



**Association canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants retraités
Canadian Association of Retired Teachers**

The Right Hon. Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

April 30, 2014

Dear Mr. Prime Minister Harper,

We were encouraged and pleased to see care being expressed for our seniors with the recent announcement of the "Target Benefit" pension plan. These efforts will no doubt help allay the fears of the great many Canadians who do not have a pension nor the necessary resources to insure financial security in their later years. That said, we continue to be deeply disappointed that a more concerted effort was not put forth to enhance the Canada Pension Plan as a proven way to accomplish your objective of providing security for retired Canadians.

We, along with a great number of economists and actuaries, view such an enhancement to be a logical first step for a number of reasons, not the least of which would be the fact that with a plan already in place there would be significant savings in time, effort and dollars. In addition, participants who enroll in an enhanced CPP would in fact know the target benefits they would be entitled to depending on their contribution level.

While we will examine your new proposed plan more closely we are not yet in a position to make a recommendation or an endorsement. We do feel confident however in saying in saying that Canadians generally would be skeptical of any plan requiring a new large governance, or a poor risk/ reward situation for recipients, while a cost effective plan currently exists.

The CPP has already proven to be a well-run, safe, cost-efficient plan. While unable to speak for the several hundred thousand retirees and families, we speak unanimously as the executive of the Canadian Association of Retired

Teachers, an association of 125 000 members, in urging you, Mr. Prime Minister, to re-examine your Government's position and to give much further consideration to a proven solution - the Canada Pension Plan.

We anxiously await your reply and thank you for your consideration of this request,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Gaskell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Gaskell
President ACER-CART

59 Rendell Drive,
Little Bras d'Or, NS B1Y 2Y7,
(902) 736-1267, gaskelltag@hotmail.com

cc : Leaders of the Opposition
Canadian Teachers Federation
Member Organizations
Available to Media