



March 11, 2016

The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

We write this letter as a supporter of the National Pensioners Federation and as an activist organization for public education on issues facing Canadians as they age. Our organization closes at the end of this month due to a shrinking membership and funds. We believe that your Liberal Government should be putting issues facing its senior citizens within a framework that is open, inclusive and diverse and with a ministerial voice at your Cabinet table. We see no such responsibility being taken by any of your ministers. When will this happen?

The past Conservative Government over the nearly ten years eroded a strong voice for older adults and reduced it to mere tokenism and ineffectiveness with its National Seniors Council. In the Harper years we did not see a Strategic Plan for an aging population – little was done for elder abuse, nothing for a national pharmacare plan, nothing negotiated for national standards for home care and community services with provincial ministries and within the Canada Health Accord, nothing for a National Housing Strategy with accompanying funding. When can we expect a Strategic Plan with funding linked to it?

Please seek input from senior citizen organizations in Canada. In Ontario there are a number of such organizations, most of which participate in the Liaison Committee of the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat. An important voice is the National Pensioners Federation [www.nationalpensionersfederation.ca](http://www.nationalpensionersfederation.ca) and its President, Herb John.

We await your Liberal Government's strategic plan and implementation of it with multiple ministries, if not a Minister Responsible for Senior Citizens to coordinate and address Canada's aging population and its needs.

Sincerely,

Barbara Kilbourn, President  
Canadian Pensioners Concerned, Inc.

cc: Mr. Herb John, President – National Pensioners Federation  
Ms. Abby Katz Starr, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Ontario Seniors' Secretariat  
Members – Liaison Committee of Ontario Seniors' Secretariat  
Ms. Elizabeth Macnab – Executive Director, Ontario Society of Senior Citizens' Organizations