



Honour Your Promise to Federal Retirees

In October 2016, the federal government introduced Bill C-27. This legislation would allow employers to change employee pension plans, even after they have retired. In response, the National Association of Federal Retirees (Federal Retirees for short), along with the Canadian Coalition for Retirement Security, launched the “Honour Your Promise” campaign.

In the 2015 federal election, Justin Trudeau clearly promised Federal Retirees, in writing, that defined benefit plans which have already been paid for by employees and pensioners, should not be retroactively changed into defined contribution plans. The “Honour Your Promise” campaign asked the Prime Minister and the finance minister to keep their word. Over the course of the following three years, the advocacy campaign delivered over 50,000 emails to members of Parliament and the finance minister, asking for this problematic legislation to be abandoned.

And it worked. The legislation fell silent and remained right where it started — at first reading, on the order paper. It never moved forward. When the House of Commons rose in June 2019, and with the call of the last election, Bill C-27 effectively died.

While we are happy to celebrate Bill C-27’s retirement, retirees must remain vigilant.

Federal Retirees is the largest non-partisan national advocacy organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Forces, RCMP and retired federally appointed judges, as well as their partners and survivors. With close to 170,000 members from coast-to-coast, the Association continues to undertake advocacy campaigns to protect its members’ benefits and to support good policy that improves the lives of all Canadians in retirement. More members gives the Association a stronger voice. Join Federal Retirees and add your support.

For more information, contact us at avb.on33@gmail.com, or to join this strong national association, go to federalretirees.ca. Our strength is in our membership. Stay tuned for more information in future articles.