this is our first national advocacy initiative perhaps we shouldn’t be too disappointed with the number of responses to date. I know that some provinces have not yet launched their communication plans so a goal of 10,000 signatures may still be reachable.

Things to consider for the next time:

1. Many provincial associations do not have a culture of political advocacy that down reaches to the general membership.
2. There needs to be a significant long-range educational strategy to launching a campaign such as this one. When people have heard about the issues, understand the background situation and have some skin in the game they are more likely to ‘sign on.’
3. ACER-CART doesn’t really have a national communication instrument to promote these types of projects. I suspect that most of the members of our provincial associations know next to nothing of our national Association. Perhaps we should think about ways to raise our profile.

BCRTA petition progress: 14 individual petitions with at least 25 signatures calling on the government to withdraw Bill C-27 have been read in the House of Commons. 6 more are in the late stages of completion.

**ACER-CART Pension Committee**

Gerry Tiede

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