



CBC/Radio-Canada Pensioners Association

Who we are

The CBC/Radio-Canada Pensioners Association (PNA) is a national, non-partisan association representing retired employees of CBC/Radio-Canada from every region of the country. Our members include former journalists, producers, technicians, managers and other staff who helped deliver trusted public service broadcasting in English and French. Many live in the communities they served throughout their careers, including rural and smaller centres where reliable local information and cultural connection can be difficult to sustain.

CBC pensioners are fortunate to be part of a relatively small group of retirees with the security of defined benefit pensions.

That security does not insulate us from the pressures facing older Canadians. Like other seniors, our members are affected by rising costs, access to care challenges, and the risk of isolation.

What we are asking for is practical and implementable. We are meeting with federal decision makers to ensure the Government's CBC/Radio-Canada commitments are delivered as intended and to contribute constructively to the broader policy conversation on retirement security and healthy aging.

Why this matters now

Canada is entering a "super-aged" era, meaning more than one in five Canadians will be over the age of 65. Evidence shows increasing affordability pressures, a growing share of Canadians who say they cannot retire when they want, and persistently high levels of isolation and loneliness among older adults. Taken together, these trends point to the need for coordinated federal leadership that links affordability, access to care, retirement income security, and social connection within a coherent approach to aging.

Affordability is a central concern. While measures such as the GST credit can help some households, many seniors, including many of our members, may not qualify for those benefits even as they face persistent cost pressures. With food and shelter costs rising well above overall inflation in recent years, we believe a more robust response is needed to protect older Canadians' quality of life and reduce avoidable hardship.

At the same time, a healthy public broadcaster is essential to a healthy democracy. CBC/Radio-Canada plays an important role in supporting Canada's democratic resilience and sovereignty. They provide trusted news and civic information, countering misinformation, sustaining local and regional journalism where market gaps are growing, and ensuring Canadians can access reliable information in both official languages, including during emergencies and crises.

Our asks

1) Deliver and de-risk CBC/Radio-Canada commitments

- **Implement existing CBC/Radio-Canada commitments predictably and transparently**, with clear objectives, timelines, and public reporting on outcomes so Parliament and Canadians can assess impact.
- **Protect the public mandate and strengthen local/regional service**—ensuring reforms and investments translate into reliable news and information where gaps are growing, including smaller markets.
- **Advance durable, long-term stability** by moving toward funding approaches that reduce year-to-year volatility and enable multi-year planning (including consideration of legislated mechanisms that better protect the mandate over time).
- **Ensure any mandate review or structural reform strengthens public trust**, reinforces editorial independence, and improves the broadcaster's ability to deliver emergency communications and civic information during crises.
- **Explicitly recognize CBC/Radio-Canada's role in protecting democratic resilience and Canadian sovereignty** by sustaining trusted journalism, strengthening civic literacy and public engagement, and providing a credible national information backbone in a fragmented media environment

2) Protect retirement security and the integrity of defined benefit pensions

- **Maintain strong protections for federally regulated defined benefit (DB) plans**, recognizing DB pensions as a proven model for predictable retirement income and reduced poverty risk among seniors.
- **Avoid policy directions that shift retirement risk onto individuals**, including reforms that weaken DB plan sustainability or convert certainty into variable outcomes for retirees.
- **Recognize the economic value of retirement security**, including the stabilizing effect of predictable retirement income in local communities (particularly in regions where seniors' spending supports local businesses and services).
- **Support confidence in Canada's retirement income system overall**, including clarity, stability, and predictability in policy decisions that affect older Canadians.

3) Support practical, targeted measures for older Canadians

- **Strengthen federal affordability supports for older Canadians** to reflect the outsized pressures from food and shelter costs, including for seniors who may not benefit from measures such as the GST credit
- **Retirement income flexibility**: modernize mandatory RRIF withdrawal rules to better align with longevity and reduce unintended impacts on taxes and income-tested benefits.
- **Keep the CPP strong and whole**: avoid destabilizing changes that introduce complexity or weaken confidence in a core pillar of retirement income security.
- **Access to care and prevention**: strengthen federal leadership that reduces patchwork coverage and improves access to primary care and essential supports for older Canadians—particularly where gaps drive avoidable hardship.
- **Social connection**: support community-based approaches that reduce isolation and loneliness, including measures that strengthen local services and improve digital inclusion for seniors.

The PNA is committed to being a constructive, solutions-oriented partner. We are seeking an ongoing relationship with federal offices and departments so we can provide practical retiree perspectives, share evidence, and support implementation-focused solutions, on both **CBC/Radio-Canada stability and retirement security in an aging Canada**.

Contact

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The CBC Pensioners
National Association
Preserving our Future, Sharing our Past