



April 4, 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

The National Association of Federal Retirees (FSNA) is the largest national advocacy organization representing federal retirees - their partners and survivors - from the Public Service of Canada, the Canadian Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and retired federally appointed judges. FSNA is a not-for-profit association with more than 175,000 members and 84 branches across Canada. It is governed by a national board of directors and its mission is to protect and enhance the pension, health and dental insurance benefits of federal retirees, and seniors' benefits in general.

FSNA has identified 3 key advocacy issues that are closely aligned to its mission and mandate. They are:

- **Protection of federal public sector retiree pensions (superannuation plans) including indexation;**
- **Maintenance and enhancement of the existing program benefits and cost sharing provisions of the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP);**
- **Maintenance of the existing program benefits and cost sharing provisions of the Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP).**

Our members were loyal and committed employees of the Public Service of Canada who spent their careers building trust with successive governments. Our Canadian Forces and RCMP Veterans served this country with distinction and at great risk and personal sacrifice. Our members contributed to their pension plans and indexation while they worked to provide for their retirement years; their pension benefits were part of a total compensation package. They want to continue to trust their former employer – the government – to honour its commitments to maintaining the superannuation plans and health and dental benefits in their retirement years.

However, our members are becoming increasingly concerned that pressure is mounting on the government to revisit its commitments as a result of the negative public and media stereotyping of federal bureaucrats as “spoiled” with “fat pensions” that could become a liability for the government and Canadian taxpayers. FSNA knows this is not true, as the average pension is about \$25,000 for a retired public servant and \$12,000 for a surviving spouse. FSNA also knows the superannuation plans are sustainable now and in the long term.

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We noted in the recent March 22 Budget speech that the government intends to continue specific measures to restrain the growth of government spending and will complete a comprehensive review of government spending to realize additional savings through greater “efficiency and effectiveness” as part of the process of reducing government spending and eliminating the deficit by 2015/16. Our members are concerned this could result in the downsizing of their pensions, partial or total cutbacks in the indexation of their pensions and increases in the pensioners’ contributions to their health and dental plans. In fact, this process has already begun with an announcement by the President of the Treasury Board in June of 2010 that the pensioners’ portion of the cost-sharing ratio of the dental plan would be increased by 10%.

As for the health care plan (PSHCP), a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreed to by the government, FSNA and unions froze pensioners’ contribution rates for the period April 1, 2006 to April 1, 2011. While FSNA and its members understood the pensioners’ contribution rates would increase with the expiration of the MOU, the increase of 45% is substantial and will be a hardship for a great number of our members. Any further contribution increases to existing program benefits and cost-sharing provisions would not be acceptable to our members and would cause hardship especially for those who live on small pensions such as single women and widows.

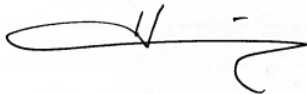
Our message to you as Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada is this: FSNA members are happy they have a pension and health and dental insurance benefits and want your assurance that, in their retirement years, what they worked for will be there, safe from cutbacks or erosion, so they can live in dignity. They want to continue to be able to trust that the government will honour its commitments.

We are aware that many Canadians do not have pension plans and benefits, and many are not financially ready for retirement. Rather than criticize public service pensions and benefits, we should strive to work together to ensure more Canadians have pension plans and benefits and the opportunity to retire in dignity. FSNA is committed to working with federal candidates in all political parties to protect our members’ pensions, maintain existing health and dental program benefits and cost-sharing provisions and improve the pensions and benefits of Canadians in general.

We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to hear your views and the position of your party on our key advocacy issues. Vera Yuzyk, FSNA’s Director of Government Relations, will call your office in the next few days to arrange a meeting. She can be reached at 613-745-2559. Also, please take a moment to provide us in writing with your party’s position on these issues so that we can share your response with our members on our FSNA website.

Thank you in advance for addressing our concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Hélian Lizotte
National President

Attachments: FSNA Corporate Profile and ON GUARD



April 4, 2011

The Honourable Michael Ignatieff, P.C., M.P.
Leader of the Official Opposition
Room 409, Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Ignatieff,

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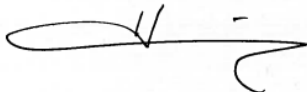
Our message to you as Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada is this: FSNA members are happy they have a pension and health and dental insurance benefits and want your assurance that, in their retirement years, what they worked for will be there, safe from cutbacks or erosion, so they can live in dignity. They want to continue to be able to trust that the government will honour its commitments.

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Hélian Lizotte
National President

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April 4, 2011

The Honourable Jack Layton, M.P.
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada
Room 1002
131 Queen St.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Layton:

The National Association of Federal Retirees (FSNA) is the largest national advocacy organization representing federal retirees - their partners and survivors - from the Public Service of Canada, the Canadian Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and retired federally appointed judges. FSNA is a not-for-profit association with more than 175,000 members and 84 branches across Canada. It is governed by a national board of directors and its mission is to protect and enhance the pension, health and dental insurance benefits of federal retirees, and seniors' benefits in general.

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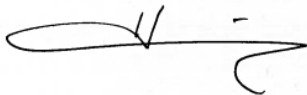
Our message to you as Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada is this: FSNA members are happy they have a pension and health and dental insurance benefits and want your assurance that, in their retirement years, what they worked for will be there, safe from cutbacks or erosion, so they can live in dignity. They want to continue to be able to trust that the government will honour its commitments.

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Le 4 avril 2011

Monsieur Gilles Duceppe, député
Chef du Bloc Québécois
Pièce 533-S, Édifice du centre
Chambre des communes
Ottawa (ON) K1A 0A6

Monsieur,

L'Association nationale des retraités fédéraux (ANRF) est le plus important organisme de défense des retraités fédéraux – de leurs conjoints et survivants – qui ont fait carrière au sein de la fonction publique du Canada, des Forces canadiennes, de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada (GRC) ou qui ont occupé une charge de juge fédéral. L'ANRF est un regroupement sans but lucratif dont les membres, excédant les 175 000, sont répartis en 84 sections à travers le Canada. L'Association est dirigée par son Conseil national d'administration, et sa mission est de protéger et d'obtenir des améliorations aux pensions et aux prestations de soins de santé et de services dentaires des retraités fédéraux, et aux prestations des aînés en général. L'ANRF compte 30 534 membres au Québec.

L'ANRF a privilégié, parmi ses préoccupations, trois enjeux importants à traiter au cours de la campagne électorale fédérale de 2011. Intimement liés à sa mission et à son mandat, ils sont :

- **la protection des pensions des retraités du secteur public (régimes de pension), y compris l'indexation;**
- **le maintien et la bonification des actuels programmes de prestations et du partage des coûts du Régime de soins de santé de la fonction publique (RSSFP);**
- **le maintien des actuelles prestations et répartition des coûts du Régime de services dentaires pour les pensionnés.**

Nos membres ont été des fonctionnaires loyaux et engagés qui ont consacré leur carrière à tisser des liens de confiance avec les gouvernements successifs. Nos anciens des Forces canadiennes et de la GRC ont servi le pays avec distinction, au prix de grands risques et de sacrifices personnels. Durant leur carrière, ils ont cotisé à un régime de pension et à son indexation en prévision de leur retraite; leurs prestations de pension cadraient dans leur régime salarial. Ils veulent maintenir la confiance qu'ils ont en leur ancien employeur – le gouvernement – et croire que ce dernier respectera ses engagements en maintenant les régimes de pension ainsi que les prestations de soins de santé et de services dentaires de ses retraités.

Mais, nos membres s'inquiètent de plus en plus des pressions exercées sur le gouvernement pour qu'il revienne sur ses engagements par suite de caricatures négatives que les médias véhiculent faisant des bureaucrates fédéraux des « bébés gâtés » aux « généreuses pensions » qui pourraient devenir un fardeau pour le gouvernement et les contribuables du Canada. Aux yeux de l'ANRF, ce sont des ragots puisque la pension moyenne d'un fonctionnaire est de 25 000 \$; elle est de 12 000 \$ pour un conjoint survivant. L'ANRF est aussi très consciente que les régimes de pension sont actuellement renouvelables et qu'ils le seront longtemps.

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Nous avons relevé du discours du budget prononcé le 22 mars que le gouvernement entend continuer à réduire, par des mesures précises, la croissance de ses dépenses et qu'à cette fin, il mènera une analyse détaillée des dépenses en quête de nouvelles économies par de plus grandes « efficacité et efficacité » en vue d'en arriver à éliminer le déficit vers 2015-2016. Nos membres craignent que ces mesures puissent se traduire par une réduction ou une annihilation de leurs pensions, par une coupure partielle ou entière de l'indexation et par une augmentation de leurs cotisations aux régimes de santé et dentaire. Justement, le président du Conseil du Trésor a lancé ce processus en annonçant, en juin 2010, que la part des pensionnés des coûts du régime de services dentaires augmentait de 10 %.

Quant au régime de soins de santé (RSSFP), un protocole d'entente endossé par le gouvernement, l'ANRF et les syndicats fixait les taux de cotisation pour les cinq ans, allant du 1^{er} avril 2006 au 1^{er} avril 2010. Certes, l'ANRF s'attendait à ce que les cotisations des pensionnés augmentent à l'échéance du protocole, mais l'augmentation de 45 % est substantielle et sera problématique pour bon nombre de nos membres. Il va sans dire que toute autre augmentation aux pensionnés de leurs cotisations à des programmes ou au partage des coûts de programmes de prestations existants serait inacceptable à nos membres, surtout à celles et ceux qui touchent les plus petites pensions, comme les femmes seules et les veuves.

Le message que nous souhaitons vous transmettre à titre de Chef du Bloc québécois est le suivant : les membres de l'ANRF se réjouissent d'être titulaires d'une pension et de recevoir des prestations de leurs assurances santé et dentaire, et ils veulent la certitude de continuer à en jouir, à l'abri de coupures et d'une érosion, afin de pouvoir vivre dans la dignité, comme ils l'avaient planifié durant leur carrière. Ils veulent continuer de croire que le gouvernement respectera ses engagements.

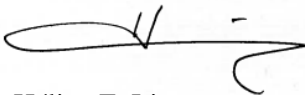
Nous savons que nombreux sont les Canadiens qui n'ont pas de régime de pension ou de prestations, et que plusieurs n'ont pas les moyens d'une retraite. Au lieu de dénigrer les pensions et bénéfices de la fonction publique, nous devrions unir nos forces pour voir à ce que plus de Canadiens aient une pension et des bénéfices leur permettant de se retirer dignement. L'ANRF veut collaborer avec les candidats de tous les partis à cette élection fédérale pour protéger les pensions de ses membres, pour assurer le maintien des prestations et de l'actuel partage des coûts des régimes de santé et dentaire, et pour obtenir une bonification des pensions et prestations des Canadiens en général.

Veillez prendre quelques instants pour coucher sur papier vos points de vue et ceux de votre parti pour nous en faciliter la transmission à nos membres.

Merci à l'avance de vous informer de nos préoccupations.

Veillez agréer l'expression de nos sentiments les meilleurs.

Le président national



Hélian E. Lizotte

Pièces jointes : profil de l'Association et un numéro d'EN GARDE



April 4, 2011

Ms. Elizabeth May
Leader of the Green Party of Canada
P.O. Box 997, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5R1

Dear Ms. May:

The National Association of Federal Retirees (FSNA) is the largest national advocacy organization representing federal retirees - their partners and survivors - from the Public Service of Canada, the Canadian Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and retired federally appointed judges. FSNA is a not-for-profit association with more than 175,000 members and 84 branches across Canada. It is governed by a national board of directors and its mission is to protect and enhance the pension, health and dental insurance benefits of federal retirees, and seniors' benefits in general.

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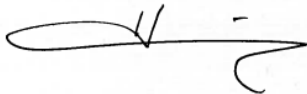
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