



# The Canadian Federation of Pensioners

Advocating on Behalf of Pensioner Groups & Their Members

The fall season of 2010 has progressed with a very high level of activity by the Canadian Federation of Pensioners, on behalf of the member groups and their members.

Members of the executive committee have had several meetings with the advisors to Provincial Minister Dwight Duncan. These meetings have been extremely cordial and have allowed us to clearly enunciate what we feel should be included in legislation, and as importantly, in the regulations that become the working orders for those involved with administering and regulating pension plans.

We participated in a round table discussion with FSCO (Financial Services Commission of Ontario) and the various groups that are affected by pension plans and regulations. (Actuaries, Lawyers, Plan Administrators, and other pension groups), where FSCO outlined plans towards updating and improving their efficiency.

On the 15 Sept CFP participated in a rally at Queen's Park in support of Nortel. CFP's VP Jack Walsh and Brian Rutherford who is a director of CFP spoke in favour of Nortel's position not to wind up their pension plan which would result in potentially significant lower pension income..



The McGuinty Ontario Liberal Government spoke out strongly at the time against Nortel's reasonable request for legislation similar to what is available in the UK. Now as per the 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 Globe and Mail Report on Business the Liberal government has agreed to modify the legislation to allow the plan to not be wound up.

Other CFP groups such as the Society also were at the Nortel Rally as per the overview picture below.



The Canadian Federation of Pensioners had three Board members including our President and Vice President - Provincial and the Gen Mo President that were witnesses at the Federal Industry, Science, and Technology Hearing on Bill C 501 in Ottawa on November 16. We were joined by the President of the Nortel's Retiree Association. Bill C 501 is a Bill to amend the CCAA / BIA to bring pensioners and their plans from not being recognized to the level of Super Priority. We believe and stated that "Preferred Unsecured Creditor" would be acceptable and more likely to gain support in passage of the bill. This change, if implemented, would affect pension plans beneficially if the plan sponsor goes bankrupt and the plan is under funded.

On November 17 we participated in committee hearings at Queens Park concerning current legislation proposals to update Provincial Pension Law. Much of what we asked for has been addressed in legislation. However the regulations pertaining to the current bill are extremely critical and we are paying close attention and are ready to support or ask for changes when the regulations are issued for comment.

On November 16, before heading to Ottawa our Vice President Provincial held a preliminary meeting with the Chief Executive of FSCO. That meeting was followed by a further meeting on December 10 attended by our Vice President Provincial, and the

three top executives of FSCO. At that meeting, we clearly outlined where we feel FSCO has failed pensioners and what we would expect could rectify that situation.

Like Dr. Arthurs who headed the Provincial Hearings of the OECP (Ontario Expert Commission on Pensions) we feel that pension issues should be handled by an independent commission, focussed solely on pensions. We, will however, work with FSCO as they try to modify their operations to meet the needs, as dictated by the Provincial Government, and law currently in place.

Also on December 10, the President and Vice President Provincial of the Canadian Federation of Pensioners participated in Toronto at a Federal Round Table discussion with, and at the request of, The Honorable Minister Tony Clement. The questions placed in our invitation to attend were:

1. Looking forward, should Canada consider changes to the way in which it provides protection to pension and disability benefits in insolvency?
2. Do other approaches, such as those taken in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, offer possible solutions that Canada should consider adopting?

We will continue to stress the need to update and improve legislation, as it pertains to Defined Benefit Pension Plans, in a manner that protects the rights and income of pensioners as promised by their plans.