

To ACER-CART Members

October 31, 2016

In the context of the present negotiations for a new Health Accord, we need your help to ensure seniors' care is properly addressed in any new deal. To a politician every letter written represents the opinion of ten voters. With that influence in mind, ACER-CART encourages, you, as an individual member of the Association, to add your voice to the call for a seniors' focus in a new health accord.

Science and strategists, of course, are important in driving change, but equally important are your views and personal stories. YOU can influence policy. Included in this mailing, please find three sample letters: one addressed to the Prime Minister; another to the Minister of Health; and the last to a (your) Member of Parliament. It is our hope that you will contact at least your Member of Parliament, perhaps even the PM and the M of H, to urge support for a national seniors health care strategy as a part of a new health accord. Perhaps you will relate a personal story; perhaps you will point out a feature of the health care system that you feel needs to be addressed. You may wish to emphasize one or more of the principles inherent in the Declaration, which has been endorsed by ACER-CART. Please feel free to do so.

The Declaration Concerning a National Health Care Strategy for Seniors emanated from the 2015 Vancouver Roundtable. For your convenience, the following highlights from the Declaration may be used to replace those in the sample letters given. DO NOT include more than 3 or 4 of these, as attention spans are limited.

- Provide a thoughtfully structured national health care strategy for aging Canadians.
- Develop health-supporting public policies that will address all the social determinants of health.
- Establish a collaborative, patient-centered approach which includes a broad team of health care practitioners and which addresses all the needs of patients and their families.
- Prioritize the integration of primary care and specialist care within a community-based system that features inter-professional teams and increased palliative care.
- Recommend that health care personnel receive adequate training in treating elderly persons, that the geriatric content of medical school curricula be reviewed, and that more medical students be encouraged to select geriatrics as a specialty.
- Develop and implement a national pharmacare strategy that includes purchasing medically necessary prescriptions.
- Establish national standards for home care and a strategy that will provide publicly-funded in-home care by paid, qualified professionals and also offer unpaid caregivers more support.
- Develop a national health strategy for the care of older adults featuring practices that reduce barriers to specialist care when it is required.

- Develop a national care strategy for older persons facilitating access to reasonably priced high quality assisted living settings and long-term care residences.
- Establish national standards and expand existing resources to increase access to palliative care across the country.
- Include the complex issue of end-of-life care and the decisions related to it as an integral part of a national seniors health care strategy.

Letters can be sent postage-free to any Member of Parliament at their House of Commons address, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6. To find contact information for your MP using your postal code, visit the Parliament of Canada's website where you can find particulars, as well as their email address: [Parliament of Canada's website \(link is external\)](#).

Although handwritten letters are best, an email is just as effective as a letter by post, as Parliamentary staff handle both in the same way. When sending emails to a MP or other elected representative, be sure to follow the same standards as in writing letters. The email should be brief and focused, with the correct salutation for the representative. Include your name, address and postal code (and email, if applicable) so that the representative is aware that you are a part of their constituency and knows where to contact you.

Dr. Tom Gaskell, JoAnn Lauber, Ed Zegray (Chair)  
ACER-CART Health & Insurance Committee