



Annual General Meeting
June 13, 2012

RESOLUTION #1: O.A.S. and G.I.S. ELIGIBILITY AGE

WHEREAS: Low and middle income retired Canadians depend on OAS (Old Age Security) benefits to enable them to have an adequate stable and secure quality of living; and,

WHEREAS: Low income retired Canadians must also depend on the G.I.S. (Guaranteed Income Supplement) for their basic livelihood; and,

WHEREAS: Increasing the age of eligibility for O.A.S. from 65 to 67, as has been tabled in the 2012 federal budget by the Harper Government, will also increase the age of eligibility for the G.I.S. from 65 to 67; and,

WHEREAS: Increasing the age of eligibility for O.A.S. and G.I.S. benefits will increase the number of seniors forced to live in poverty, and will have a particularly adverse effect on single women and seniors who are physically unable to work; and,

WHEREAS: A study by Canada's independent parliamentary budget officer has found that "there is no reason to change (the O.A.S. program) from a fiscal sustainability perspective";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BC FORUM (BC Federation of Retired Union Members) work with the BC Federation of Labour, its affiliates and the CLC (Canadian Labour Congress) to demand that the federal government:

- **Prevent any increase the age of eligibility for O.A.S. (Old Age Security) and G.I.S. (Guaranteed Income Supplement) Benefits from 65 to 67 as has been tabled in the 2012 federal budget by the Harper Government.**
- **Increase the support provided to the most vulnerable seniors by enhancing the G.I.S.**
- **Improve, rather than weaken, Canada's public pension system by bringing O.A.S. and G.I.S. levels up to at least the average of developed nations in the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation.**