



Association For The Equitable Recovery
of the

National Trust Pension **SURPLUS**
c/o Suite 900, 20 Queen Street West, Box 52
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3R3

PRESS RELEASE

Attention: News and Business Editors

Scotiabank Grabs Control of Employee Pension Money

Toronto-February 25, 2000- Pensioners and employees of the former National Trust are troubled over Scotiabank's attempts to grab about \$140 million from their pension plan – money that they believe is rightfully theirs. From 1985 until it was taken over by Scotiabank, National Trust took a pension contribution holiday. This was not the case for employees who contributed to their pension plan each and every payday. Since the take-over, Scotiabank has been using legal manoeuvres and delaying tactics to grab control of the surplus in the National Trust pension plan to add to its profits.

Some 1,000 employees and pensioners have formed the **Association For The Equitable Recovery of the National Trust Pension Surplus (AFTER)**. "This money rightfully belongs to the members who contributed to this plan over the years and not to the profits of Scotiabank" said Robert Smallhorn, a spokesperson for the Association.

In its 1999 Annual Report Scotiabank states "... an important part of our culture is putting people first: our customers, **our employees**, the communities we serve and ultimately our shareholders". (Bolding added)

AFTER members are more than a little skeptical. They think Scotiabank really cares more about its bottom line. **AFTER** has already succeeded in blocking Scotiabank's attempt to have the pension plan transferred to federal jurisdiction where the bank had hoped less stringent surplus regulations rights would allow it to continue the cash grab from pension plan members. Now the Financial Services Commission of Ontario has advised Scotiabank it will not allow the transfer until the bank files a plan to deal with the surplus. According to independent actuaries, the pension plan now has more than \$140 million over and above what is required to pay the benefits due to every pensioner and member – in fact over 110% more money than the pension plan requires.

"It has been 2 1/2 years since Scotiabank took over National Trust, and we still have no answers about the surplus in our pension plan. Things just can't stay in limbo. We are taking action now because our pensioners aren't getting any younger. Delaying tactics help the bank because over time there will be fewer and fewer people to collect" said Mr. Smallhorn.

Many **AFTER** members are also Scotiabank shareholders. They plan to attend the bank's Annual Meeting to demand that Scotiabank really put people first and distribute the surplus to its rightful owners. The meeting is being held on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 at the Calgary Centre for Performing Arts, Jack Singer Concert Hall, 205 – 8th Avenue S. E., Calgary, Alberta.

Pension Plan members can contact **AFTER** at 1-800-451-3225 or by mail:

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