

**ACER CART**  
**2024 Annually General Meeting Report**  
**Date May 8, 2024 – Gabe Mercier (RTAM Vice President)**

With the withdrawal of Ontario from ACER-CART Bill Berryman from Nova Scotia became president. Biggest issue with Ontario was the non-poaching approach by ACER-CART; they wanted to poach members from other parts of Canada.

There will be a motion at the AGM to increase the number of representatives on the executive committee by two (one from the east and one from the west) and discussion about a Two-Year Term of office renewable instead of the current one-year term of office. The emphasis will be on stronger regional groups and regions will have autonomy to set own agenda for the meeting.

**Financial picture of ACER-CART**

Close to \$50K invested and \$33,000 in assets.

The budget is set at \$68K per year

The account will deplete at a rate of \$20K per year if the membership is without with no membership fee increase.

**Membership**

There was a drop in membership with the departure of Ontario: 168,000 drop to 84,204; drop of about 80k. The executive feel they can continue without a membership due increase, and can function with the dues being received

**Cost savings**

Cost savings- General meeting every two years 2026 and 2028; Use Zoom every odd years, without an election; meeting Rotating meetings at east and west. Must have AGM to meeting Feds requirements

**Annual General Meeting**

AGM 2024 June 6 and 7 in Ottawa. Stay at the Delta. Thursday's AGM - business meeting; guest speaker Gerry Sewatski top 10 trends affecting Canada; at CTF building; supper at the hotel.

After 2024 there will be AGM every two years: every two years 2026 and 2028

**Priorities 2024**

In the past ACER-CAET had too many priorities in the past, so the Executive will just be working on just two items

Pharma care program (1)

Aging in place (2)

Also be working on a Strat plan

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### **National Pharmacare Follow-up**

Discussion involved a possible third letter sent by the President of ACER-CART to keep the pressure on. He indicated that he would like this letter to go out sometime in April. A member shared that the Quebec government has a Pharmacare Program that was developed with the pharmaceutical companies. In discussion, it was pointed out that both Quebec and Alberta are against the National Pharmacare and Dental Programs. Both provinces would like the money given directly to them. The following motion came out of discussion.

### **Ageing in Place**

Ageing in Place covers a huge array of topics, and it was felt that no more than 3-5 areas should be explored. The Health Services Committee will work on 'Ageing in Place' and will bring forth what they feel are the top issues to the next Political Advocacy meeting. It was agreed that when letters are sent to the Minister of Health, Minister of Seniors, the Prime Minister, and so on that there should be a letter from the President of ACER-CART on behalf of its members. Individuals would also be encouraged to continue to send their own letters.

### **Discussion on Dental Care**

A member shared that BCRTA have written letters to various government people expressing their concerns on the Dental Program from the Federal Government. This concern is for low-income people who do not qualify for the Dental Program because they might have a dental program available to them. There is confusion in how the Federal Government has laid out the plan. A member shared that in Quebec, even though she has her eligibility card, dentists have been discouraged from taking part at this time. The committee decided that a letter expressing our concerns would be drafted then passed on to committee members for comment.

### **National Pensioners Federation**

It was felt by the Political Advocacy Committee that this organization may be a good one to have an affiliation with.

In discussing the National Pensioners Federation, the questions raised were should the focus be on the National Charter, or do we look at the idea of having our Members join Regional Chapters. Grace Wilson, from BCRTA, is the representative in that province at the National level. Four provinces have affiliations with the National Pensioners Federation: B.C., ON, N.S., and SK. Bill Berryman will have further talks with Trish Mcauliffe, from the National Pensioners Federation.