

RESOLUTIONS

*58TH ANNUAL
CONVENTION*



AUGUST 8, 9 & 10, 2016
CAMBRIDGE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE
CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO

HEALTH

1. WHEREAS: Due to lower education level, there are, of necessity, restrictions in the ability of lower end health care workers;

- WHEREAS: A higher level of medical expertise is often required when diagnosing and dealing with the health issues of seniors;

- WHEREAS: The best utilization of Nurse Practitioners is on-going in both complex medical practices and rural/northern medical practices;

- WHEREAS: Registered nurses are capable of increased autonomy and increased utilization of their skills; and

- WHEREAS: Ontario is “missing the buck” in the utilization of the Registered Nurse (R.N.)

- BE IT RESOLVED: The Provincial Government should work with the College of Nurses of Ontario and the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario on a Task Force to review the roles of both Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners to maximize their capabilities in meeting current gaps in health care services and put funding in place to establish or expand services to resolve these gaps.

Submitted By: Club #729 - The Huntley Friendship Club, Carp

AGREE

2. WHEREAS: There is one geriatric doctor per 100,000 seniors over 65 in Ontario, 58% of geriatric positions are unfilled and the number of doctors choosing geriatrics has not increased; <http://ncbi.nlm.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3521321/>
- WHEREAS: The number of seniors in the population continues to grow (projected growth of 40% in Ontario between the year 2000 and 2021); <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/H39-608-2002E.pdf>
- WHEREAS: The Canadian Geriatrics Journal and the Canadian Medical Association state that there isn't a national plan to address this gap; and <http://www.demandaplan.ca/>
- WHEREAS: The Federal Government and Saskatchewan Government provide incentives for medical personnel to work in remote communities – these incentives could be applied to have doctors and nurse practitioners choose geriatrics as a specialization. http://www.esdc.gc.ca/en/student_loans/forgiveness.page
- <http://www.Saskatchewan.ca/residents/education-and-learning/student-loans/loan-forgiveness-for-nurses-and-nurse-practitioners>
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government establishes a plan to resolve the gap between the growth rate of the senior population and the zero growth rate of geriatric doctors and nurse practitioners to choose the specialty of geriatrics.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

3. WHEREAS: The percentage of the population of Ontario that is seniors is rapidly growing; and
- WHEREAS: The medical needs of the senior population are both greater than that of the general population and often misunderstood by general practitioners.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government provide more funding to the training and education of Gerontologists.

Submitted By: Club # 939 - Russell 55+ Club, Russell

AGREE

4. WHEREAS: The older seniors (+80) will be the fastest growing segment of the population owing to medical advances and higher life expectancies; [http://www. fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections/#s3c](http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/projections/#s3c)
- WHEREAS: The older seniors are most likely to suffer from dementia;
- WHEREAS: 85% of patients admitted to long term care facilities have “high” to “very high” needs based on MAPLE; <http://healthydebate.ca/2013/06/topic/quality/improving-quality-in-canadas-nursing-homes-requires-more-staff-more-training>
- WHEREAS: Long term care facilities prescribe anti-psychotic drugs to patients (33% on average and up to 67% of patients); and <http://hqontario.ca/public-reporting/theme-reports/looking-for-balance>
http://brainxchange.ca/Public/Files/BSO2-Provincial-Pulse_December-2015.aspx
- WHEREAS: The skill sets of long term care facility staff are more important than the absolute number of staff. http://www.thestar.com/life/health_wellness/2013/06/21/Ontario_longtermcare_staff_need_training_researchers_say.html
- BE IT RESOLVED: That more geriatric training is given in long term care facilities. The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care should increase the training offered both on-line (lower cost) and in real time. The training should be mandatory for staff to reach benchmarks of performance. <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/>

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

5. WHEREAS: Ontario population is growing and aging, and we do not have enough doctors to adequately treat our current population;
- WHEREAS: Everyday doctors diagnose, treat and care for over 320,000 patients, and there are still about 900,000 adults and children who still do not have a primary care doctor; and
- WHEREAS: Medical care will grow by at least 2.7% per year and the Government is willing to fund only 1.25% - less than half what is needed.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government at least fund the necessary monies to look after our growing and aging population.

Submitted By: Club #826 – Mountain Seniors Club, South Mountain

AGREE

6. WHEREAS: The Government want seniors to stay in their own home as long as possible;
- WHEREAS: Many seniors need personal care above what their families can provide;
- WHEREAS: Many seniors cannot afford to pay for extra care.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government provide extra funding to agencies that care for seniors so that they can stay in their homes longer.

Submitted By: Club #826 – Mountain Seniors Club, South Mountain

AGREE

7. WHEREAS: Prime Minister Trudeau is promising to negotiate a new Health Accord with provinces and territories including a long term agreement on funding, a Pharmacare Program (national is missing).

BE IT RESOLVED: That the USCO urge the Federal Government to move to a new and long term agreement of the Health Accord and a National Pharmacare Program for all Canadians.

Submitted By: Club #407 – Unifor Local 444 Retirees, Windsor

AGREE

8. WHEREAS: Prescription drugs are an essential ingredient for good health;

WHEREAS: The cost of prescription drugs is the major reason that health care costs are rising;

WHEREAS: A public drug insurance plan should form a major part of Canada's public health care policy; and

WHEREAS: Studies have shown major cost savings are attainable with a public drug plan.

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Federal Government implement a publicly funded Pharmacare plan.

Submitted By: Club #398 – Unifor Local 200 Retirees Chapter, Windsor

AGREE

9. WHEREAS: The Ministry of Health is de-listing a number of medications that low income seniors require to maintain their current health status. This requires low income seniors to pay market value for those medications that were previously paid for by ODBP; and
http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ohip/bulletins/4000/bulletin_4000_mn.aspx
<http://www.chathamdailynews.ca/2013/05/23/seniors-protest-changes-to-ohip-coverage>
- WHEREAS: Seniors on low, fixed income are now being forced to pay for medications that are necessary for health on an on-going basis.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That ODBP re-lists medications that are required for low income seniors to maintain their health.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

10. WHEREAS: The Ontario Government does not pay for some of the medication for Cancer Patients; and
- WHEREAS: People of low income, and seniors on a fixed income pension are unable to pay for this medication.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government of Ontario pay for these drugs.

Submitted By: Club #690, Winchester Golden Years Club, Winchester

AGREE

11. WHEREAS: There are significant continuous cutbacks in health services at a time when demands on health services are escalating with the increases in the seniors population; and

WHEREAS: These cutbacks are creating longer wait times for health care and causing health care professionals to seek employment opportunities outside Ontario.

BE IT RESOLVED: That there would be more clinics staffed by Registered Nurses who are given authorization to write prescriptions and refer patients to hospitals when there is a more serious issue. Further to this, Jack Nathan clinics in Walmarts are encouraged and supported in order to reduce pressure on medical facilities.

<http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/jack-nathan-medical-inc-with-sunshine-medical-opens-new-clinic-in-southdale-winnipeg-walmart-supercentre-5665461.html>

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

12. WHEREAS: Some older seniors who live in their own homes need some sort of home care;
- WHEREAS: The amount of home care they get is marginally adequate;
- WHEREAS: Some seniors need more help than others; and
- WHEREAS: Some seniors do not have family to help them out.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government increase the amount of Home Care that some seniors are in badly need of.

Submitted By: Club #690, Winchester Golden Years Club, Winchester

AGREE

13. WHEREAS: The Government of Ontario has announced funding for persons between 65 and 70 for the Shingles Vaccine; and
- WHEREAS: Other seniors would benefit from the vaccination.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government of Ontario expand the funding for the Shingles Vaccination to include 70 to 80 year olds.

Submitted By: Zone 39

AGREE

14. WHEREAS: Shingles is a very painful and debilitating condition that can last a long time; and
- WHEREAS: To date, the Shingles Vaccine is expensive and only seniors between 65 and 70 can get a free vaccine.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government make the Shingles vaccination free to all seniors especially low income seniors.

Submitted By: Club #920 – Eagle Place Seniors, Brantford
 Club #24 – Charlotte Street Seniors, Brantford

AGREE

15. WHEREAS: The test to diagnose Prostate Cancer is billed to the patient; and
- WHEREAS: The cost could be a burden for some low income seniors.
- BE IT RESOLVED: The Ontario Government make the cost of the PSA test free for seniors.

Submitted By: Club #24 – Charlotte Street Seniors, Brantford

AGREE

16. WHEREAS: Seniors want to stay in their homes longer, especially after hospitalization;
- WHEREAS: Some seniors may need help with personal bathing needs after surgery and hospitalization;
- WHEREAS: Some seniors live alone and have no family;
- WHEREAS: The senior is in need, the health services should be available for that patient who requires help after hospitalization; and
- WHEREAS: The patient can voice the need for assistance after surgery and hospitalization and deserves a bath or shower within a week and especially less than fifteen days.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Seniors Secretariat encourage the Ministry of Health and the LHIN's to collaborate and cooperate with seniors upon arriving home after surgery, hospitalization and respite care to meet the special needs in light of no family or caregiver in the home.

Submitted By: Club #998 – The Old School House Seniors, Stokes Bay

AGREE

17. WHEREAS: Seniors are experiencing financial distress in trying to maintain their health; and
- WHEREAS: Most seniors do not have a comprehensive private health plan.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government provide a comprehensive plan, including dental and vision, for seniors at a nominal cost.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

18. WHEREAS: Hearing loss is a growing public health problem that affects senior's physical health, that is linked to falls, depression, social isolation and many more health issues; and
- WHEREAS: Low income families and seniors with little or no additional health coverage cannot afford hearing devices, and therefore do not get their hearing tested because of the cost of the hearing aids.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government provide more affordability and accessibility to hearing health care and hearing tests should be a part of routine medical checkups.

Submitted By: Club #99 – Paris Seniors Club, Paris

AGREE

19. WHEREAS: Scientific research has proven that poor dental and gum health is relating to a higher risk of heart disease; and
- WHEREAS: Low income families and seniors with little or no pension cannot afford proper dental care, and therefore do not go to the dentist because of the cost.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government pay for Dental Benefits for seniors on a fixed low income and low income families, ie. the working poor.

Submitted By: Club #690 – The Winchester Golden Years Club, Winchester

AGREE

20. WHEREAS: Seniors live longer and thus the requirement for hearing aids is steadily growing;
- WHEREAS: The cost of hearing aids and other devices steadily grows; and
- WHEREAS: Many seniors live in poverty, close to the poverty line or have low incomes.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government raise the OHIP coverage for the payment of hearing aids.

Submitted By: Club #939 – Russell 55+ Club, Russell

AGREE

21. WHEREAS: There is a demonstrated connection between poor oral health and diseases such as diabetes in people of all ages, particularly the aged;
- WHEREAS: Research also indicates that there is a possible connection between poor oral health, heart disease, strokes and other serious infections or illnesses; and
- WHEREAS: The Public Health Agency of Canada has on their website results of a survey which states that adults between 60 and 79 and 50% of adults in the lower income groups do not have Dental Insurance yet they impress upon us the importance of good oral health care.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the USCO Convention 2016 calls upon the Provincial Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to include at least basic dental care for Senior Citizens under the Provincial Health Insurance Plan.

Submitted By: Club #197 – Unifor Retirees Area Council, Toronto

AGREE

22. WHEREAS: Many seniors and low income families cannot afford adequate dental care that is critical to their health and well-being;
- WHEREAS: The mouth being the gateway to the body;
- WHEREAS: Poor dental hygiene can lead to a host of health and medical issues, and in some instances, premature death; and
- WHEREAS: Currently the mouth is not considered part of our body in our health care system; and
- WHEREAS: It needs to be.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the USCO support the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and other community service groups in urging the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to establish basic and emergency dental coverage for all low income earners and seniors.

Submitted By: Club #274 – Kearney Seniors Club, Kearney

AGREE

23. WHEREAS: Clogged arteries cause major health problems; and
- WHEREAS: Alleviating these problems is done through surgical procedures which can be painful or unnecessary.
- BE IT RESOLVED: The Federal Government approve the use of a machine in Canada that is now used in other countries for cleaning arteries more easily.

Submitted By: Club #920 – Eagle Place Seniors, Brantford

AGREE

24. WHEREAS: Staffing levels in Ontario long term care facilities are below the average for Canada (5 hours per resident per day) and 25% below Alberta (5.3 hours). Ontario's average at 4 hours is 9th worst out of 10 provinces; and <http://healthydebate.ca/2013/06/topic/quality/improving-quality-in-canads-nursing-homes-requires-more-staff-more-training>
- WHEREAS: The senior population will be growing significantly over the next number of years due to the baby boom moving through the system and longer life expectancies. <http://well-being.esdc.ca/misme-lowb/.3ndic.1t.4r@-eng.jsp?iid=33>
- BE IT RESOLVED: That Ontario meet or exceed the Canada average for staffing long term care facilities.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

25. WHEREAS: Security is a concern in long term care facilities; and
- WHEREAS: Senior neglect and abuse is a worry for families of patients. <http://www.ctvnews.ca/Canada/nursing-home-workers-suspended-after-son-turns-over-hidden-camera-video-1.1288544>
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/Canada/Montreal/family-fights-to-keep-security-camera-in-long-term-care-facility-1.2655015>
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government through the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care provide more security including video camera surveillance in long term care facilities.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

26. WHEREAS: A study of long term care facilities indicated that 44% of seniors were abused in long term care facilities and 95% said they had been neglected or saw another patient being neglected;
http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/docs/Abuse_of_Residents_of_Long_Term_Care_Facilities.pdf
- WHEREAS: 60% of abuse is verbal, 5-10% is physical and 14% is neglect in the case of seniors with dementia in long term care facilities;
http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/Resources/Publication/docs/Dementia_ResearchBrief_web508.pdf
- WHEREAS: Only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported and only 1 in 44 cases of financial abuse is reported; and
<http://www.canhr.org/abuse/>
- WHEREAS: Ontario is scaling back on nursing home inspections.
<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/ontarios-move-to-scale-back-full-annual-inspections-at-nursing-homes-means-less-eyes-on-elderly-advocate>
<http://ontariopc.com/News/Details/Statement-from-MPP-Bill-Walker-on-Nursing-Home-Inspections-in-Ontario>
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government be more strict on long term facilities insisting on reporting of all elderly abuse, zero tolerance in allowing abusers to be transferred to other facilities and surprise inspections at long term care facilities rather than making appointments.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

27. WHEREAS: The number of Canadians diagnosed with some form of dementia is projected to triple by the year 2031; and
<http://www.Alzheimer.ca/en/About-dementia/What-is-dementia/Dementia-numbers>
- WHEREAS: Many countries have established a National Dementia Plan.
<http://www.Europe.org/Policy-in-Practice2/Mational-Dementia-Plan>
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Federal Government establish a National Dementia Plan immediately.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

28. WHEREAS: The Government is looking to reduce costs of health care at a time when health care demand is increasing with the growth of the senior population;
- WHEREAS: The daily cost of a hospital bed stay is \$842 while the daily cost of health care in the bed at home is \$42; and
<http://www.homecareontario.ca/home-care-services/facts-figures/publiclyfundedhomecare>
- WHEREAS: Seniors would prefer to stay at home rather than a hospital.
<http://www.iyhusa.com/AgingPlaceFacts-Data.htm>
- BE IT RESOLVED: That both Governments and seniors will benefit by providing enhanced medical and non-medical home care services to allow seniors to remain in their home instead of hospital.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

31. WHEREAS: Over 30,000 Canadians were infected with HIV and Hepatitis C by way of tainted blood in Canada, resulting in the death of thousands of Canadians and harming countless families;
- WHEREAS: Canada spent \$17 million on a publicly-funded federal inquiry which revealed that the paid donor system was a key factor contributing to Canadians receiving tainted blood;
- WHEREAS: Billions of dollars in compensation have been given to those who received tainted blood and their families due, in part, to Canada's former reliance on blood from paid donors;
- WHEREAS: The Krever Inquiry recommended an end to a private, for-profit blood donor system in Canada; and
- WHEREAS: Our blood plasma is not meant to be a commodity that is bought and sold, we must protect our voluntary blood donor system in Canada and ensure we have one national operator, the Canadian Blood Services, to oversee blood collection and plasma collection in our country.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That we call upon the Federal Government to:
- Refuse to issue or approve any licence to Canadian Plasma Resources or any other private, for-profit, donor-paid blood products company to operate in Canada; and
 - Implement legislation which ensures that no for-profit donor-paid will be allowed to operate in Canada.

Submitted By: Club #3 – Unifor Local 222 Retired Workers Chapter, Oshawa

AGREE

32. WHEREAS: The Government of Ontario has announced the closure of several small, local Ontario Service Centers yet continue to insist that citizens appear personally to renew Ontario Health Cards at regular intervals;
- WHEREAS: The Ontario and Federal Government has encouraged seniors to remain independent and in their own homes as long as possible, while promising support to do so;
- WHEREAS: Many seniors face either reduced access to transportation and/or health concerns prevent them from driving into major centers to renew OHIP cards; and
- WHEREAS: Residences and nursing homes need to use building transportation services to help their senior residents to travel to medical and other important services.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services allow seniors to maintain valid OHIP cards in creative ways that will not require seniors to travel into major centers. (Suggestions – set a specific age at which seniors should not be required to renew cards, or establish mobile Service Ontario Units to assist seniors in renewing cards in their homes or in residences)

Submitted by: Club #939 - Russell 55+ Club, Russell

AGREE

33. WHEREAS: The Ontario Government calculates the Ontario Health Premiums on the individual's total income rather than his/her taxable income. This calculation does not take into account the individual's Basic Personal Exemption;

WHEREAS: Any individual, especially senior citizens, at a gross income of \$20,001 to 25,000 will pay 6% for the Ontario Health Premium on top of the annual \$100 basic charge for medications. Individuals receiving \$25,000 in income would pay the annual fee of \$100 and \$300 on their income tax; and

WHEREAS: The poverty line in Ontario for a single adult rests at \$19,930. \$25,000 minus the \$400 as stated above would bring the individual precariously close to the poverty line.

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Health Premium should be calculated on the taxable income after application of the Basic Personal Exemption.

Submitted By: Club #939, Russell 55+ Club, Russell

AGREE

34. WHEREAS: Long Term Care homes are experiencing an unprecedented number of sexual abuse incidents (W5, “In the Dark”) perpetrated by residents in the LTC homes with a previous history of such abuse and are pleading for incoming residents to come with background security checks;
- WHEREAS: All staff in Long Term Care homes must undergo Police Security Checks before employment in these same homes;
- WHEREAS: Long Term Care administration and staff are prevented access to resident history due to current privacy legislation; and
- WHEREAS: Incoming residents without any criminal records, and potential victims, have nothing to fear and this privacy legislation only protects people with criminal records.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That Long Term Care home administration be provided with security checks for all incoming residents so that they can better prepare for residents with a history of criminal behaviour.

Submitted By: Club #1335 – Elmwood & District Senior Citizens, Elmwood
 Club #827 – Formosa Leisure Club, Formosa

AGREE

35. **WHEREAS:** The abuse of elders in long-term care homes and established care homes is on the rise; and
- WHEREAS:** People who commit these offences against vulnerable individuals at the present time can escape any type of recriminations and can continue these actions and offences with impunity in the same or other long-term care facilities.
- BE IT RESOLVED:** That similar to the Sexual Offenders Registry that an official registry be established where convicted offender's names are recorded so that they are committed to avoid and desist their acts of financial, mental and/or physical abuse of the vulnerable and elderly in long-term or other established care facilities.

Submitted By: Club #398 – Unifor Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter, Windsor

AGREE

TRANSPORTATION

36. WHEREAS: The Government of Ontario has announced changes to Hospital parking effective fall of 2016; and
- WHEREAS: There are still impediments with the cost of Hospital parking for seniors.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That Ontario Government further review Hospital parking costs to remove the financial burden for seniors by making Hospital parking free for seniors in Ontario.

Submitted By: Zone 39

AGREE

37. WHEREAS: Low income earners and seniors who need access to medical services and facilities where parking fees are charged; and
- WHEREAS: Low income earners and seniors find parking fees to be a hardship, forcing many to avoid these services or to forgo other necessities of life to pay for parking.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Provincial Government introduces an universal, non-transferable parking permit system that will allow the coming and goings by low income earners and seniors at no cost.

Submitted By: Club #274 – Kearney Seniors Club, Kearney

AGREE

38. WHEREAS: Seniors, the working poor, people on fixed incomes;
- WHEREAS: Out of necessity in rural areas need their vehicles to take them to hospitals, doctor's offices and clinics for consults and treatment;
- WHEREAS: Seniors, the working poor, and people on fixed incomes have to pay fees at doctor's offices and clinics to park their cars; and
- WHEREAS: Seniors, the working poor, and people on fixed incomes who need some procedures on a day stay unit or outpatient capacity sometimes will not go because of the high cost of parking.
- BE IT RESOLVED: The Ontario Government should exempt people who have to have ongoing treatment, ie. Chemotherapy, Dialysis and other medical procedures in an outpatient capacity and in a day stay unit; and
- BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED: The Ontario Government should exempt seniors, the working poor and people on fixed incomes that have to visit hospitals, clinics and doctor's offices on a regular basis.

Submitted By: Club #690 – The Winchester Golden Years Club, Winchester

AGREE

39. WHEREAS: The Ontario Government requires 80 year old senior drivers to take a written test; and
- WHEREAS: Going to take this test is not only time consuming and expensive for anyone living over 25 km from the Test Officer.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government give seniors mileage expense over 25 km and provide a snack or meal ticket.

Submitted By: Club #611 – A.B.C. Seniors, Apsley

DISAGREE

40. WHEREAS: Drugs, alcohol and other distracted driving offences cause accidents; and
- WHEREAS: Accidents can cause death or serious personal injury.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government impose stiffer penalties and fines to drivers who abuse their driving privileges by driving impaired or distracted.

Submitted By: Club # 920 - Eagle Place Seniors, Brantford

AGREE

41. **WHEREAS:** The Ontario Government has promised that if you purchase an electric car worth up to \$75,000 you will get a rebate of up to \$14,000, and \$75,000 to \$150,000 you get a rebate of \$3,000;
- WHEREAS:** Ontario has spent \$39 million of taxpayer's money on subsidies for electric vehicles over the past 6 years. Of these subsidies, \$14,243,710.00 were for vehicles with a manufacture suggested retail price over \$70,000. \$867,679.00 in taxpayer's money went to subsidize cars that retail over \$100,000;
- WHEREAS:** These cars are not manufactured in Ontario, and not producing jobs for Ontario people; and
- WHEREAS:** Only a small percentage of our population can afford a car this expensive.
- BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Ontario Government not be spending money that hard working people have paid in taxes and it going to subsidize the rich.

Submitted By: Club # 826 – Mountain Seniors Citizens, South Mountain

AGREE

42. **WHEREAS:** The Ontario Government plans on spending \$20 million on charging stations for electric cars; and
- WHEREAS:** Gas stations are privately owned.
- BE IT RESOLVED:** That charging stations for electric cars be owned and operated by private companies the same as gas stations.

Submitted By: Club #826 – Mountain Senior Citizens, South Mountain

AGREE

45. WHEREAS: Automobile manufacturers have had to make sure that the headlights on automobiles come on automatically;
- WHEREAS: This practice has proven to cut down on accidents;
- WHEREAS: The weather patterns in the province of Ontario have changed and now we have more snowstorms, fog, rain, freezing rain, etc.; and
- WHEREAS: When driving in these conditions it is easier to see a car with the headlights on, but it is very hard to see the car in front with no tail lights on.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Federal Government should make it mandatory that car manufacturers also make sure that the tail lights are lit as well.

Submitted By: Club #690 – The Winchester Golden Years Club, Winchester

AGREE

46. WHEREAS: All people in the Province of Ontario have the right to be on any road, highway, street, etc. in the Province of Ontario;
- WHEREAS: All people in the Province of Ontario have the right to have transportation by ground, eg. Train, bus or automobile, in the Province of Ontario; and
- WHEREAS: All people in the Province of Ontario regardless if they are seniors or others with many medical appointments have the right to have transportation to get to their appointments.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government has the right to respect any person, group or body of people to have the right to protest in a decent and orderly fashion in the Province of Ontario; and
- BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED: When there is a protest by any person, group, or body of people in the Province of Ontario, the Government should have the legislation in place that the protesting bodies do not put road block on any roadway, train tracks or bus routes.

Submitted By: Club #690 – The Winchester Golden Years Club, Winchester

DISAGREE

HOUSING

47. WHEREAS: There are currently hundreds of thousands of people in Canada on waiting lists for existing affordable housing. Some people have been on these waiting lists for up to 15 years.

There is an acute shortage of affordable housing units in public housing, housing co-ops, non-profit housing and private low rent apartment buildings.

Many Federal and Provincial subsidy and rent-geared-to-income financial assistance programs for low income households in co-ops and non-profit housing are coming to an end.

There is a growing number of low income seniors who will need affordable rental, assisted living and nursing accommodations.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That:

1. The Federal and Provincial Governments maintain existing rent-geared-to-income and subsidy programs for low income people living in co-ops and non-profit housing;
2. The Federal and Provincial and Municipal Governments, in consultation with affordable housing advocacy groups, develop comprehensive housing policies which will assure a sufficient supply of affordable housing;
3. New affordable housing projects be included as part of mixed-income housing developments;
4. Governments use surplus land and underutilized buildings (including air-rights) for developing mixed-income housing; and
5. Provincial Governments assure that there is a sufficient supply of affordable assisted living residences and nursing homes.

Submitted By: Club #197 – Unifor Retirees Area Council, Toronto

AGREE

48. WHEREAS: Seniors and low income families do not have enough money to pay for affordable housing; and
- WHEREAS: The working poor and seniors must now try to get more part time jobs and still do not have enough money to afford proper housing.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government provide affordable housing for seniors on fixed incomes and also low income families.

Submitted By: Club #690 – The Winchester Golden Years Club, Winchester

AGREE

49. WHEREAS: Affordable housing is beyond the reach of many seniors; and
- WHEREAS: There is an inadequate number of government subsidized housing units.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government make more affordable housing available to seniors at subsidized rents.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

50. WHEREAS: There are seniors who did not work outside the home and therefore only receive the Old Age Security pension plus the supplement; and
- WHEREAS: Many seniors are living without proper food, medicine, heat in their homes plus other necessities of life.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the seniors receive enough subsidy to live comfortably in their homes.

Submitted By: Club #826 – Mountain Senior Citizens, South Mountain

AGREE

51. WHEREAS: Hydro is a basic necessity and the on peak prices inflict a significant impact on retired seniors living on a fixed income; and
- WHEREAS: Seniors are staying in their own homes longer and require the use of electricity during on peak to maintain their comfort level.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That low income seniors pay a maximum of the current mid-peak price during the on-peak time.

Submitted By: Club #945 – Britt, Byng Inlet and Community Senior Citizens

AGREE

52. WHEREAS: Ontario hydro rates are 30% above the national average;
http://www.Ontario-hydro.com/index.php?page=electricity_rates_by_province
- WHEREAS: Ontario rates are 3rd highest of the ten provinces;
- WHEREAS: Only 47% of the Hydro One bill is for electricity (38% for delivery, 11.5% for HST and 3.1% for regulatory); and
<http://www.hydroone.com/MyHome/MyAccount/UnderstandMyBill?Pages/Default.aspx>
- WHEREAS: Seniors feel the burden of this monthly ongoing bill.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That seniors are given a reprieve on the non-electricity charges (delivery, HST, and/or regulatory).

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

AGREE

53. WHEREAS: Seniors on fixed incomes;
- WHEREAS: Hydro is charging more and more for their utility during off peak hours; and
- WHEREAS: Many Ontario seniors on fixed incomes cannot afford food because of the high cost of Hydro, and this is affecting their health.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government remove some of the extra charges from the Hydro Bills.

Submitted By: Club #690 - The Winchester Golden Years Club, Winchester

AGREE

FINANCIAL/PENSIONS

54. WHEREAS: Retired people, the working poor, and people on fixed incomes;
- WHEREAS: These people do not get a cost of living increase to help them financially;
- WHEREAS: The cost of food, utilities, rent keep on rising;
- WHEREAS: Many people throughout winter could not afford heating fuel or food; and
- WHEREAS: Many seniors had to resort to using food banks.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government increase the amount of CPP, OAS and other monies so that the people who are on fixed incomes and the working poor can live in their homes comfortably.

Submitted By: Club #690 – The Winchester Golden Years Club, Winchester

AGREE

55. WHEREAS: The Ontario Government has created a plan to reduce Hydro bills for seniors and low income households by \$50.00 per month; and
- WHEREAS: The income level they established was your net income from your tax forms and was based on number of people per house – 1 person at \$28,000 and 2 people the same amount \$28,000.
- BE IT RESOLVED: The income level for 2 people per house be increased to \$32,000 and the level for 1 person remain the same or lowered.

Submitted By: Club #651 – Fordwich Young at Heart Club, Fordwich

AGREE

56. WHEREAS: Concession bargaining has allowed employers to reduce the level of Benefits provided to retirees long after they have retired;
- WHEREAS: Employers on their own have reduced Benefits to retired staff;
- WHEREAS: Benefits are considered to be “deferred wages” (ie. The property of the worker); and
- WHEREAS: Retirees generally have no say or rights to consultation in the Reduction of their Benefits package.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That we call upon the Ontario Government to introduce Legislation which will consider retired workers’ benefit package to be vested similar to the vesting of Pension benefits.

Submitted By: Club #3 – Unifor Local 222 Retired Workers Chapter, Oshawa

AGREE

57. WHEREAS: The population of Ontario is rapidly aging and more seniors wish to stay in their own homes; and
- WHEREAS: It would be financially prudent for the Ontario Government to support these seniors.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government increase the support it gives to seniors to aid them in remaining independent in their own homes.

Submitted By: Club #939 – Russell 55+ Club, Russell

AGREE

60. WHEREAS: The Employment Standards Act 2000 and its regulations cover “continuity of employment” when the business the employee works for is sold or transferred in any way to a new owner, and the employee continues to work in the business for the new owner;
- WHEREAS: There is no such coverage in a situation where an existing business is “contracted out” and existing long term employees are forced time after time to apply for their own jobs; and
- WHEREAS: Where there is an existing Union Contract which has been legally bargained, and has not been recognized by the new owner.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the United Senior Citizens of Ontario Convention 2016 calls upon the Minister of Labour Kevin Flynn and the Provincial Government of Ontario to amend the Employment Standards Act 2000 and its regulations to protect employees in this situation.

Submitted By: Club #197 – Unifor Retirees Area Council, Toronto

AGREE

61. WHEREAS: Many citizens in rural areas do not have access to either a bank or a Post Office;
- WHEREAS: Studies have been conducted which have shown a serious lack of banking services in rural areas and that people are turning to payday lenders because banks are not meeting their needs; and
- WHEREAS: There are many successful postal banking models in several countries, eg. United Kingdom, France, India, Italy and New Zealand.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the USCO Convention 2016 calls upon the PM Justin Trudeau, the Federal Government and Canada Post Corporation to establish a task force to determine how to deliver new financial products and new services through the Post Office; and
- BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED: That Canada like every other developed country in the world search for ways to save money without impacting people negatively.

Submitted By: Club #197 – Unifor Retirees Area Council, Toronto

AGREE

62. WHEREAS: Many Canadian banking institutions are currently inaccessible to many low-income Canadians as well as remote areas, especially in the North;
- WHEREAS: Predatory banking and loan services are becoming increasingly prevalent in many low-income communities in Canada;
- WHEREAS: Canada Post has an underutilized institutional capacity to deliver basic banking services at a wide range of locations;
- WHEREAS: There is a need for the expansion of the service base of Canada Post to integrate with the realities of the 21st century economy; and
- WHEREAS: Postal banking has proven to be a reliable model in such countries as Japan, Germany, Brazil and France.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That we call upon the Federal Government to work toward re-establishing a publicly-owned and operated basic banking service program accessible to all Canadians to all Canadians under purview of Canada Post.

Submitted By: Club #3 – Unifor Retired Workers Chapter, Oshawa

AGREE

63. WHEREAS: 1981 Nobel Economics prize winner James Tobin has recommended a widely supported “Tax on Foreign Exchange Transactions” referred to as the “Tobin Tax”;
- WHEREAS: A stable monetary policy is something that people and governments worldwide strive for against the efforts of global capital to keep policies which allow currencies to float; and
- WHEREAS: It is estimated that all these currency transactions amount to a trillion dollars a day and that applying a small tax some of these transactions might be curtailed and the tax could also generate an estimated half a trillion dollars a year.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government of Canada, which has consistently against the majority of G-20 nations who support the implementation of this tax, change their position and support the tax. This should be done in recognition of the potential benefits of stabilizing monetary policies, and providing a source of funds to reduce global illnesses and poverty.

Submitted By: Club #398 – Unifor Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter, Windsor

AGREE

64. WHEREAS: Once a nation parts with control of its currency, and credit, it matters not who makes that nations laws... usury once in control will wreck any nation;
- WHEREAS: Until the control of the issue of currency and credit is restored to government and recognized as its most conspicuous and sacred responsibility all talk of the sovereignty of Parliament and of democracy is idle and futile PM Mackenzie King;
- WHEREAS: We have lost our democracy because the power is concentrated in the banks and corporations that control our politicians since the Bank of Canada was handed over to the private bankers in 1974 by Prime Minister Trudeau;
- WHEREAS: Today half of our taxes go to pay private banks interest on our unnecessary debt of \$600 billion for a total of \$160 million per day in interest which amounts to \$60 billion per year; and
- WHEREAS: Using the Bank of Canada could keep Canada out of heavy debt and would improve the quality of life for all Canadians.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the House of Commons (Government) resolve to return to the use of the Bank of Canada to fund the nation's infrastructures and establish and control a new monetary policy that meets the needs of Canada and Canadians.

Submitted By: Club #398 – Unifor Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter, Windsor

AGREE

65. WHEREAS: The government has continued to reduce the tax collected from wealthy individuals for the past 30 years;
- WHEREAS: The government has eliminated estate tax which allows the transfer of huge amounts of money to people who did nothing to earn it;
- WHEREAS: The government has eliminated capital gains tax and allows various types of income and bonuses to be considered capital gains;
- WHEREAS: This continual reduction of tax income to the government has created and continues to create a society that cannot sustain social programs such as health care and education;
- WHEREAS: Allowing a small number of individuals to take more and more dollars from our common inheritance of knowledge and resources creates a huge imbalance of power and is a threat to our democracy; and
- WHEREAS: These tax breaks do not create jobs or benefits Canadians in any way. They only benefit the wealthy at everyone else's expense.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Federal and Provincial Governments increase all forms of taxation on wealthy Canadians and that they increase corporate tax as well.

Submitted By: Club #398 – Unifor Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter, Windsor

AGREE

UNITED SENIOR CITIZENS OF ONTARIO

66. WHEREAS: The resolution to approve the Book of Remembrance was accepted and passed in 1972 and it is not clear whether any revision has been made since 1994; and
- WHEREAS: The current minimum cost for having USCO members listed in the Book of Remembrance is \$5.00.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the cost of having USCO members added into the Book of Remembrance be raised to \$10.00.

Submitted By: Club #1295 – Greenock Seniors Club, Paisley

67. WHEREAS: The cornerstone principle of democracy is representation by population; and
http://www.answers.com/Q/What_does_rep_by_pop_mean
- WHEREAS: The USCO does not follow this principle for clubs (2 voting delegates per club regardless of size).
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the USCO amend the Constitution to reflect the representation by population principle.

Submitted By: Club #336, Long Sault Circle Senior Club, Long Sault

68. WHEREAS: The senior population will accelerate significantly in Canada between 2010 – 2031; and
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/91-520-x/2010001/aftertoc-aprestdm1-eng.htm>
- WHEREAS: The USCO lacks a recruitment strategy to enrol the senior growth.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the USCO establish a recruitment plan with the goal to increase membership at least in proportion to the growth of the senior population.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

69. WHEREAS: The senior population in Canada will grow from 14% of the population in 2009 to 25% in 2031;
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/91-520-x2010001/aftertoc-aprestdm1-eng.htm>
- WHEREAS: Seniors will have a strong voice to enact legislation in the future; and
- WHEREAS: The senior population is fragmented at present.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the USCO establish communication linkages with other senior groups (eg. CARP) to develop a National Plan for the unification of senior demands. Furthermore, these senior groups need to develop an interactive website (new seniors are very computer literate) so the information can be transmitted quickly and issues can be raised with the vast majority of Canadian seniors.

Submitted By: Club #336, Long Sault Circle Senior Club, Long Sault

73. WHEREAS: Conflict of interest guidelines should be an integral part of the Constitution; and
- WHEREAS: The potential for conflict of interest is high when USCO Directors and Executives attend Zone meetings.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the conflict of interest guidelines include the clause that Directors and Executives of USCO cannot be representatives of Zones or Clubs.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Long Sault Circle Senior Club, Long Sault

74. WHEREAS: There is no cut-off time for members to put their names forward for consideration to be elected to the Board of the USCO; and
- WHEREAS: Members who vote for Board candidates should have time and information to make a knowledgeable choice.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That a cut-off time is set for members to have their name put forward to be considered for election to the Board. All who put their name forward, including incumbents, should post their resume at the time they put their name forward.

Submitted By: Club #336 - Friendly Circle Seniors Club, Long Sault

MISCELLANEOUS

75. WHEREAS: The Government of Ontario has many programs in place but they are under-funded or not funded at all.

 BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ontario Government be urged to ensure that any program in current place be adequately funded.

Submitted By: Zone 39

AGREE

76. WHEREAS: The Provincial Government publishes “A Guide to Programs and Services for Seniors in Ontario”;

 WHEREAS: These programs and services are of great value to our seniors; and

 WHEREAS: A regular occurrence when seniors apply for these programs and services are not currently being funded.

 BE IT RESOLVED: That if the Provincial Government is publicizing programs and services for seniors in Ontario, that these programs and services are adequately financed to meet the needs of our seniors.

Submitted By: Club #274 – Kearney Seniors Club, Kearney

AGREE

77. WHEREAS: The Government of Ontario has supported an Elderly Persons Centre Program for several years; and

 WHEREAS: This program has not been expanded to allow other communities to establish Elderly Persons Centres in their area despite a need to do so.

 BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government of Ontario expand the Program for the Elderly Persons Centres to include more communities with funding to facilitate this.

Submitted By: Zone 39

AGREE

78. WHEREAS: The Government of Ontario, Ministry Responsible for Seniors Affairs and the Ontario Seniors Secretariat are keenly committed to helping seniors stay active and involved in their communities;
- WHEREAS: A primary means of supporting these commitments is through the concept of the Elderly Persons Centre;
- WHEREAS: The Elderly Persons Centres are designed to offer a range of social, cultural, learning and recreational programs for seniors;
- WHEREAS: Many seniors' social clubs who are struggling on their own to meet our common objectives, of supporting active and involved seniors, because of inadequate facilities; and
- WHEREAS: The reactivated support of new Elderly Persons Centres, in partnership with municipalities, would be a significant step forward in meeting the government's objectives and commitments for active seniors in Ontario.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry Responsible for Seniors Affairs, reactivate the Elderly Persons Centres program to offer Seniors Clubs the means to obtain adequate facilities to meet our mutual objectives of strengthening seniors' levels of activity and involvement in our communities.

Submitted By: Club #274 - Kearney Seniors Club, Kearney

AGREE

79. WHEREAS: Thousands of seniors play bingo as their only activity at seniors clubs; and
- WHEREAS: Cities across Ontario have issued notices to clubs that bingo, and playing for money, constitutes gambling, violating the Criminal Code of Canada and The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario's laws.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the USCO urges the Provincial and Federal Governments to change the law to allow this activity to continue in clubs affording seniors to continue this activity to get seniors out of their residences.

Submitted By: Club #1543 - Mississauga Seniors Council, Mississauga

AGREE

80. WHEREAS: The Ontario Government purposes this bill (Bill 100) and help establish new hiking trails and snowmobile trails, it could prove to do just the opposite;
- WHEREAS: Property owners have agreed to allow others to have access to a portion of their property for such things as hiking or snowmobile trails, either written or verbal, after a period of time (suggested 20 years) may find their property subject to easement;
- WHEREAS: Neither the property owner or snowmobile clubs want this bill to be passed; and
- WHEREAS: Such a bill would only prevent the growth of hiking or snowmobile or other recreational trails.
- WHEREAS: That the author of this bill remove any reference to easement or remove this Bill 100 from the Floor; and
- BE IT RESOLVED: That a moratorium be placed on any future idea of easement on property owners in Ontario, who allow these trails.

Submitted By: Zone 32 Executive

AGREE

81. WHEREAS: Grandparents are our heritage and an essential member of our families and communities;
- WHEREAS: Grandparents can provide continuity in the life of a child and have the benefit of interaction on a level once removed from the day to day responsibilities and are very often the family historians who can add a rich sense of family in a child's life; and
- WHEREAS: Grandparents can teach children positive attitudes towards ageing and assist them to develop skills to enhance their own lifelong learning.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the USCO Convention 2016 calls upon the Federal and Provincial Governments to update Bill 48, Children's Law Reform Amendment Act (Relationship to Grandparents) forthwith; and
- BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED: That grandparents be allowed reasonable access to their grandchildren without encumbrance.

Submitted By: Club #197 – Unifor Retirees Area Council, Toronto

AGREE

82. WHEREAS: The Liberal Party promised in the October 2015 campaign to make this election the last using first-past-post; and
- WHEREAS: The Liberals promised to set up a Multi-Partisan Parliamentary committee in the first eighteen months after election to deal with electoral reform.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the United Senior Citizens of Ontario send a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister of Democratic Institutions Maryam Monsef, to fulfil the Liberals commitment to electoral reform within eighteen months of the October 2015 election.

Submitted By: Club #563 – Unifor Local 707 Retirees Chapter, Oakville

AGREE

83. WHEREAS: The recent Liberal Budget makes mention of “asset recycling” which is a method designed to raise money to help the government bankroll infrastructure promises;
- WHEREAS: The Liberal Government has committed more than \$120 billion toward infrastructure spending over the next decade; and
- WHEREAS: Privatization is really short-term gain for long-term pain.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That we call upon the Federal Government and all Federal political parties to reject the idea of selling off our current assets in order to fund future ones.

Submitted By: Club #3 – Unifor Local 222 Retired Workers Chapter, Oshawa

AGREE

84. WHEREAS: Fracking is the process of fracturing shale deposits to release small pockets of natural gas;
- WHEREAS: This practice has caused wide scale pollution where it has taken place;
- WHEREAS: This practice has caused sickness and death in humans and livestock;
- WHEREAS: The downside to the environment far outweighs the benefit; and
- WHEREAS: This practice has spread to Canada in a big way.
- BE IT RESOLVED: That the Canadian and Provincial Governments ban this practice.

Submitted By: Club #398 – Unifor Local 200 Retired Workers Chapter, Windsor

AGREE

85. **WHEREAS:** The lack of adequate consultations with Indigenous and directly impacted communities, a clear democratic deficit and a failure to factor in the climate implications tar sand pipeline would trigger, which many reviews have shown; and
- WHEREAS:** Our new government is refusing to stop those currently underway on the Energy East and Trans Mountain.
- BE IT RESOLVED:** That The USCO urge the Federal Government to start new public reviews of these pipelines and overhaul Canada's environmental assessment processes.

Submitted By: Club #407 – Unifor Local 444 Retirees, Windsor

AGREE

86. **WHEREAS:** The Canada-EU CETA and Trans Pacific Partnership currently contain the investor state dispute settlement mechanism that would allow foreign corporations to sue Canada.
- BE IT RESOLVED:** That the USCO demand that the Federal Government reject these deals that further entrench corporate privilege in favour of trade that is truly fair.

Submitted By: Club #407 – Unifor Local 444 Retirees, Windsor

AGREE