

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

**Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

**LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

On January 4, 2021, Roger and I met to review the Policies. These are our recommendations.

1. **Review of the Policies**

Before we started the work, we reviewed the purpose of Policies in an organization and how they were produced. We concluded that Policies are statements of beliefs that are adopted by the highest instances of an organization and form the basis of their advocacy and that are put forward when speaking in the name of the organization.

With this in mind, we did a general overview of our policies. We concluded that many of them were operational documents that belonged either to the Articles or the Procedures.

We also concluded that the document containing our Policies should have a preamble stating the definition of Policies and the method that they are derived. In a review of some of our Members documents, we found that the BCRTA definitions best suited our needs. We asked permission to reproduce them and we are thankful for their support.

**We then recommend the following:**

**Recommendation 1**

That a section entitled Introduction be added to the Policy document and would read:

**Preamble**

1. **Definition**

ACER-CART Policies are statements, or the official stand being taken by the Association regarding the policies and/or actions being taken or contemplated by outside parties such as governments, corporations, organizations, or individuals. They are also the statements of belief of an Association concerning priority issues they wish to promote for the well-being of their members. Policies belong to the AGM.

1. **Adoption, Amendments, and Deletion of Policies**
2. Policies may only be adopted, deleted, or amended by resolution of a General Meeting.
3. A policy adopted by a General Meeting may only be amended or deleted by a General Meeting except where its retention would, in the judgment of 75% or more of the Directors, cause or be likely to cause harm to one or more members or to the Association. If the Directors resolve to amend suspend or delete a policy for such a reason, it shall be reported to the next general meeting, which shall decide whether any further action is required.
4. The adoption or amendment shall be recorded in this Handbook, and the date of changes or reaffirmation shall be added as part of the record.
5. Policies remain in force until amended or deleted.
6. The directors shall review policies every five years.

**Recommendation 2**

It is recommended that the following Policies be integrated as part of the Articles

1. Duties of the Regional Representative
2. Representation on the Board of Directors
3. Reserve Fund
4. Reserve Fund Investment
5. Trademark Protection
6. Dissolution of ACER-CART
7. **Performance Appraisal of Executive Director**
8. **Non-Contribution of Membership Fee**

**Recommendation 3**

It is recommended that the following Policies be integrated as part of the Articles

1. Travel Expenses and Meals

**Recommendation 4**

It is recommended that the title of the section Governance be renamed to Advocacy

**Recommendation 5**

It is recommended that A-03 Tax Credit Reduction Which now read:

*ACER-CART is opposed to the reduction of the tax credit for taxable seniors.*

Be substituted by

**A-03** **TAX CREDIT INCREASE**

ACER-CART supports a tax credit increase for taxable seniors which reflects increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

**Recommendation 6**

It is recommended that B-021B be deleted.

 ~~To ensure that national standards for Medicare are adhered to, free from undue political influence, ACER-CART supports the establishment of a National Medicare Oversight Council independent of government. Its mandate would be to monitor the implementation of national standards and, where advisable, to propose new ones.~~

**Recommendation 7**

It is recommended that B-02 1d be amended by the addition of the following words and would read

*To meet the growing demands for home care, particularly for seniors, ACER-CART supports a National Seniors Strategy which would include the establishment of a long-term national plan for home care as an integral part of health care services for those who would benefit from such care.*

**Recommendation 8**

It is recommended that B02-1e that the following words ~~to be created and implemented in a reasonable length of time~~ be deleted.

**Recommendation 9**

It is recommended that Policy C-12 Political Advocacy be referred to the Political advocacy committee for review and rewording.

**Recommendation 10**

It is recommended that Policies B Section Health be referred to the Health Services Committee for review and rewording.

**Recommendation 11**

**That a new policy be developed to address** non-profit residential care facilities.

**NON-PROFIT RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES**

1. ACER-CART believes that residential care facilities (nursing homes, long-term care, etc.) should be a community-based not-for-profit facilities.
2. ACER-CART believes that federal, provincial and territorial governments need to work together to establish a framework similar to the *Canada Health Act* to develop a universal, publicly funded long-term care residential care plan.
3. ACER-CART believes that the National framework would ensure adequate levels of funding; tie funding to national criteria and care standards; establish a national workforce planning strategy to ensure the right health care workers are in the right place at the right time and recognize and support informal caregivers who can be crucial partners in delivering care to residents in residential care facilities.
4. ACER-CART believes that the National framework should support the following:
5. The hiring of more staff to comply with the staff-to-resident ratio benchmark of 4.1 hours of direct care per person per day.
6. Provide better job security for staff by increasing wages and benefits, in particular paid sick leave.
7. Increase staff hours to provide full-time employment in only one nursing home.
8. Eliminate shared spaces, including bedrooms and bathrooms, in all residential facilities, except for couples.

**Protocol 9**

**As directed by the executive at the last meeting, we reviewed and reworded section Part A Purpose 1 with the following chages:**

***ACER-CART, our national voice for the retired educational community and seniors, maintains a website to inform members and the general public of the raison d’être of our organization. It hosts issues of Interest to retired members and seniors.***

**We have no suggested changes for the rest of the protocol.**

**Bill Berryman**

**Chair**