

**ACER-CART** has been in existence since 1991. It is the national voice of retired teachers. It is a national bilingual association of member associations representing over 128,000 retired teachers from Canada's ten provinces and Yukon Territory.

It operates in the interests of its members, facilitating liaison and mutual assistance among them, and promoting and supporting public education.

It advocates for national policies that are necessary in building a strong social and economic fabric that responds to the needs of aging Canadians.

### **WORKING TO ACHIEVE A CARING, CONSULTATIVE AND COMMITTED CANADIAN PARLIAMENT**

**ACER-CART** wants to ensure that each political party and its candidates are fully engaged in communications with seniors. **ACER-CART** is committed to providing appropriate support to its member associations and their retired teachers to engage the candidates and their political parties. The post-election Parliament must be committed to providing leadership and support to the provinces and territories so that their constitutional responsibilities are carried out in a coordinated, consultative and unified manner. In this way Canada can realize a truly efficient and effective approach to responding to the needs and realities of seniors.

This pamphlet is intended to assist members in ensuring that all candidates seeking a seat in Canada's Parliament and offering to participate in formulating laws and policies are aware of the voice of **ACER-CART** and its member associations, are responsive to the relevant issues, and are committed to work on behalf of Canadian seniors now and in the future.

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**[www.acer-cart.org](http://www.acer-cart.org)**

Cette brochure est aussi disponible en français.



## **A Vision for Canada**



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

**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

**[www.acer-cart.org](http://www.acer-cart.org)**

## Health Care in Canada

**ACER-CART** believes that health care for Canadians should be publicly administered, publicly funded and publicly delivered, nationally universal in coverage and accessible, comprehensive, and portable.

**ACER-CART** urges that the Parliament assembled after the next federal election initiate a new era of negotiated agreement, through a health accord endorsed by the federal, provincial and territorial governments, that would protect, transform and strengthen Medicare, thereby providing stability and cohesiveness to the Canadian health care system.

*“Society becomes more wholesome, more serene, and spiritually healthier, if it knows that its citizens have at the back of their consciousness the knowledge that not only themselves, but all their fellows, have access, when ill, to the best that medical skill can provide.”*

Aneurin Bevin (1942), founder,  
National Health Service, United Kingdom

## A National Seniors Care Plan

**ACER-CART** believes that Canadians deserve the security of a continuum of community-based integrated services that includes a universal system of home care, home support, long-term care services, and hospice and palliative care; and that this continuum of services should be an integral part of a Canadian comprehensive health care system.

**ACER-CART** urges that a newly elected federal government collaborate with the provinces and territories to facilitate the establishment of a national seniors care plan that coordinates care for seniors.

*“We need a national strategy involving all levels of government, and with Ottawa taking the leading role. We see this as a much more positive alternative to quarrelling over who is in charge of what and who should pay for what.”*

Dr. Christopher Simpson, President  
Canadian Medical Association

“Code Gridlock: Why we need a national seniors care system”.  
Address to the Canadian Club of Ottawa. November 18, 2014.

## A Universal Pharmacare Program

**ACER-CART** believes that access to adequate medication is an essential component of a national health care program.

**ACER-CART** urges that the next federal government convene a meeting of the Ministers of Health to seek to mediate a consensus among the provinces and territories to work together and to offer a willingness to accept the authority from them to act on their behalf to establish a regulatory agency so that the price of generics is stabilized across Canada, resulting in substantial savings to provincial and territorial governments and to patients.

*“The implementation of a universal pharmacare program, based on a first-dollar coverage, set up conjointly with a national formulary and a bulk purchasing alliance for generics...could achieve a savings of \$ 2.7 billion in prescription drugs per year while allowing equal drug access and improved health for all Canadians.”*

Marc-André Gagnon, (PhD), Carlton University  
“A Roadmap to a Rational Pharmacare Policy” 2014

## Pension and Retirement Income

**ACER-CART** believes that all employed persons deserve to contribute to a defined benefit pension plan and that the allowances be fully adjusted in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.

**ACER-CART** believes that all working Canadians deserve secure and reliable federal pension and retirement income programs. These are crucial also to the well-being of all provincial, territorial and federal budgets.

**ACER-CART** urges the next Parliament and Government to work with the provinces and territories to exercise leadership, commitment and cooperation to strengthen the economic future of all retired persons, taxpayers and citizens of Canada by ensuring comprehensive and coordinated pension and retirement income programs.

**ACER-CART** urges that the focus be on the enhancement of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), a defined benefit plan providing Canadians with the greatest pension income security in retirement.

*“We should seriously consider building on the strengths of the CPP through a phased-in, moderate increase to retirement and survivor benefits. CPP’s guaranteed benefits are secure, inflation-indexed, and portable.”*

Ontario Finance Minister Duncan’s letter to Federal,  
Provincial and Territorial Finance Ministers. June 10, 2010

