



## B.C. Federation of Retired Union Members

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Aug 8, 2016

The Honorable Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

### **RE: Canadian Pension Program (CPP) Expansion**

Dear Premier Clark:

The Federal Finance Minister's announcement on June 20, 2016, to modestly expand the universal Canada Pension Program (CPP) was welcomed news to the BC Federation of Labour. The labour movement has been actively campaigning on this issue for more than fifty years so we were very pleased to see that the British Columbia government joined other provinces to move forward on this historic decision.

We applaud the Premier and Minister De Jong for the positive role they played in securing a federal agreement to expand the program. As such, we were surprised and disappointed to learn that the BC government decided to delay signing the agreement by the agreed deadline of July 15th. Polling shows that the majority of Canadians support the expansion of the CPP. Seventy-five percent (75%) of people polled say they support growing the CPP either significantly or moderately. And, British Columbians were no exception, with seventy-five percent (75%) agreeing that the program should be expanded.

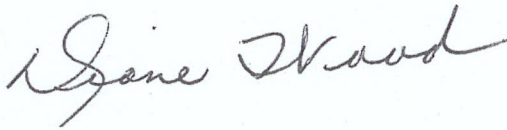
This is not at all surprising given people's experience. Two thirds of Canadians do not have a pension through their workplace and 600,000 Canadian seniors are currently living in poverty. The ever increasing cost of living makes it difficult for people to save for retirement. This, coupled with fewer and fewer workers having a workplace pension, makes affording a modest retirement for many Canadians an unbearable challenge. The reality is CPP benefits are the sole source of retirement income for many.

Expanding the CPP means future retirees will have a better chance to make ends meet and retire with dignity.



It is imperative that the BC Government not delay any further. We strongly encourage you to join the other provinces across the country who have already signed the agreement to expand the CPP. The people of British Columbia will be better off thanks to your commitment to their future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Diane Wood,  
President BCFORUM  
(BC Federation of Retired Union Members)