

President's Report January 12 – 13, 2025

I hope everyone had a restful Christmas week full of peace, of joy, of laughter and good will. I sincerely hope that the New Year brings happiness and good health to all.

Looking back, I was pleased with the tone and participation of the November 5, 2024 Directors meeting. I believe the 28 participants left the meeting with up-to-date information on ACER-CART business. I believe these meetings are vital as we keep the lines of communication open with our Directors, Alternates and Executive Directors.

You will recall I brought to your attention some correspondence I received from McMaster University Optimal Aging Portal at the September Executive meeting. The University was seeking ACER-CART's support in their application for Dementia Community Investment Funding from Public Health Agency of Canada. I brought the same information to the Health Services Committee and the Committee also approved their support. You have received a copy of the letter that I wrote to Dr. Anthony Levinston, Chair in Educational Research and Instructional Development, providing ACER-CART's support and agreement to share dementia prevention e-learning and related materials with our member organizations.

I have provided the Communications Committee with 4 documents to be part of the Seniors Issues for the 2025 election booklet. The documents included a forward page, Opposition to Privatization of Medical Services, National Pharmacare Plan and a page on voter information. It is anticipated that the booklet will be ready for printing before the end of January.

ACER-CART has been collaborating with the Alberta Friends of Medicare and the Alberta Pharmacare Working Group on the privatization of health services and the National Pharmacare Plan. Lawrence Hrycan and I have been invited to participate in a ZOOM call on January 17, 2025 with Chris Gallaway, Executive Director and Mitchell Pawluk, Outreach Officer of the Alberta Friends of Medicare to continue discussion on these issues.

Through the efforts of Trish McAuliffe, President National Pensioners Federation, I have received an invitation to participate in two virtual roundtables organized by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). The object of the round tables are as follows:

- a) Better understanding of the lived experiences of seniors when dealing with television, Internet, mobile and phone service providers and the challenges they face, and
- b) Talk about potential solutions to address new challenges.

I am pleased to report that I have been selected to participate in the following sessions:

1. February 24th session on the sales process and consumer rights
2. February 27th session on customer and technical support.

I have written to the Directors, Alternates and Executive Directors seeking their input on these issues to reflect what is happening across Canada.

Safe travels and see you in Toronto on January 11th, 2025.