



B.C. Federation of Retired Union Members

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April 5, 2017

Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister

House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the BC Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM). BC FORUM represents thousands of retired and active workers from unions affiliated to the BC Federation of Labour. One of BC FORUM's aims is to spotlight issues important to seniors, and to ask our legislators to take action on them

I wish to express our dismay and concern that the Council of Economic Advisers to the Minister of Finance has suggested that your government reconsider its suggestion that the the ages of eligibility for OAS and CPP "should be recalibrated and increased to meet the Canadian reality of an aging society and a considerably longer life expectancy."

BC FORUM is strongly urging you keep the age of eligibility for Old Age Security at 65 years. BC FORUM is also imploring in the strongest possible terms that the age of eligibility for the Canada Pension Plan not be changed.

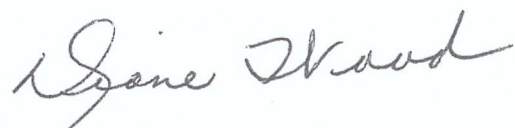
In your election platform, you had this to say about former Prime Minister Harper's plan to change the age of eligibility for OAS to 67 "...This will make our most vulnerable seniors even poorer, and Canadians will have to wait two additional years to collect this much-needed money. It will also pass along costs to provincial governments that will have to support low-income seniors."

Raising the ages of eligibility for both CPP and OAS would hurt seniors and have a particularly adverse impact on women, immigrants, and other historically disadvantaged groups.

BC FORUM is aware that half the seniors in British Columbia have annual incomes of \$26,000 or less. We know that changing the age of eligibility to either or both CPP and OAS would put more seniors into poverty. This is unacceptable to BC FORUM.

BC FORUM looks forward to hearing that your government will commit to not changing the age of eligibility for both CPP and OAS.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Wood".

Diane Wood
President

cc. Minister of Finance Morneau

BC FORUM Board of Directors