

Election 2019 Priorities



WHAT

Seniors represent the fastest growing demographic in the country and the next government has an important role to play in adapting public policies and systems to the needs of today's growing seniors population, and in future-proofing our policies and systems for tomorrow's seniors. In anticipation of the next federal election, a collective of nine seniors-focused organizations have come together to unite the vibrant voices of our membership to ensure these issues are front and centre on the political agenda.

WHO

Our collective of nine seniors-focused organizations are collaborating on a nationwide campaign to engage with parliamentarians, candidates and all Canadians to bring awareness to the unique challenges and opportunities facing seniors. In uniting the vibrant voices of our members, we seek to ensure that these challenges and opportunities are addressed in campaign platforms and by our next federal government.

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RETIREMENT
INCOME
SECURITY



NATIONAL
SENIORS
STRATEGY



PHARMACARE



For more information
or to connect with any
of the organisations :
advocacyteam@federalretirees.ca

**VIBRANT
VOICES**

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VOICES**



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MAKE RETIREMENT INCOME MORE SECURE

Canadians deserve a secure and dignified retirement, with a guaranteed and sufficient source of income.

Statistics Canada estimates that 12% of senior families are considered low income and that 28.5% of single seniors qualify as low income — that's 600,000 Canadian seniors living in poverty. The rate of individuals covered by a defined-benefit pension continues to decline across the country, from 70% in 2005 to 42% in 2015 for those covered by a registered retirement plan in the private sector, even though, when properly managed, this pension option is the best way to ensure retirement income security. Defined benefits pensions are proven to make retirement secure and to enable Canadians to continue to contribute meaningfully to local and national economies and communities. Up to 80% of all pension dollars spent come from investment returns, which are then pumped right back into local economies.

But we have only to look at the recent Sears example to know that defined benefit pensions are not always guaranteed. More work is needed to ensure employees and retirees aren't left out in the cold when their employers go bankrupt, and that pensions are protected during insolvencies.

IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL SENIORS STRATEGY

Canada needs a National Seniors Strategy that optimizes health, financial security and social inclusion so all Canadians can age with dignity.

Older Canadians are the fastest growing segment of our population, but gaps in Canada's healthcare and social policies are creating barriers to seniors' independence and the essential role they play in vibrant, healthy communities and economies.

Tackling these issues independently will not give us the results we need. A coordinated National Seniors Strategy, with dedicated funding and accountable goals will ensure we meet the evolving needs of seniors.

PRIORITIZE PHARMACARE

All Canadians should have access to the medications they need. A universal, public, comprehensive, accessible and portable national pharmacare program would cut costs and lead to a healthier population.

Canada is the only country in the world with universal health care that does not also provide universal drug coverage. Canadians consistently pay among the highest prices for prescription drugs. Ten per cent of Canadians do not have adequate coverage to meet their needs. One in four households in Canada can't afford to fill their prescriptions.

A universal, public pharmacare program would help Canadians better manage their health, lead to reduced medication costs and allow for better monitoring of the effectiveness and safety of medications. It would also reduce the burden on other parts of the health care system.

OUR COLLECTIVE OF VIBRANT VOICES INCLUDES:

Canadian Association of Retired Teachers

Canadian Federation of Pensioners

Canadian Health Coalition

CARP

College and University Retiree Associations of Canada

International Longevity Centre Canada

National Association of Federal Retirees

National Pensioners Federation

Retired Teachers of Ontario



**Canadian Health Coalition's support applies to Pharmacare and a National Seniors Strategy.*

