



April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear Mr. Hélian Lizotte,

Thank you for outlining FSNA's key advocacy issues for the 2011 election campaign.

The Green Party rejects the argument that cutting seniors' pensions can be part of any fair, effective and efficient solution to a possible structural deficit. Federal pension funds are not hand-outs. They are deferred earnings - money that belongs to people who have worked hard, often for decades, to keep government running. Green MPs will support and work for full protection of fully-indexed federal pension plans for its public service retirees, including for Canadian Forces and RCMP pensioners.

A Green Government will not target any group of seniors in the name of deficit reduction. On the contrary, we will phase-in significant increases to the CPP by doubling the target income replacement rate from 25% to 50% of income received during working years and also replace one third of both the employee deduction and employer contributions with revenues from pollution charges (a.k.a. "toxic tax"). This would have the effect of encouraging higher levels of employment, while protecting pension benefits. A Green Government will increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement by 25% (i.e. by over \$1.5 billion dollars per year)

With respect to veterans, we will continue to oppose the categorization of veterans and the SISIP (Service Income Security Insurance Plan) claw-back of disability payments. We will scrap the Lump Sum Payment and press instead for the reinstatement of the lifetime pension for injuries under the Pension Act and we will reinstate the Benefit of the Doubt clause.

We will also immediately repeal Superannuation Act clauses that deny survivor benefits based on age or timing of marriage. Spousal benefits should not be restricted based on this anachronistic clause.

Green MPs will support and work with FSNA and others for an improved Public Service Health Care Plan that provides federal retirees with enhanced benefits at minimal cost. We agree that the Harper government's 45% increase in individual's contributions constitutes a hardship for many retirees, and we will oppose any further contribution increases to existing program benefits and cost-sharing provisions.

We will continue to monitor CETA negotiations and will adamantly oppose any language it might contain that threatens Canadian health care policy or public insurance.

The Green Party, which believes in whole-body health care, will extend preventive and medically required dental care under the Canada Health Care Act (an expensive and therefore a multi-year goal). Until such time this happens, we will work with public service employees and pensioners, FSNA, unions and others to fight any further cuts or weakening of dental benefits under the PDSP.

