

September 11, 2020

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
President of the Treasury Board
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada K1A 0A6

BY EMAIL

Dear Minister Duclos,

As the Co-Chair of the National Joint Council, representing thousands of public service workers and their bargaining agents across Canada, and on behalf of the National Association of Federal Retirees, the pensioner representative for retirees of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and retired federally appointed judges, I am contacting you to emphasize the importance of beginning negotiations on the new Public Service Health Care Plan.

The bargaining agents and the pensioner representative of the Public Service Health Care Plan Partner Committee recognize that COVID-19 has disrupted all aspects of the Plan and has necessitated some delays or changes in government priorities, especially in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic outbreak.

However, the parties involved have been ready to renegotiate the terms of the Plan for over a year. The Public Service Health Care Plan itself impacts over 600,000 members and their dependants and has not seen any substantial change in over a decade. As you can imagine, this is an incredibly important issue for the public servants we represent, past and present, whose contributions have ensured Canada is well positioned to handle the COVID-19 pandemic and who have continued to work so hard during incredibly challenging circumstances to deliver critical services to all Canadians, including the government's Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and other emergency measures.

We urge you to finalize a mandate for Treasury Board Secretariat so that all parties involved can return to the table and start negotiations.

It is crucial that this process begins as soon as possible, as there are several complex issues to address including a range of benefit improvements and the recommendations from Cubic Health. The longer these discussions are delayed, the longer hardworking public servants, past and present, will be required to wait to see benefits from the implementation of these measures.

I speak for my fellow bargaining agents and the pensioner representative on the Public Service Health Care Plan Partner Committee when I say that we are ready to begin negotiations at any point. We would welcome a meeting with you to commence these conversations while you await the finalization of the mandate.

Sincerely,

Dany Richard, MBA, CPA, CMA, ICD.D
Co-Chair
National Joint Council

/cc: Nancy Chahwan
cc: Marie-Chantal Girard
cc: Chris Aylward
cc: Debi Daviau
cc: Jean-Guy Soulière
cc: Debbie Cooper
cc: Sayward Montague
cc: Colby Briggs
cc: Pierre-Samuel Proulx
cc: Seth Sazant