



Bulletin to Branches 2010-08

August 25, 2010

PDSP advocacy strategy update

July and August have been very busy months in respect to the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP) advocacy strategy we implemented following the announcement regarding the PDSP contribution increase.

As mentioned in the July Bulletin, I met with representatives from some of the major unions to solicit their support in regards to challenging the Treasury Board's announced increase of pensioners' contributions. The unions were in agreement with FSNA's position and support our endeavours.

Concurrently, the National President, the Immediate Past National President and I met with Treasury Board (TB) Secretariat representatives to request detailed information that would support the Treasury Board's decision.

On August 20 we received some of the information that Treasury Board officials promised for July 30. We will be analyzing this information and will report on it in the very near future. If warranted, FSNA will request a meeting with Stockwell Day, President of TB, to carry forward our members' message.

We have already informed TB Secretariat of our members' concerns regarding their inability to obtain plan management information, in spite of being contributors. Furthermore, we expressed our concern with the lack of consultation with FSNA prior to the announcement.

We look forward to hearing from our presidents and other volunteers on their meetings with MPs. We encourage everyone to continue to seek these encounters and to exercise your democratic rights.

2010 recruitment campaign

As of September 10, some 265,000 invitations asking pensioners to join the Association will be in circulation, thanks to a joint effort between FSNA and Public Works and Government Services Canada. Due to the limitations on purging names from the mailing list, some members will receive "unnecessary" copies of our recruitment package.



Meeting with the P.E.I. branches and upcoming visits

I attended the P.E.I. annual BBQ in beautiful Charlottetown on July 20. We began the day at 9:00 am, when I met with the executive of both branches during a two-hour meeting. I then had the opportunity to address the members who attended the BBQ. I want to thank Irene Gallant for arranging the meeting and extending an invitation for me to attend.



Starting mid-September, I will once again be traveling to different regions to attend meetings. I will update you on my travels as they progress.

FSNA 2010 by-laws

The FSNA 2010 by-laws have received ministerial approval and are posted on our Web site under Governance.

September holiday

National office will be closed on Monday, September 6, a statutory holiday.

Counterfeit drugs – RCMP and Health Canada making a presentation at the Moncton branch

Action Earlier this year, during my visit to the regional meeting in New Brunswick, Lorraine Casey, President of the Moncton Branch, informed me that the RCMP would be making a presentation to the branch regarding the detection of fraudulent web sites that sell counterfeit drugs to unsuspecting victims. Some of the Moncton Branch members volunteered to browse the Internet to identify any suspicious web sites and to pass the information collected to the RCMP.

Branches interested in learning more, or wanting to schedule an information session for their members can call: 613-993-8332 or visit the RCMP's Web site: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/fep-pelf/ipr-dpi/cont-eng.htm>.

The fall issue of ON GUARD will have an article regarding counterfeit drugs and how our members can protect themselves from the people who prey on human vulnerability by selling these products, which are often very dangerous.

Lump sum payments provided by the New Veterans Charter

On August 3, Vera Yuzyk, Director, Government Relations, Bernard Dussault, Senior Research and Communications Officer, and I met with Joseph Varner, the policy advisor to the Minister of National Defence at NDHQ to discuss the New Veterans Charter (NVC).

This meeting was a follow-up to resolution 1029QC57P08 adopted at Congress 2010 that directs FSNA to: *“cooperate with the Veterans Affairs Ombudsman to lobby the Minister of National Defence to undertake an evaluation to determine the magnitude of the financial and social problems encountered by our combat disabled veterans as a result of the ‘lump sum’ benefit with an intent to make it optional or revert back to the ‘monthly benefit’ as a potential solution”*.

Since the Department of National Defence (DND) and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) are under the direction of different ministries, and as VAC is responsible for the New Veterans Charter, the DND policy advisor advised that DND cannot intervene on this issue. This means that the FSNA resolution cannot be carried out as stated.

Therefore, FSNA will cooperate with the Veterans Ombudsman by preparing for the FSNA National President’s signature letters of support to the Veterans Ombudsman, Veterans Affairs Canada and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs. In each letter, FSNA will also offer to meet with the concerned persons in order to give the parties the opportunity to express their views on the NVC lump sum benefit issue.

PSHCP Benefit Card Enrolment Countdown

This is a reminder that members of the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) must have completed positive enrolment by September 15 to receive their new plastic PSHCP benefit card by the time electronic claims processing starts on November 1. Members will also be able to print their own card(s) from the Sun Life Plan Member Services Web site starting on September 20, 2010.

Members who are users on the Sun Life Plan Member Services Web site can enrol online at: http://www.sunlife.ca/enrolment_pshcp.

Members who have not received their information package either by email or through Canada Post, can contact the Sun Life PSHCP call centre, which is open Monday to Friday 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST at the following numbers:

- 613-560-7846 in the National Capital Region
- 1-877-283-1411 toll free from anywhere in North America.

Please feel free to contact the call centre if you have any questions about positive enrolment.

Advocacy initiatives

Attached is the summary of advocacy initiatives undertaken in July.

ON GUARD winter 2010 deadlines

Action The deadlines for the winter 2010 branch report information to arrive at the National Office are: Friday, 15 October Membership changes (for non-WMS branches)
Friday, 22 October Branch Reports.

The expected delivery period to members is 22 November to 3 December.

Reports can be sent by e-mail to Françoise Gauthier (gauthier@fsna.com). Please include the **branch code** (i.e. NB64) as well as the **branch name** (i.e. Moncton) in the message **subject** window.

If you have not received an acknowledgement reply within two working days, call her or send her another e-mail, as this could indicate there was a transmission problem.


Sylvia Ceacero, MBA, MA
Executive Director

Attachments:

- Recruitment campaign brochure (10 copies per branch)
- Summary of advocacy initiatives undertaken in July

FSNA at 50

In 2013, FSNA will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. Plans for this momentous event must get underway. Branches are invited to send their suggestions for the festivities to take place during Congress 2013, which will be held in Ottawa, to me at sceacero@fsna.com.

Thank you everyone for your participation.

**Tracking FSNA's Advocacy across Canada
July 2010**

ED = Executive Director
LTC = Long Term Care
NBOD = National Board of Directors
ND = National Director

PAO = Provincial Advocacy Officer
PDSP = Pensioner's Dental Service Plan
PS = Public Service
PSHCP = Public Service Health Care Plan

RSO = Regional Services Officer
SDB = Supplementary Death Benefit
SR = Standing Resolution

Date	Issue	Means	Stakeholders	FSNA Advocate	Outcome
July 5	Retirement Homes Act and Regulations	In person	Ontario Advisory Committee on Seniors' Housing	ND for ON	Follow-up of appointments to the oversight committee of the Regulatory Authority Board
July 5	Public Service pensions	PSPAC Meeting (Public Service Pension Advisory Committee)	President of the Treasury Board; Assistant Secretary Pensions and Benefits Sector;	Senior Research and Communications Officer	Monitoring of level of contribution rates and investment performance
July 6	PDSP contributions increase – request for supporting documents	In person	Treasury Board	Treasury Board Secretariat staff National President Immediate Past President ED	Document to be provided by Treasury Board – July 30
July 8	PDSP contributions increase	In person	CAPE	President – CAPE Executive Director	Support – PDSP – FSNA strategy
July 8	PDSP contributions increase	In person	PSAC	PSAC: President and staff FSNA: ED, Director-Government Relations, Research and Communications Officer	Support – PDSP – FSNA strategy
Jul 28	Benefit Card	Consultation	BC Members	PAO for BC	Left to Individual Branches
Jul 29	Introduction of FSNA	Letter	Ministers Executive	PAO for BC	Meeting to take place Fall 2010
July	PDSP contributions increase	In person	MP for ridings	Some branch Presidents and NBOD members	Apply – PDSP – FSNA strategy