

Hon. Michael Chong, M.P.  
Wellington-Halton Hills



L'hon. Michael Chong, député  
Wellington-Halton Hills

April 26, 2022

The Honourable Mélanie Joly  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Joly,

I am writing to you in hope of a resolution to an issue that has been unresolved for more than 40 years. This issue concerns United Kingdom (UK) pensioners living in Canada who do not receive annual indexed increases.

Recognizing the need to resolve this longstanding issue, on March 9, 2021, the House of Commons adopted a unanimous consent motion recognizing that the approximate 136,000 UK pensioners living in Canada do not receive annual indexed increases and calling on the government to urgently take action to resolve this matter with the UK government. The UK has social security agreements guaranteeing annual indexed increases for UK pensioners residing in countries such as the United States, Germany, Turkey, but not Canada.

Frozen pensions represent a combined annual loss of \$500 million to our economy and taxpayers. This estimate includes losses of income and sales tax revenues, as well as increased reliance on Canadian social assistance programs for UK pensioners residing in Canada. Frozen pensions become even more concerning when considering the substantial inflation of 6.7% last month.

I urge you to raise this matter with your counterparts in the UK to seek a resolution to this outstanding issue.

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Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Chong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a stylized "C".

Michael Chong

cc: Mr. Robert Morris, Board Member of Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners