

Coalition Meeting
March 21, 2022
9:30 am
Zoom Format

In attendance: Sharron Callahan (Chair), Ann Marie Cleary, Patricia Parsons, Jon Soper, Helena Bragg, Maurice Brewster, Mike Siscoe, Sharon Penney, Doreen Noseworthy.

Agenda Item #1

Sharron opened the meeting with a brief greeting. She then informed us that one of our fellow members, Ralph Morris, was unable to attend this meeting as he was recovering from surgery. She reported that he is doing well.

Agenda Item #2

Sharron Callahan added the following item to the agenda under the title of Other Business: Redevelopment of the NLPSPA website.

Motion to approve the agenda with the additional item was made by Ann Marie Cleary and seconded by Mike Siscoe. All in favor, carried.

Agenda Item #3

After a discussion it was decided that this is not the right time to further engage the Consumer Advocate to do a webinar presentation on the process of electrical power rates.

Minutes of meeting of Jan 13, 2022 with the Consumer Advocate. Moved by Ann Marie Cleary seconded by Helena Bragg. All in favor, carried.

Agenda Item #4

Minutes of meeting on Jan 14, 2022, which were a continuation of the business portion of the meeting scheduled for Jan 13, 2022 were perused. Motion to approve the minutes by Ann Marie Cleary seconded by Patricia Parsons. All in favor, carried

Agenda Item #5

Motion by Sharon Penney seconded by Maurice. Brewster that the minutes of the January 14, 2022 meeting with MP Clifford Small be accepted. All in favor, carried

Agenda Item #6

NL Caucus Meeting Debrief. There is an over-all concern that there is a regression on the commitment to a Universal Pharmacare Program. It was discussed and agreed that there may need to be individual agreements with provinces to make gains in this area, much like the way the Child Care Program is rolling out. There was a general level of frustration with the delays in implementation and there was speculation about the opposing sides between big pharma who are big election supporters and the well-being of the general public. Sharron will draft a letter to

the. Minister of Seniors, Minister of Finance and Minister of Health and any other Minister who has reference to Universal Pharmacare in their mandate, identifying our concerns. Our NL MP's will be copied on the letter as well.

Agenda Item #7

Debrief on virtual public engagement meeting with Minister Sarah Stoodley regarding the Building Accessibility Act held on January 27, 2022.

The meeting centered on three focus points.

1. What obstacles must be overcome to bring improvements to the Buildings Accessibility Act?
2. What changes are necessary to the Building Accessibility Act?
3. What additional recommendations need to be made?

The following were some of the points identified as important:

1. Buildings built before 1981 were to be exempt. We recommend that this be removed.
2. Tax incentives were discussed to ensure compliance
3. Increased fines to discourage non compliance
4. Change of Name for the Act.
5. Minimum Standards for buildings be embedded into the Act for all buildings going forward.

Agenda Item #8

Elder Abuse and the Criminal Code

The Coalition wrote Minister Abbott and Minister Hogan in January concerning delayed amendments to the criminal code for elder abuse. This was the result of a Coalition meeting with Minister Abbott in December. The Minister replied that the matter would be on the agenda for an F/P/T meeting of Ministers for Seniors in February. It will be incumbent upon the Coalition to keep this front and center with the Ministers and it will be a recurring item on the agenda with the Minister until actioned.

Agenda Item #9

Coalition letter re Seniors and Technology

Mike Siscoe and Sharron Callahan composed a letter outlining our concerns regarding the proliferation of activities that are now carried out for online ways of business. We are concerned that this is a disadvantage to seniors for a number of reasons. The letter has been sent to Ministers Abbott and Stoodley. To date there has not been a response. Member organizations are free to post our letter to their respective websites

Agenda Item #10

PERT Report

While there is acknowledgment of concerns found in the "What We Heard" report, the report appears to be written in such a way as to give credibility to Government making the changes as originally recommended in the PERT Report. We identified our primary concerns being actions on the pension plans and health related recommendations. We feel that there needs to be more emphasis on streamlining government departments with an eye to cost cutting rather than selling off assets or targeting pension plan.

We must remain cognizant of the government's long-term plans for pensions, both those in effect today and for those going forward. After a discussion it was agreed that we would inquire of the PSPP and TPP Corporations if they had any additional information to share about any actions to target public service pension plans as a first action. Depending upon that response, a letter to NAPE and NLTA might be in order to inquire of any communication between the unions and government on pension plan changes.

Agenda Item #11

National Standards for Long Term Care. Two of our members have engaged in a comprehensive review of the plan and have identified the following as areas to be aware of.

1. There is no mention of family involvement
2. There is no metric for measuring outcomes
3. No identification of a policing body
4. No one accountable for COVID deaths, especially in private care settings
5. Lack of penalties for non-compliance or under compliance.
6. The quality of care has no measurable goals or outcomes

Sharron Callahan and Ann Marie Cleary will draft our response and jointly fill out the online response form. Deadline for response in March 27.

Agenda Item #12

Sharron will initiate a meeting with Dr. John Haggie. Topics to be discussed at this meeting are:

1. Vaccine role out for other than Covid 19
2. Rapid test kit availability
3. Provincial position on National Pharmacare

Agenda Item #13

Other Advocacy Issues: None identified.

Agenda Item #14

NLPSPA website.

The NLPSPA is in the process of updating their website. They have invited Coalition members to have a home base on their site. This base will provide us with a central location on which to house our documents, materials, membership info and links to the member organizations' websites. After a discussion it was decided to gratefully accept the offer by the NLPSPA.

Agenda Item #14

Next meeting will be scheduled for May 3, 2022 at the NLTA Building Board Room at 9:30 AM. Sharon will confirm and relay info to the Coalition.

Motion to adjourn at 11:15 by Jon Soper.

Recorded by Sharon Penney.