

Newfoundland & Labrador Coalition of Pensioners, Retirees, & Seniors Organizations
c/o Sharron Callahan
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April 2, 2014

Honourable Susan Sullivan
Minister of Health & Community Services and
Minister Responsible for Aging and Seniors
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Sullivan,

Over the past two years, a group of organizations that represent older persons, seniors, and retirees in this province have been meeting to explore common issues that are of importance to us and that impact the quality of life for ourselves and our families, with the goal of speaking with a united voice to those in authority who have the responsibility and accountability to hear and address our concerns.

While each of the member organizations maintain their individual purposes and offer activities for their respective memberships, this Coalition, in its initial meetings soon realized that the general concerns of our members over health services, social security income, and social benefits were common to all. There was agreement that in a unified approach, we would be representing a larger segment of our population, our unity could not be dismissed, and our issues would need to be given a serious hearing.

As you would expect, the most serious matters of concern to older persons are health related, from access to average store front health services, to hospital waiting times, to later in life concerns for elder care, including home support services and long term care.

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully ask for a meeting with you and your officials to explore with you some further clarification of the measures articulated in Budget 2014 under Investments to Increase and Enhance Long-Term Care, Cancer Treatment and Seniors Programming, to highlight for you some of the basic issues that are paramount for our Coalition member organizations, and to explore how we may work with you and your officials to advance these issues to your department and to support you in addressing these matters.

In light of the recent expiration of the Canada Health Accord, we are more concerned than ever that the resulting impact for our province could have further impact on health and health connected services for older persons.

On behalf of this Coalition, I look forward to a positive response from you to meet and commence discussions on how we can cooperatively work to positively impact the quality of life for older persons in Newfoundland and Labrador. If your calendar would allow, a date around May 12-15 would be most appreciated; however, we will meet whenever you are able to offer a date.

When we meet, I will be very pleased to share with you the background to the establishment of this Coalition and the member and affiliated groups who are participating in our meetings, research, and articulation of issues.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharron Callahan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Sharron Callahan
Chair
NL Coalition of Pensioners, Retirees, and Seniors Associations