

# The British Pensioner in Canada

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## Highlights from 2006-Q1 newsletter of *The British Pensioners' Association of Western Canada*

The case against the British Government brought by the Consortium of the CABP, the South Africa Association of British Pensioners (SAABP) and British Pensions in Australia (BPiA) was now firmly lodged with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg. There was hope and optimism that the case would be fast tracked. The British Government had until 12<sup>th</sup> May 2006 to respond.

### **BPAWC Organisation Structure**

Officers: **Sheila Telford** (President); Deryck Jones (VP); **Lorene Draper** (Treasurer); **Jackie Naylor** (Secretary); Suzanne Tooms (Director); Enid Brown (Director); **Heather McGowan** (Director).

Area Representatives: **Sylvia Mansell** (Edmonton); **Terry Morris** (Lethbridge); **John Reynolds** (Medicine Hat); **Walter Biggins** (Vancouver Island)

It was noted that membership numbers were up. As members signed up, so they were added to the "protective letter".

From the Government Actuaries Department:

- The balance in the National Insurance Fund (NIF) at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 was just over **£29 billion**. This increased in the year by **£4.344 billion** to give a balance of **£33.4 billion** by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

- No Treasury Grant would be required in 2006/07
- The NIF balance was estimated to grow by a further **£3.9 billion** giving a balance of **£37.3 billion** on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. After taking out the *de minimus* of 16.7% balance which must be maintained in the fund, this still left over **£30 billion**
- Class 1 contributions were increased to £9.24 pw on the lower earnings limit of £84 pw. This includes an NHS contribution of £1.60 pw leaving £7.64 pw for the NIF.

On 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2006, the President of BPAWC, Sheila Telford had the opportunity to visit Vancouver Island, and met up with **Walter Biggins, Ken and Pat Andrews (Victoria), Myra Heaps (Abbotsford)**.

**Heather McGowan** was responsible for organizing **Ladies Lunches**.