

The first meeting was held on September 19, 2024 by zoom. Helen Sukovieff, resigned her role to focus on her new position as Western Division Representative. Bill Berryman, ACER-CART President remains on the committee as an ex-officio member, while Lise Moran of Prince Edward Island and Beverly Magel of Saskatchewan were welcomed as new members to our committee.

To aid in our discussions and to ensure that we are remaining on the path set out for our committee we reviewed the list of Priorities for ACER-CART .

Ageing in Place was confirmed as our focus for this year. To further our commitment to promoting Ageing in Place a review of the 5 Core Concepts of an Aging in Place Policy that this committee developed last year was completed. They are listed below.

- 1) *Access to medical care, in a timely manner, in the community.*
- 2) *Adequate home care supports to enable one to live safely and as independently as possible.*
- 3) *Social and Emotional support. This is necessary to allow seniors to lead vibrant, fulfilling lives.*
- 4) *Economic stability. Guaranteed income.*
- 5) *Transportation. This is a necessity in rural areas. Transportation is necessary for all aspects of independent living. Transportation to grocery store, doctor appointments, Social activities.*

It was decided that at the next committee meeting we would investigate splitting the list further and select one topic to investigate per meeting.

We fully recognize that Ageing in Place is expensive and that in many places the necessary accommodations to age successfully in place do not exist. This will be further explored as we continue our committee work.

Concerns continue to be made that many seniors are unable to afford the dental insurance premiums and are unable to access the government dental health plan because of their technical ability to have dental coverage under their existing private insurances. This is an ongoing problem that is being experienced right across our country.

McMaster Optimal Ageing Portal. This is a project that we have had a long term relationship and a relationship which we will continue. The study is centered on Dementia Research. Specifically, the two objectives list below:

1. Optimize the health and wellbeing of people living with dementia and family/friend caregivers and/or
2. Increase knowledge of dementia and risk and protective factors.

Other concerns.

- 1) Retired teachers pensions are much smaller than the general public and even politicians believe.**
- 2) Letters to politicians are often answered by assistants, the best format to deal with politicians is through a face to face meeting.**
- 3) Seniors issues are best discussed across governmental departments, as most issues are not the result of just one policy.**
- 4). It is a must that we advocate for ourselves.**
- 5) It is better when we can engage government officials as a group rather than individually. This gives seniors a better opportunity to have the people in the decision making process see their plight as a holistic concern rather than just a issue for their particular department.**
- 6) In Newfoundland and Labrador mammograms and colonoscopies are being offered with an age requirement. Meaning that older persons are being discriminated against. High dose flu vaccines are being offered at no cost for those living in communal living settings. The vaccine available to the rest of the senior population is the flu vaccine plus. The Chief Medical Officer for Health in Newfoundland and Labrador has stated that both vaccines are equally effective.**
- 7) Alberta continues towards the private care system. Currently there are about 40 clinics which charge a membership fee. Private clinics are receiving government money to perform medical procedures especially those procedures which can be completed quickly and with little risk of complications. These procedures are very profitable. The more difficult operations are being left for the public domain. The proliferation of private clinics is contributing to the decline in the number of personnel in the public sector.**

A discussion was held about the possible delay of placing information from the HSC on our website in a timely manner if we have to have our minutes officially adopted first. This has been resolved by stating that the report is tentative and minutes are not readily accessible until after official approval.

The Chair signed on to a webinar titled Assessing Strategies for a Long Term Care Labour Force, hosted by the Canadian Health Coalition, which was an interim report on the state of the Work Force in Long Term Care. It lists some problems with the overall design of the work force in terms of long term care. While not specifically outlining ways to combat the deficit in workers it does

provide some guidelines of things to consider when developing a strategy to remediate the worker shortage. A more comprehensive evaluation of the webinar is included as a separate document.

Sharon Penney