

Chairman's Newsletter #3 February 2013

URGENT APPEAL – CABP NEEDS YOU TO ACT NOW!

This newsletter precedes a copy of "Justice", which will reach you at the end of February, because we need action now by CABP members, (and their friends and families), to meet an early deadline of mid-February to write letters and emails to support our important initiatives in the UK.

You will probably be aware that a White Paper on pension reform was published in the UK on 14th January. This outlines a generational change in the British pension system. Sadly, there is no mention of unfreezing pensions; however, John Markham of the ICBP has been invited to make a written submission to the Work and Pensions Select Committee on our behalf. Also, he has been advised he may be called at short notice to appear in person to give oral evidence. An analysis of the content of the White Paper will appear in the next Justice.

Now, we need your support!

Please check this link for the call to action to all frozen pensioners.

This link will give you Tony Bockman's suggestions on what to include in your email: <http://pensionjustice.org/news/give-your-mp-an-earful/>

But since you are on email, there are two possibilities of having input:

The first deadline is 15th February 2013: please send an email to the Work and Pensions Select Committee (details of how to do this are here):

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/work-and-pensions-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/pls/>

Second deadline is 22nd March 2013

Please send a submission to the Pensions Bill team by email and/or by mail to:

Pensions Bill Team, Department for Work and Pensions, 1st Floor Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA.

pensions.bill@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Please copy your emails to your ex-British MP and also your Canadian MP.

E petition for a dedicated MP for expatriate Britons

We would like to draw your attention to an e-petition seeking names in support of the idea of a dedicated MP for expatriate Britons. It is interesting, that in a debate in the House of Lords last month, Lord Lipsey was of the opinion that expatriate Britons should not be allowed the vote after 15 years because they would just vote for candidates supporting the notion of unfreezing pensions: "However, we must understand that conceding this would not be favourable to the British taxpayer!" This is a shocking denial of democracy. He is saying, don't let them have the vote because they might vote for something we don't like!

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/43238>

And, now for the rest of what has been going on!

Recent ICBP Activities

William Hague, the British Foreign Minister visited Australia and New Zealand and ICBP used this opportunity to question him on the frozen pensions issue. I, on behalf of CABP, immediately got in touch with Canada's Foreign Minister, John Baird, asking him to contact his Australian, and New Zealand, counterparts to add his voice of protest about frozen pensions.

We, in Canada have also been in touch with senior civil servants who handle the frozen pensions file and have had some very encouraging support. We are currently trying to persuade the Canadian Government to submit their input into the White Paper on Pension reform. We believe that input from a foreign government would have great impact. They have described the

frozen pension issue as “an irritant” and now is a great opportunity to challenge the British government.

We have also been working on the incorporation of ICBP, which is now a separate legal entity from CABP. The first meeting of the new incorporated ICBP will take place on 7th February

Recent CABP Activities

We were running out of “bus” posters and have produced new ones which reference the possibility of new pension rules for those becoming pensioners after 2017. If you would like posters, or brochures, to place in libraries, churches, or indeed any venue frequented by potential members, please contact the office at info@britishpensions.com

The image of a frozen pensioner in the snow was sent to all Senators and Members of Parliament. Unfortunately, many were perceived as spam and returned. I really hope that you, as a constituent, sent this to your MP. This is a surefire way of it getting through. It is still not too late to do this. We are following up with the few Canadian MPs who did respond.

Recently, I have received a very encouraging letter of support from the office of Canadian Minister Diane Finley. The full text is on the CABP Facebook page, but the last sentence is particularly interesting: “Government officials at the highest levels will continue to push this issue until fairness and equality are afforded to British pensioners in Canada.”

The new CABP advertisement will be aired this month on TV for the first time in BC. It is possible that we will repeat this in rural areas in British Columbia where there are significant pockets of ex-Brits. Here is the youtube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAMrXYLbArs>

We now have data which tells us where most of the ex- Britons live in Canada and so this will enable us to target any promotional activities more closely.

Please help us with this. Members and word of mouth are our best publicity. We are looking to increase our membership substantially to help finance what we are vigorously pursuing: the unfreezing of pensions.

Please check out our website: www.britishpensions.com. Many of you used the PayPal page to renew your membership, but have you looked at the rest

of it? The members only page has been revamped and you would have received an email with the password, but again, here it is: cabpmembers

Finally, once again a plea for volunteers. In the next few months, we will seek nominations for the national board of directors. Martin Brown, a director has indicated his wish to retire from the board as he is out of the country for much of the year and so unable to contribute fully. It is important that we fill the positions we will have vacant at the AGM in June. I would be really pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join the dynamic group who are leading CABP chairman@britishpensions.com. It is helpful to be living in the Greater Toronto Area, but not necessary. I live in Calgary! If you are in British Columbia, the CABP branch there would love to know of your interest.