



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

March 2, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Re: Secretary of State for Seniors

Dear Right Honourable Prime Minister Carney:

L'Association canadienne des enseignantes et enseignants retraités/Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) wishes to express our profound disappointment and concern following your government's decision to eliminate the standalone Minister of Seniors position from the federal cabinet.

As the voice of retired teachers in Canada, representing 93,533 members in eleven organizations, ACER-CART is deeply concerned about the decision to downgrade this portfolio to a Secretary of State position.

Since June 2018, the Minister of Seniors has been a vital advocate at the cabinet level, ensuring seniors' issues received dedicated attention at the highest level of government – a role for which ACER-CART and its members have advocated for over a decade. In fact, the first Minister of Seniors, Honourable Filomena Tassi, addressed our Annual General Meeting in Ottawa in June 2019.

The Secretary of State position, which is not a full cabinet post, raises serious questions about your government's commitment to addressing the unique and urgent needs of Canada's ageing population.

At a recent ACER-CART Board meeting of Directors, Alternates, Presidents, Executive Directors and Executive members a decision was approved to make the standalone Minister of Seniors position our number one priority for 2026-2027.

ACER-CART calls upon your government to seriously reconsider this decision and restore a dedicated, full-time Minister of Seniors. Canada's seniors deserve and expect a strong and committed voice in cabinet to address critical issues such as health care, National Pharmacare Program, long-term care, the Canadian Dental Care Plan, financial security and the fight against ageism.

I eagerly look forward to action and your response to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Berryman".

Bill Berryman
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