**Appendix 1**

Dear Minister Hajdu

ACER-CART’s (Association Canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants retraites/Canadian Association of Retired Teachers) XXX member organizations represent XXX retired teachers and education sector workers from sea to sea to sea.

We are seniors and, tragically, Covid 19’s impact has been significant. It has underlined our vulnerability whether we live independently, with assistance or in long term care/nursing homes. As the virus continues to spread, the impact on seniors will continue. Flu season adds to the threat to our well-being. In addition, seniors are more likely to experience shingles and pneumonia.

While seniors need to be a priority group to receive the vaccine for Covid 19, receiving high dose flu, shingles and pneumonia vaccines should also be priorities. The high dose flu vaccine is in short supply or not available to seniors. These vaccines are preventive, thus reduce the costs of care, possible hospitalization, complications and morbidity. For many seniors the cost for vaccines, whether it be in full or by co-pay through personal insurance, can be prohibitive. All should be included in a national pharmacare program formulary.

With Covid 19’s numbers increasing daily those in care will be more negatively impacted. ACER-CART urgently advocates the federal, provincial and territorial governments develop a National Strategy for Seniors including an agreement on minimum standards of and regulations for care in assisted living, long term care and nursing homes. In urging this we recognize that health care is a shared responsibility however note significant funding comes from the federal government. We urge a minimum set of standards for care be attached to this funding.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

CC Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Deb Shulte

Crystia Freeland

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