



National Association
of Federal Retirees

Association nationale
des retraités fédéraux

June 3, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Duclos,

On behalf of the National Association of Federal Retirees, I am writing to bring attention to an issue that has affected thousands of retired former public servants. As you are aware, in July 2020, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) accepted a compensation agreement for damages related to the Phoenix pay system. This settlement for PSAC members is a maximum of \$2,500 for each employee and former employee affected by Phoenix during the fiscal years 2016 to 2020.

In early 2021, PSAC employees began receiving their compensation payments. This was done automatically, without an application. Since the agreement was signed, no retirees have received their settlements, nor has the Treasury Board provided a claim form process or a timeline for when settlements can be expected, only stating that “former employees will be able to submit a claim for the lump sum payment. More information on the launch of this claims process will be available at a later date.”

Hundreds of our members have contacted our national office over the past year to inquire about access to their settlement sums. Many of these members dealt or even continue to deal with protracted pay or tax issues due to Phoenix problems. We are receiving these messages more frequently, and ‘members’ understandable frustration and anger have also increased.

This issue has been raised repeatedly over the last year with officials at the Treasury Board president’s office, Treasury Board Secretariat, and Public Services and Procurement Canada, as well as with the seniors minister. Each stakeholder has provided a similar response – that more information will be provided or available at a “later date.”

Federal Retirees takes its duty to represent its members seriously. In that spirit, and with increasing pressure and frustration from our members, we are reaching out to you to resolve this long-standing concern. The agreement for damages was reached nearly a year ago. Employees have received their payments – it is time for retired individuals affected by Phoenix to receive theirs. If time continues to press on without resolution, a fair case could be made for additional damages or interest to be applied to these payments.



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On behalf of our members, we ask you and your officials to ensure that retirees are properly compensated, just as their former colleagues have been.

We appreciated the positive meeting that we had with you in June 2020, and we appreciate your receptiveness and recognition at that time for the contributions that public servants have made and continue to make. Given your leadership involvement with the federal public service, we feel you are one of the ministers responsible for the interests of retired public servants. With National Public Service Week approaching, what better way would there be to show that appreciation than by ensuring that retirees are properly compensated?

The National Association of Federal Retirees is the largest national advocacy organization representing active and retired members of the federal public service, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and retired federally appointed judges, as well as their partners and survivors. Federal Retirees has a proud 50-year history of advocacy on behalf of our members and all retirees. In collaboration with our volunteers and 170,000 members from coast-to-coast, we continue this tradition of strong, smart advocacy campaigns that seek to protect against changes to our members' hard-earned pensions and benefits, and to support good policy that improves the lives of all Canadians in their retirement.

Sincerely,

Jean-Guy Soulière
President, National Association of Federal Retirees