



President's Message – September 2016

Peggy Hawthorn

It is with excitement and some trepidation that I write my first message as your new USCO President. The USCO has a long and proud heritage as we just celebrated our 58th Convention. Seniors are the fastest growing part of our population and are facing many challenges. It is essential that now more than ever that the USCO is prepared to be the voice for seniors so that their needs are known to the government. We also want to encourage local clubs to be there for seniors in their communities.

At the Convention in Cambridge we dealt with almost 90 resolutions that addressed issues in health care, housing, transportation, consumerism and miscellaneous topics. All were enthusiastically discussed and will be communicated to the provincial and federal governments in our briefs. For those who read the provincial response to our 2015 brief, it was very noticeable that we are seeing a more positive response.

Action on the Shingles Vaccine is forthcoming – the government is working out the details of how this will be administered and then we will see this program in place. We now have 170,000 seniors who benefit from the higher threshold amount for being exempt from paying the copayment of \$100 and the \$2.00 per prescription. Good things are coming for seniors and we are still seeking more.

The Board will be meeting in September to begin looking at the objectives for the year ahead. The development of a Strategic Plan, more effective communication and looking at maintaining relevance will be important topics during the next twelve months.

The Board Members and the Zone Field Representatives are available to all Clubs and Zones and are happy to participate in your activities... just ask. We are here to serve. Looking forward to the year ahead and what the USCO will be able to achieve – but we need to work together for the betterment of seniors.



President Peggy Hawthorn

