

Newfoundland & Labrador
Coalition of Pensioners, Retirees, & Seniors Organizations
c/o 204 Anspach Street, St. John's NL A1E 3N2
sharronc@nl.rogers.com
709-368-0335 (H)
709-690-1238 (C)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2014

Coalition of Seniors creates powerful new voice

They represent the single most powerful segment of our society. And now, senior citizens in Newfoundland and Labrador will speak with one voice, with the formation of the new Coalition of Seniors.

Fourteen organizations, representing seniors, retired persons, pensioners and those who support them, have united to highlight and seek solutions on the issues that affect older persons and in some cases are applicable to younger persons.

“No other bloc of voters will be as influential as the Coalition of Seniors,” said Sharron Callahan, former president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Sector Pensioners Association and Chair of this Coalition of Seniors. “We are people from all walks of life who in our representative organizations realized we had more issues in common that should unite us and as such we are going to work together to address these issues.”

The predecessor of this group – the Pensioners’ Coalition – was formed in 2008, when eight organizations came together to speak out on issues that affected mainly public sector pensioners. The Coalition of Seniors has added new members and broadened its mandate to include all retired people, in the public and private sectors, as well as organizations who speak on behalf of and promote programs and services for seniors.

“The membership of the Coalition is growing every day and more groups that represent seniors and older persons are affiliating with our leadership on issues that impact the lives of older persons,” Callahan said. “Currently the population of older persons aged 55 years and over is 163,880 in Newfoundland and Labrador (Census, 2011). If you extend their relationships to include adult children and other connected persons, the range of outreach is potentially over 300,000. This represents real power when it comes to public awareness, especially at election time. We will use this influence wisely, with broad consensus, and not for partisan purposes. We speak for seniors, not for any political party. But when we speak, all parties should sit up and listen.”

The Coalition of Seniors will work together on a variety of issues impacting seniors that are common among the member groups, such as long-term care, home care, affordable housing and homelessness to name a few. “Our member organizations see that our individual expertise will lend to us working together and that this collaboration will prove beneficial,” Callahan said. “Our purpose is to create change for the better and ensure that the issues impacting all seniors are heard and addressed, and to do that we have to work together with each other and with Government.”

**Newfoundland & Labrador
Coalition of Pensioners, Retirees, & Seniors Organizations
c/o 204 Anspach Street, St. John's NL A1E 3N2
sharronc@nl.rogers.com
709-368-0335 (H)
709-690-1238 (C)**

Starting in April, the Coalition of Seniors is planning a coordinated effort for province-wide outreach, like town hall meetings, to hear from seniors and what will be heard will be shared with all government parties.

For further information, contact:

Sharron Callahan, Chair, Coalition – 690-1238
Ralph Morris, NAPE and Public Sector Pensioners – 364-4928
Derm Coady, National Association of Federal Retirees – 256-8496
Doreen Noseworthy, Retired Teachers Association – 687-7929

Coalition of Seniors

Member or Affiliated Organizations as of March 31, 2014

1. Newfoundland and Labrador Public Sector Pensioners Association
2. St. John's Fire Fighters Retirees Association
3. NAPE Retirees Local 7002
4. Retired Teachers Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
5. Retired Correctional Officers (Represented by NAPE)
6. Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Veterans' Association
7. Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners Association
8. FSNA (National Association of Federal Retirees)
9. Seniors Resource Centre of Newfoundland and Labrador
10. CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons), Avalon Chapter 1
11. CN Pensioners' Association
12. Marine Atlantic Pensioners Association
13. Silver Lights Retirees (NL Hydro & NALCOR)
14. Pius X Church (Community Outreach)