



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2022-23

I want to start by expressing my appreciation for the work of our Executive over the past year. It has been great to work with such interested, interesting and dedicated people. Our Executive Meetings have been both productive and pleasurable. This year we had the opportunity to get together in person in Toronto for winter meeting. We greatly appreciate the hospitality offered by RTOERO.

We should all be especially appreciative of the work of our Executive Director, Roger Regimbal, for his diligence, his expertise and his knowledge and respectful advice.

Another group we must thank are the members of our various committees who have worked to prepare advice for the Executive and whose reports you will read in the AGM materials. This year our Health Services and Political Advocacy committees worked together to produce materials to advocate for seniors to be able to age in their own homes.

It would be easy to become depressed about the rise of right-wing populism and the impact it is having in various provinces. For example, Ontario has just passed legislation promoting the privatization of health services. Greed and envy continue to work to erode Defined Benefit Plans in favour of those which jeopardize the secure and dependable income upon which seniors should rely. National pharmacare seems to be stalled. The list goes on.

However, there are some glimmers of hope. For example, the Supreme Court's refusal to hear the Cambie appeal is a support for publicly provided not-for-profit health services. The NDP/Liberal accord has brought dental care to some who need it. National standards for Long-Term Care have been produced. While Covid was a horrible experience, it has shone a light on the need for change.

While the problems facing us seem complex, it is this hope we must focus on as we pursue a National Seniors Strategy, Universal Pharmacare and supports to enable seniors to age in their own homes with security and dignity.

Realizing that we cannot be all things to all people, ACER-CART will need to develop a strategic plan which allows us to use our limited resources to maximum effect, utilizing the strengths of our individual Member organizations and lending our voice to efforts from other like-minded organizations.

Respectfully submitted,
Martin Higgs