



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 12, 2013

## RESOLUTION 2 (as amended)

### **Independent Seniors Advocate**

*Whereas* the number of Canadians over the age of 65 will more than double within a few years; and

*Whereas* most retired workers are living longer and healthier lives, but others are subjected to a growing "silent epidemic" of elder abuse; and

*Whereas* the Canadian Advocacy Centre for the Elderly reports that common forms of elder abuse include physical abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect such as lack of access to food and medical care; and

*Whereas* often more than one kind of abuse occurs at the same time; and

*Whereas* in over 70% of the cases the perpetrator is a family member or acquaintance; and

*Whereas* the Provincial Government introduced legislation to appoint a Seniors Advocate that can not be truly independent, but rather answerable to the political whims of the Minister of Health; and

*Whereas* we need a true advocate for seniors that would be an independent officer of the Legislature, like the Ombudsperson, with a priority focus on combating elder abuse.

*Therefore be it resolved* that the BC Federation of Retired Union Members demand the appointment of a Seniors Advocate as an independent officer of the Legislature to take the lead on ensuring that vulnerable seniors get the support they need in health, housing, transportation and social effects, are not left to suffer abuse in silence.