**Health Services Committee Report**

**ACER-CART**

**January 2022**

**Members:** Bill Berryman, Nova Scotia Peggy Prendergast, Manitoba

Helen Sukovieff and Adeline Wuschenny, Saskatchewan

Albert Legge, Newfoundland and Labrador

Chair: Margaret Urquhart, Regional Representative East, New Brunswick

The committee met by zoom on December 8th, courtesy of the NBSRT Online Media Committee. President Gerry Tiede was able to join us for the first part of the meeting.

After introductions a range of topics were discussed.

Points to advance the priority of supporting seniors at or near their homes and for consideration by the PAC include

* Access to a range of medical professionals with expertise in senior care
* Shortage of doctors and other medical professionals
* Senior mental health
* Housing and transportation, special consideration for rural/remote areas
* Appropriate and affordable prescriptions
* Potential for Abuse (physical, mental, financial)
* Importance of advanced care planning
* Multidisciplinary approach of medical/social/emotional support
* Seniors advocates independent of government and reporting to legislatures/parliament

It is **recommended** the attached Health Information notice be posted on the website. Advising Members it has been posted would be advantageous.

Some topics forwarded from the June 2021 report to the AGM are included in the Health Information notice for the website. Others were disposed of as follows:

* **Fundraising by hospital foundations** as a contravention of the Canada Health Act. It was noted foundations explored are registered charitable organizations independent of government although funds raised often go to medical equipment and, in some cases, administration costs. *Nothing further at this time*
* **Elder abuse** has, in many ways. been increasingly exposed by covid. The term “elder abuse” may need a clearer definition and substituting another word, perhaps senior, for elder. Financial abuse is a concern and there appears to be no provision for criminal code action. *Pending additional information*
* **Senior Mental Health** support was an item in the bilateral health accords however initial funding focused primarily on youth and adolescents. With many organizations involved in mental health the question may be “who do you call?” Is a 3 digit number specific to mental health appropriate? Seniors need to know it is acceptable to talk about mental health issues and needs. Two things are needed – awareness of the importance of talking about mental health and determining available resources. It may be that abuse may be part of mental health for seniors. *Pending additional information.*

Committee members agreed to share documents they have access to regarding various issues and some have been provided, others await completion.

The next meeting will be in late January or February.

Respectfully Submitted

Margaret Urquhart