



National Association  
of Federal Retirees

Association nationale  
des retraités fédéraux

From;  
Jean Guy Soulière  
President  
National Association of Federal Retirees

Anthony Pizzino  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Association of Federal Retirees

To: Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

October 25, 2021

Dear Premier Ford,

The National Association of Federal Retirees represents 170,000 retired members of the federal public service, as well as veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP, and their dependents and survivors. In Ontario, our organization has 60,000 members who are retired federal civil servants. Our organization has been advocating for the financial security, health and well-being of our members and all Canadians for nearly 60 years.

On September 8, 2021, the National Association of Federal Retirees wrote to the Hon. Christine Elliott and to members of her senior staff, as well as to the Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO). (Please see attached letter). The letter requested that the parties to the conflict immediately resume negotiations so that services may be re-instated to our members and other Ontarians eligible for OHIP-covered eye care services, which includes 2.3 million individuals older than 65 years of age.

While we had several meetings with the Ontario Association of Optometrists, which has allowed us to better understand their position, we have not yet received a reply from Minister Elliott nor from her officials.

The OAO job action has been in place since September 1, 2021. Millions of Ontarians are not receiving routine, OHIP-insured vision care due to the job action that has resulted from stalled negotiations. More than 60,000 Federal Retirees members in Ontario want to know: what is the Government of Ontario

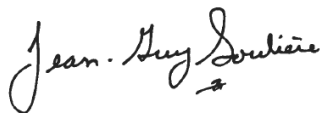
doing to negotiate fairly with optometrists, and when will Ontarians' access to OHIP-insured vision care be restored?

We respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss this issue, its importance to our members, and to better understand the province's plans for OHIP-insured vision care. Alternatively, we would be pleased to meet with the health minister and her staff, in follow-up to the correspondence we originally sent on September 8.

With the 2022 provincial election fast approaching, Federal Retirees members are keen to ensure Ontario's health care system, and OHIP-insured services, remain robust and as comprehensive as possible. Your government has in the past stated that it wants to protect the health and wellbeing of Ontario workers and families. We very much hope that your government will take the matter of resumption of negotiations with the Ontario Association of Optometrists seriously. The health of millions of Ontario seniors, and other Ontarians, depends upon it.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Jean Guy Soulière  
President



Anthony Pizzino  
CEO

cc: Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health