CEPACC
Membership Bulletin
March 16, 2009

CEP National Pharmacare Lobby

The National CEP is joining the Canadian Health Coalition in an organized lobby of federal Members of Parliament to press for a universal public drug plan. This lobby is based on the release of a new report by the Canadian Health Coalition, called "Life Before Pharmacare". The report tells the real stories of Canadian who are having problems with prescription drugs, including CEP members.

This lobby is **VERY IMPORTANT** to us as employees of Aliant. Now that the company has reduced or eliminated providing access to Post Retirement Benefits for most of their employees, it would be a great relief to you and your families if the government provided for at least some of the costs of prescription drugs. Any way that we can alleviate the hardship on the cost of prescription drugs, that most of us will experience when we retire, is worth pursuing.

The dates for the lobby have now been set. The House of Commons will not be sitting from March 16-20 or April 6-18, so most MP's will be back in their constituencies at these times. This is our opportunity to meet with our federal MPs. Provincial health coalitions, seniors groups and others will be lobbying their MP's for Pharmacare during these weeks. In Ottawa, on March 24, the members of the Board of Canadian Health Coalition, including CEP, will be lobbying key MP's on the issue.

We **strongly** encourage you to contact your constituency office and ask for a meeting with your MP during these weeks. If a meeting is not possible or you are not comfortable having a meeting, you can send a letter or an e-mail. You can send a pre-written e-mail direct from the CEP website (www.cep.ca) by clicking on the 'Pharmacare' button. Also on the website is a leaflet '5 steps to lobbying your MP', lobby notes on Pharmacare; an outline of the report 'Life Before Pharmacare' and a sample letter to your MP. This is your chance to tell your MP about the importance of a drug plan that will cover everyone and control costs.

ON THIS ISSUE, YOUR VOICE NEEDS TO BE HEARD BOTH HERE AT ALIANT AND ON PARLIAMENT HILL.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOUR FUTURE!!

In solidarity,

Penny Fawcett	Phil Briffett	Noel Pauley
Chuck Rouse	Mary Croke	Joyclin Coates