



National Association
of Federal Retirees

Association nationale
des retraités fédéraux

Marie-Chantal Girard
Assistant Deputy Minister
Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
219 Laurier Ave.
Ottawa, ON K1A 0R5

January 12, 2021

Dear Ms. Girard,

As you know, the National Association of Federal Retirees is party to the National Joint Council Partners Committee, representing retired federal public servants, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and federally appointed judges, in the oversight and renewal of the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP).

We agree with the position of the Bargaining Agents, as shared in letter dated 11 January 2021, that a renewal of the PSHCP is long overdue.

In February 2018, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by the Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS), the Bargaining Agents and our Association. This MOU committed all parties to a renewal of the PSHCP by March 31, 2019.

We are now well past the March 2019 deadline, and almost three years have passed since the MOU was signed. Yet there has been little movement towards a renewed Plan.

Treasury Board Secretariat has repeatedly stated to the Bargaining Agent Co-Chair of the Renewal Committee that it does not have a mandate to begin renewal negotiations, and no dates for these discussions have been set.

We recognize and respect the focus on the COVID-19 global pandemic that was required this year. However, renewal discussions were stalled even prior to the onset of the pandemic nearly one year ago.

The PSHCP has not been subject to a comprehensive renewal since 2006. This is a disservice to the Plan members who entrust the representatives of the Partners Committee to ensure the health and well-being of Plan participants, and to provide stable, comprehensive, and sustainable benefits. Since 2006, advances and changes to health care and insurance have occurred. The cost of medical

services, and the cost of living have also increased. A renewal of the PSHCP is among the top concerns we hear about from members.

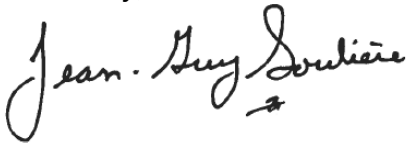
For these reasons, a renewal of the PSHCP is of the utmost priority for our Association and federal retirees.

Federal Retirees is ready to commence a renewal of the Public Service Health Care Plan, as agreed to by all the parties. We request that the government provide a mandate and a selection of dates to ensure that renewal discussions begin promptly this year.

We support the position of the Bargaining Agents to initiate proceedings before the Federal Court should the plan renewal be further delayed.

We look forward to a timely and positive resolution of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean-Guy Soulière". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Jean-Guy Soulière
President, National Association of Federal Retirees

c.c. Sean Ross, General Secretary, NJC
Partners Committee
Technical Committee