

ANNOUNCEMENT

“Protecting Your Pensions”

On November 17, 2014 the Board of Directors of the Ottawa Branch discussed the potential threats to the pensions of our Association membership. The amendment to the health benefits carried out earlier this year – the Honour Your Promise campaign - and the new pension model proposed in April 2014 by the federal government to federally-regulated employers and Crown Corporations may likely only be the opening salvo for introducing changes to our pension and/or benefit plans which could severely impact our members across Canada.

In August of this year, the Ottawa Branch established an ad hoc working group to develop a proposed advocacy strategy that the Ottawa Branch should consider undertaking to protect the pension of its members. As a Branch, we concluded that in order to better enhance the possibility of defending and protecting pensions currently received by our members, we need to be far more active by launching an aggressive campaign to mobilize – **YOU** - our members to action. This is particularly important in light of the coming federal election and the need to get our members to engage all candidates who will be running for election. We need to be loud and clear and consistent with all candidates.

There is a need to combat the impression in the public that pensioners are financially overly compensated, that future financial requirements to meet the Government’s obligations are unsustainable and that tax payers are being overly burdened by the cost of federal pensions.

In light of the above, we wish to inform you that the Ottawa Branch will be undertaking a number of initiatives such as kitchen table discussion events across the region as well as a Town Hall meeting organized jointly with National Office. In addition, the Branch will be developing fact sheets (shortly to be posted on the Branch website) that you, our members, can use when discussing the pension landscape among yourselves, with friends and with those who will be running for future elected office and who may possibly be in favor of further cuts/amendments to our current pension regime.

Collectively we need to outline a solid Public Awareness Campaign and generate support to counter the current perception of the general public when it comes to federal pensions. Throughout this campaign the Ottawa Branch will focus its efforts on **defending first and foremost the pension rights of our members.**

We look forward to engaging our members over the coming months to position ourselves for a collective, consistent and positive dialogue with all concerned in protecting the benefits we have worked for.

Your Board of Directors : *Rebecca Belanger, Robert Collette, Peter Cormier, Dyane Dufresne, Michael Fine, Gray Gillespie, Robert Giroux, David Horley, Victor Lawetz, Fred Lyle, Louis Robayo, Gisele Samson-Verreault and Steve Troy*

Ottawa Branch – National Association of Federal Retirees

December 09, 2014