



ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES ENSEIGNANTES ET DES ENSEIGNANTS RETRAITÉS
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS

REPORT FROM THE POLITICAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE AGM 2022

Committee Members

Bob Fitzpatrick	NBSRT
Martha Foster	Chair, Regional Representative, Ontario
Lawrence Hyrcan	ARTA
Grace Wilson	BCRTA
Katherine Snow	QPARSE

Although Gerry Teide is not listed as on the committee, he attended all committee meetings and was a great asset to have with us. He was not just “ex officio” but a working contributor.

Terms of Reference

The Political Advocacy Committee shall:

- Develop and recommend to the Executive actions to accomplish goals and objectives established by the Board;
- Monitor political issues and advise the executive or the Board on emerging issues relevant to ACER-CART;
- Plan and organize political action if so directed by the Executive;

Report

This year has again been a busy year for the PAC Committee. We continued to monitor the progress in the following ACER-CART priorities:

- National Seniors Strategy;
- Government’s implementation of a national universal pharmacare, including the establishment of a Canada Drug Agency and implementation of a national formulary and
- Regulations governing Retirement and Long-Term Care Homes with emphasis on improving patient respect, working conditions, staff training and staff wages.

While continuing to monitor the above priorities, and realizing advances in all three areas, a decision was made to place our focus for the year on advocating for a health care system that prioritizes care in seniors’ own homes for as long as possible.

Most seniors, as they age, prefer to be in their own homes. According to a recent survey, October 2020, 78% of Canadians want to age in their own homes, while only 26% believe that they will be able to do that. (The National Home Modifications Survey, Vividata) Not only is remaining in their own homes better for them but it also reduces the strain on our long-term



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care homes and hospitals. With this as our focus, ACER-CART has produced two information sheets to be shared with members, politicians and others who are involved with government initiatives.

The first sheet outlines the different aspects that need to be considered:

- Stress on the system;
- Inadequacy of long-term care openings;
- The various needs of seniors that need to be considered;
- Needs of paid caregivers and
- The role and support of unpaid caregivers.

The second sheet looks more at the specifics;

- Benefits to the system;
- Benefits to the individual and
- The role of the government in the necessary changes.

We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Marilyn Bossert and the Communications Committee for their assistance in the set-up of the information sheets.

This is an important change that will affect the lives of seniors across Canada for the better, that will allow them to remain in their own homes and in surroundings that are familiar to them and to maintain control over their own lives for as long as possible.

Martha Foster
Chair, PAC Committee