



MEDIA RELEASE

On October 6, the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers, ACER-CART, appeared before the Standing Committee on Finance in a pre-budget consultation. He raised many issues of concern to seniors, namely, grants to a consortium of seniors' organizations, direct compensation to persons leaving their jobs to take care of sick family members, splitting of household income, treatment of Old Age Security as tax-free income, increase in the pension income deduction, re-introduction of the interest income deduction, deduction of 100% of non covered medical expenses and of charitable donations.

Arguments were presented for a simpler and more equitable tax system. It was pointed out, on many occasions, that the present income tax system offers marked advantages to high income earners.

The government was taken to task for not following through on the all party pledge in 1985 to eradicate child poverty in Canada by year 2000. Statistics indicate that there are more children living below the poverty line in 2005 than there were in 1985.

In closing, the Executive Director warned the members of the committee that ACER-CART would no longer sit on the sidelines while public funds are squandered on questionable programs; if need be and if proper legislation is not adopted in the very near future, ACER-CART will be compelled to take on a more active political role.

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