

December 12, 2023

To all federal, provincial, and territorial finance ministers:

I am writing today on behalf of the National Pensioners Federation to urge you to use your upcoming meeting on December 15, 2023, to defend the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), a program that is critical in helping this country's seniors live in dignity.

There are many serious issues facing Canadian seniors. These include the high cost of living, the lack of affordable housing for many and the high cost of prescription drugs. But in conversations with our membership, secure retirement income regularly tops the list.

Our members have been clear. One of the best and most efficient way to provide a predictable retirement income for all Canadians is protecting the CPP and ensuring its long-term health.

For six decades, the CPP has been the bedrock of a secure retirement for Canadians, playing a key role in lowering the poverty rate among seniors.

Today, the CPP is well-funded, free of political interference and financially sustainable for generations to come. This is true even with rapidly aging populations and longer life expectancies. This cannot be said for pension plans around the world and underscores Canada's enviable position. This is why we cannot risk an uncertain new scheme like the one being discussed in Alberta.

Canadian pensioners spent their careers contributing to a trusted plan, the CPP, which makes up a significant portion of many of our members' retirement incomes. They cannot afford and do not deserve to be exposed to unnecessary risks.

Ministers, Canadians rightly expect their governments to work together to protect them. Do not stand idly by as a policy change supported by only a minority of Albertans threatens to undermine the integrity of the hard-earned retirement savings of millions of

Canadians. Our members' pension dollars should not be used as a political bargaining chip.

On behalf of seniors and retirees from coast to coast, use Friday's Finance Ministers' meeting to make an unequivocal statement in support of the CPP and for the secure and dignified retirement it provides for all Canadians.

Together we are stronger.

Sincerely,

*Trish McAuliffe*

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National Pensioners Federation is a national, not for profit, nonpartisan, non sectarian organization. We are comprised of national & provincial affiliate organizations, senior's clubs, and individual supporters across Canada with a collective reach of nearly 1 million. Our membership advocacy for seniors and retirees is devoted entirely to the welfare and social interests of Older Adults. [www.nationalpensionersfederation](http://www.nationalpensionersfederation)