

What to say to your Canadian MP

I am one of some 128,000 (Feb 2020) pensioners living in Canada whose British state pension is permanently frozen by the UK Government, never increasing in line with inflation, though if lived in the United States I would enjoy full cost of living increases. Many among us are over the age of 85 and receive only a tiny fraction of the pension we paid for, having now been frozen for twenty-plus years. In addition, an estimated 240,000 more people in Canada will also suffer 'freezing' in the next number of years as they too reach retirement age.

This injustice hurts all Canadians, not just those of us directly affected. The freeze costs the Canadian economy well over half a billion dollars a year (2020 number), plus significant sums paid out in Guaranteed Income Supplements. Because of this, successive Canadian Governments have supported the pensioner-run campaign to persuade the UK to stop discriminating among its overseas pensioners, freezing half and indexing the other half, depending on where they live. I would ask you to please make your voice heard in persuading Britain to treat all its pensioners equally, just as Canada treats all Canada Pension Plan recipients equally no matter where they live.

Please raise this matter in caucus and ensure our Canadian Government continues to make robust representations to the British Government against this shameful and discriminatory practice until it is ended. This special year for Canada and Britain, the year of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, is the year to finally make it happen.