



**Association canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants retraités  
Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

## **ACER-CART President's Report March 25, 2024**

It has been a very busy two months since our last executive meeting in Toronto January 14-15, 2024. I want to thank all Executive members for their valuable input at these meetings. Discussions/motions from these meetings will lay the foundation for a vibrant and focused ACER-CART as we move forward.

I would like to sincerely thank Marilyn and Tony for all their work on getting the New Mode software program on a National Pharmacare Program running on the website during the month of February. Marilyn also provided me with information on the second presidential letter on the topic.

Here are some of the highlights of the meetings I have attended since the last executive meeting.

### **Eastern Canadian Retired Teachers Organization—January 16, 2024**

I did not provide details on the motions passed at the January Executive meeting as I wanted to announce the change at the Directors/Alternates meeting on February 1, 2024. Nonetheless I sought input from members present at this meeting on the following questions:

1. How should ACER-CART proceed?
2. What should be the role of ACER-CART going forward?

There was a spirited discussion on both questions and members were adamant that ACER-CART continues, and offers were made to provide any necessary support to make the organization relevant and have our goals and mission remain the same. There was some concern about the loss of our "national voice" but I indicated that ACER-CART will be working collaboratively with the National Seniors Federation and the Canadian Health Coalition on seniors' issues.

All associations provided updates on ongoing events, concerns about the access to doctors and medical facilities and pensions. It was heartening to hear that many associations have been successful in increasing their membership numbers.

### **Political Advocacy Committee—January 26, 2024**

I am pleased to report that there has been a follow-up on 3 of the 4 recommendations from the meeting. We have successfully implemented the national campaign promoting a National Pharmacare Program using the New Mode software and my two presidential letters have been distributed to Members and placed on the website. Preparations have started to provide up-to-date information on the committee's next issue—Aging in Place. The fourth recommendation will be discussed at today's meeting.

### **Directors/Alternates Meeting–February 1, 2024**

I was pleasantly surprised by the number of members in attendance at this meeting. There were many positive comments about the future of ACER-CART, the corporate changes to the Executive and Annual General Meetings and input into the Strategic Plan. Members were impressed with the restructuring of the Political Advocacy Committee to include Executive members and are looking forward to working on future campaigns. Members were also happy to hear of ACER-CART working with other like-minded organizations to provide us with a “national voice for seniors”.

I received many positive e-mails from participants, and they would like to have more of these kinds of meetings in the future to keep them informed and therefore provide up-to-date information on ACER-CART to their members.

### **Health Services Committee–February 26, 2024**

There was initial discussion on what topics needed to be covered for an “Aging in Place” campaign. There were so many issues/points raised and committee members were asked to bring their “top 3” issues to the next meeting on April 22, 2024.

There was also discussion on the announcement of a forthcoming National Pharmacare Program and the lack of concrete information on the National Dental Plan. I also brought to the committee’s attention my participation in the Canadian Medical Association webinar “It’s Time to Talk–Consultation on Public and Private Care in Canada.” This was one of the eight sessions across Canada and the vast majority of participants at this session were against the privatization of health care in Canada.

### **Communications Committee–March 15, 2024**

The Committee was impressed with the Pharmacare website and suggested ACER-CART continues with its advocacy towards the legislation which was tabled in Parliament on March 1, 2024. There was some discussion on the third letter from the President on having the program expanding the list of essential medications and the development of a national formulary to make drug coverage not only more accessible, but also more rational, safe, efficient and providing value-for-money. The next step on the campaign and possible third letter will need to be discussed at today’s meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Bill Berryman  
President ACER-CART