

Are you experiencing problems enlisting in the recently released Canadian Dental Care Plan?

Canadian retirees were grateful when the Canadian Dental Care Plan was expanded to include seniors, but too many were disappointed when they attempted to register. Access rules are causing unfortunate confusion and consequences for those with the lowest incomes.

- While most retired educators have access to dental plans, some retired teachers with small pensions have declined coverage because their low retirement income makes enrolment in the dental plans unaffordable.
- Some retired teachers have experienced different treatment even if their financial circumstances are similar.
- Individuals who opted out of a dental plan before Dec. 11, 2023, may be eligible while equally needy individuals that didn't know about this arbitrarily and retroactively imposed date are not eligible.

Additional challenges are surfacing:

- Some dentists are refusing to participate in the program.
- Alberta and Quebec governments have already announced they will opt out of the program.
- It is risky to cancel your current insurance hoping to qualify for the government plan; if you find you do not qualify or you are dissatisfied with the government plan coverage, your current plan may not allow you to rejoin.

President Bill Berryman, on behalf of the ACER-CART membership, is requesting that these access rules be reviewed.

ACER-CART is recommending a more appropriate, transparent, and defensible criteria for enrolment would be acceptance into the dental plan based only on income and wealth. The current criteria do not do that fairly.

The letter has been forwarded to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Health, Minister of Labour & Seniors, and leaders of the other three political parties.

Share your concerns with a meeting, a letter, or a phone call to your MP.

- Prepared by the ACER-CART Executive