



National Association
of Federal Retirees

Association nationale
des retraités fédéraux

Mr. Éric Duhaime, candidate for Chauveau
Leader of the Conservative Party of Quebec
400-1020 rue Bouvier
Quebec (Quebec) G2K 0K9

19 August 2022

Dear Mr. Duhaime,

The National Association of Federal Retirees (Federal Retirees) is Canada's largest national advocacy organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and retired federally appointed judges, as well as their partners and survivors. With close to 170,000 members in Canada, including nearly 32,000 in Quebec, our Association has been advocating for improvements to the financial security, health and well-being of our members and all Canadians since 1963.

In the context of the upcoming election in Quebec, we are writing to party leaders and candidates on behalf of our Association about the priorities that are most important to our members and to all seniors in Quebec.

We are asking all the parties that will form the next national assembly to prioritize the interests of Quebec seniors by supporting any policies, programs and budgeted funds that aim to achieve the following objectives:

1. Investing meaningfully in seniors care and services from a continuum of care perspective, including:
 - ◆ Investing in the strengthening of home care and support services.
 - ◆ Enhancing all programs that support the work of informal caregivers and improve their well-being (financial, psychological and logistical support).
 - ◆ Investing in the development of living environments for seniors that are integrated into the community: senior housing, alternative housing and intermediate residences.
2. Establishing a provincial seniors strategy based on the social determinants of health, guaranteed, supervised and monitored by a person appointed by the national assembly. This appointee would be responsible for, among other things:
 - ◆ Fighting ageism and social isolation (surveys, advertising, reports, recommendations).

- ◆ Ensuring that the dignity of all seniors is respected and that seniors have access to the greatest possible autonomy as well as adequate income, affordable housing and transportation, high-quality health-care services and meaningful community connection.
 - ◆ Investigating complaints and publishing both the results of these investigations and the ensuing recommendations.
3. Investing meaningfully in the renewal and modernization of the health-care system and front-line services by:
- ◆ Providing all Quebecers with access to a family doctor and front-line health professionals.
 - ◆ Improving the working conditions (pay and hours) of nurses and support staff in the health-care system in general and urgently in all CHSLDs (private [P], private contracted [PC] and non-contracted private [NCP]).
 - ◆ Establishing strict management standards for all CHSLDs (P, PC, and NCP) with penalties (care, working conditions, condition of the facilities).

What can you do to help achieve these goals?

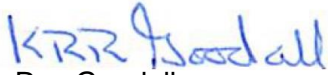
The upcoming provincial election is an opportunity for your party to not only have an impact on the lives of Quebecers, but also to improve those lives. Your party is asking the Quebec population to trust you. As our members — and all Quebec seniors — go to the polls, we need to know what your party has in store for seniors. We need political parties that put the interests of the Quebec population ahead of partisan interests. We want parties that put their differences aside and work together for the well-being of all. We ask you to consider the following questions and share your answers.

- As governments change, so do their policies, programs and action plans, often without ever solving the problem. Is your party committed to building on existing policy and funding commitments?
- Does your party commit to investing in the strengthening of home care and support services and developing living environments for seniors that are integrated into the community?
- Does your party support a seniors strategy with dedicated funding and clear objectives that would enable us to meet the changing needs of Quebec seniors? What is your party's plan for a seniors strategy in Quebec?
- Is your party committed to a seniors strategy that is coordinated, guaranteed and overseen by a national assembly appointee?
- Is your party committed to improving the working conditions (pay and hours) of nurses and support staff in all CHSLDs (private [P], private contracted [PC] and non-contracted private [NCP]), as well as in the health-care system in general?

- Will your party establish strict management standards for all CHSLDs (P, PC, and NCP) with penalties (care, working conditions, condition of the facilities)?

We thank you for considering the concerns and questions we have raised in this letter. We are looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Roy Goodall

President, National Association of Federal Retirees



Jacques Lambert

Director, District of Quebec, National Association of Federal Retirees



Andrée Lise Provost

Director, District of Quebec, National Association of Federal Retirees