

Political Advocacy Committee Report February 1, 2024 for Directors' Meeting

The Political Advocacy Committee had its first meeting, via Zoom, under its new format on December 15, 2023. At that time the President of ACER-CART, Bill Berryman, spent a few minutes explaining the history and why the Executive should be a part of the Political Advocacy Committee. The committee has been expanded to include the Chairs of the Communications, Health Services, and the Pension and Retirement Income committees, the President of ACER-CART, and the Executive Director, Roger Régimbal, making a committee of 10.

In the two meetings held, the committee, Reviewed the ACER-CART Priorities and Reviewed the Terms of Advocacy as laid out on the ACER-CART website. The committee decided that the most pressing issue at this time was National Pharmacare and sent the following motion to the Executive to consider.

The Political Advocacy Committee recommends to the Executive that a national campaign promoting National Pharmacare using the New Mode Software begin immediately.

It was agreed that the next item for ACER-CART to work on would be Aging in Place. This would be worked on after the National Pharmacare work was completed.

Moved that following the completion of the National Pharmacare program, the Political Advocacy Committee recommends to the Executive that Aging in Place be the next issue to be promoted.

The Political Advocacy Committee met again on January 26, 2024, after the Executive meeting held on January 14/15. The Health Services Committee reported that they were ready to go with the New Mode program. The next step is to get the signatures on the New Mode letter to all branches and divisions. President, Bill Berryman, presented a letter to the committee that he had written regarding National Pharmacare. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Moved that Bill Berryman's letter be sent to all Members and make it part of any information sent out on the New Mode campaign.

The advantages of looking at organizations like the National Pensioners Federation and CARP were discussed. The following motion was passed by the committee to send to the Executive.

Moved that the Political Advocacy Committee recommend to the Executive of ACER-CART that they encourage affiliates to consider joining the National Pensioners Federation and CARP.

Health Services reported that an email was sent to the Minister of Seniors, Seamus O'Regan, inviting him to speak at the AGM in June. They are waiting for a response.

The next meeting for the Political Advocacy Committee is scheduled for March 27, 2024.