

**Health Services Committee
Report to Executive
March 25, 2024**

Our President Bill Berryman has reached out to the National Pensioners' Federation in response to their request that we work collaboratively with them. He has also connected with the Canadian Health Coalition and offered our support for their ongoing initiatives. These two organizations are closely aligned with our efforts. Our plan is to continue to keep in contact with them and work to our mutual advantage.

The Hon. Seamus O'Regan has indicated that he will be bringing greetings from the government at our AGM Banquet on June 7, 2024.

The New Mode letter writing campaign is now live. We are encouraging all our member organizations to share this information and encourage their members to add their voice in support.

Since Ageing in Place is one of our priorities, a discussion was held on it. The following were identified as impacting this initiative:

- a) difficulties in obtaining and retaining personnel for Home Care positions.
- b) cost of Home Care Workers.
- c) transportation was identified as a limiting factor in Ageing in Place. It is evident in all rural areas.
- d) some provinces are making positive inroads by developing websites that promote services for seniors.
- e) one province provides transportation to appointments by utilizing a series of transportation options across a variety of programming areas.
- f) some provinces provided a service care team. This team is multidisciplinary and includes a nurse, occupational therapist and a general handyman.

A Universal Pharmacare Plan that has coverage for contraception and diabetes drugs and related equipment was officially launched on March 1, 2024. While this is a very limited formulary, it is important to note that plan is being promoted as a "single-payer system" this is very important as it provides the framework for a basic plan and reiterated that it is a federal plan.

ACER/CART President attended a seminar with the Canadian Medical Association (CMA). It seems that the CMA is promoting a public/private system rather than a fully public plan. Private

for profit clinics are a contravention of the Canada Health Act, but the CMA is not putting policies in place that prohibit such clinics.

The Dental Plan was discussed. There are limitations around the eligibility for the program. There is an income test and an existing coverage test.

We plan to meet again on April 22, 2024.

Sharon Penney
Chair