

Message from the Government of Canada

*John Baird, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs*

The Government of Canada appreciates the significant concerns of the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners and has been actively pursuing the cause of British pensioners in Canada for more than 25 years. Canadian ministers and senior government officials continue to raise the matter with their British counterparts. The Government of Canada strongly supports the cause of British pensioners and continues its efforts to persuade the Government of the United Kingdom to index the pensions it pays to Britons in Canada. However, as you know, the British policy of non-indexation stems entirely from its domestic law. The United Kingdom could unilaterally decide to pay indexed pensions in Canada without requiring a formal agreement. Canadian legislation already provides for the indexation of Canadian benefits regardless of country of residence, and such is the practice for most, if not all, other countries with comparable social security programs. Canada does not have an agreement for the indexation of British pensions, as the United Kingdom has been unwilling to negotiate such an agreement. The Government of Canada believes that fairness is the fundamental issue. The British pensioners who live in Canada have contributed to the British pension scheme and they have earned the right to be treated the same way as other British pensioners. Please be assured that the Government of Canada will continue to support the cause of British pensioners resident in Canada.

