



ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES ENSEIGNANTES ET DES ENSEIGNANTS RETRAITÉS
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS

THE POLITICAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT AGM 2025

Committee Members

Lawrence Hrycan (Alberta), Chair
Bob Fitzpatrick (New Brunswick)
Grace Wilson (British Columbia)
Katherine Snow (Quebec)
Devona Putland (Saskatchewan)
Bill Berryman (Nova Scotia), President
Gerry Tiede (British Columbia), Pension & Retirement Income
Sharon Penney (Newfoundland & Labrador), Health Services
Marilyn Bossert (Alberta), Communications
Helen Sukovieff (Saskatchewan)
Luc Handfield (New Brunswick)
Roger Régimbal ACER-CART Executive Director

Terms of Reference

The Political Advocacy Committee shall

- a) Develop and recommend to the Executive actions to accomplish goals and objectives established by the Board;
- b) Monitor political issues and advise the executive or the Board on emerging issues relevant to ACER-CART;
- c) Plan and organize political action if so directed by the Executive

The Political Advocacy Committee includes the Chairs of the Communications, Health Services, and the Pension and Retirement Income committees, the President of ACER-CART, and the Executive Director, making a committee of twelve. The committee has met 3 times since the June 2024 AGM.

All committees give updates at the Political Advocacy Committee meetings. Since all committees will be submitting reports to the AGM, this report is only a brief summary of what is reported by the committees.

National Pharmacare and the Dental Program

Throughout 2024-25 the committee continued to promote the National Pharmacare Program using the New Mode Software.

The campaign, promoting National Pharmacare, has postings on the ACER-CART website that includes letters from President, Bill Berryman, explaining the importance of a National Pharmacare Program.

In addition, on the Acer-Cart website, there are letters that Bill Berryman has sent to the government regarding the Dental Program. Some seniors cannot afford to pay premiums for a dental plan, and under the existing rules, do not qualify for the Canadian Dental Care Program. There has been some confusion as to who qualifies for this program. Bill did receive a letter from Health Canada stating that the eligibility of the CDCP will be reviewed annually.

Ageing in Place

Ageing in Place covers a huge array of topics, and it was felt by the Health Services Committee that no more than 3-5 areas should be explored. The Health Services Committee is working on “Ageing in Place” and will continue to share with the Political Advocacy Committee their findings.

It was agreed that when letters are sent to the Minister of Health, Minister of Seniors, the Prime Minister, and so on, there should also be a letter from the President of ACER-CART on behalf of its members.

Federal Election

The Communications Committee played a huge role in getting the election brochure out once the election was called. Thanks goes out to Marilyn and her committee for the work they did in this area.

Other

Bill Berryman and Lawrence Hrycan met in January of 2025 with Friends of Medicare (FoM) from Alberta. Discussion revolved around how Friends of Medicare and Acer-Cart can share information and resources. Bill receives newsletters from FoM and also shares the information from the Alberta Pharmacare Working Group (APWG). The goals of these two groups fit in with the goals of Acer-Cart.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Hrycan
ACER-CART Political Advocacy Chair