**Health Services Committee Report**

**ACER-CART**

**October 2020**

**Members:** Bill Berryman, Nova Scotia Alyson Hillier, Nova Scotia

Marie LeBlanc-Warwick, Saskatchewan Peggy Prendergast, Manitoba

Chair: Margaret Urquhart, Regional Representative East, New Brunswick

**Article 10.2 Standing Committee Terms of Reference Health Services Committee (2017)** States:

ACER-CART seeks to promote the optimal health of retired teachers and seniors. The Health Services Committee shall:

1. Provide Members with links to reliable information on personal health and well-being
2. Advocate for health goals identified in ACERCART’s strategic plans and Member resolutions, and
3. Prepare for the Executive proposals, position papers and appropriate recommendations related to health concerns.

**Chair Observations:** These observations are made to, hopefully, help guide the Health Services Committee in its work. They are gleaned from attending A-C AGM’s, serving on the Executive and informal discussions with Member representatives.

* Retirees across the country share concerns and some health priorities
* Health is a provincial/territorial jurisdiction
* Federal funding comes with “strings” attached
* Provinces/territories resist, sometimes strongly, and have circumvented efforts by the federal government to provide direction and framework
* Some Members have staff who may be called upon to support research and investigation of issues/concerns, not all do and neither does ACER-CART
* The preparation of position papers takes considerable research and time. Committee members are volunteers, some with significant responsibilities in their own organizations
* On more than one occasion we have relied on the work of Members and like-minded organizations to share information, sometimes with permitted adaptations, with and encourage members to take action
* We have promoted support of the initiatives of other organizations (eg Demand a Plan)
* ACER-CART can take steps at a national level and work in collaboration with like-minded organizations
* We rely on Members to take action at the provincial/territorial level – as associations and individually. How effective are we in achieving this? these?
* Not all Members are politically active, engaging officially with their elected representatives
* An updated website will provide access to accurate and current information for the use of Members

**Meeting:** The committee has a zoom meeting planned for October 19th, 2020. In contacting members to arrange it the following points were put out as potential agenda items:

* AGM resolutions relevant/referred to this committee
* pharmacare (referenced in the throne speech)
* long term care (referenced in the throne speech),
* Canada Health Act (it has come up in the last 2 AGM's and Marie LeBlanc-Warwick has graciously offered to try and put together a bit of a primer),
* appropriateness of website links on newly designed webpage
* CIHI report on bilateral accords (postponed due to covid)
* Ontario one pagers shared immediately after our AGM
* national seniors strategy
* other items, for example elder abuse, you see as priorities

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Urquhart, Chair and East Coast Representative