



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0J9

DEC 0 1 2016

Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P.
Cowichan–Malahat–Langford
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. MacGregor:

On behalf of the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, I am responding to your letter of October 14, 2016, concerning the maximum retroactive payments made by the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). In your letter, you described the situation of one of your constituents who delayed applying for her retirement benefit well past age 70, in the hope of receiving a large lump-sum retroactive payment. I regret the delay in replying.

As you know, the CPP legislation limits retroactivity on the payment of all benefits to a maximum of 12 months (11 months plus the month of application). The 11-month window was chosen because it was considered to be a reasonable period to accommodate delays in obtaining information or evidence required to make an application and to address ordinary oversights in submitting an application. It also helps ensure that there are no unintended interactions between CPP payments and other federal and provincial benefits that an individual may have collected. The current time limitation is generally consistent with comparable programs in other countries.

The Government of Canada is committed to maintaining a strong and stable public pension system for the financial security of Canadians. The Plan must be equitable and sustainable, not only for today's retirees, but also for future generations. The rules governing the CPP strive to strike a balance between long-term sustainability of the Plan and fairness and flexibility to individuals in planning their retirement.

Service Canada has taken steps to try to ensure that Canadians are aware of their eligibility for CPP benefits. These measures include inserting information about benefits with CPP and Old Age Security income tax slips each year, sending an application for a retirement pension to contributors 11 months before their 65th birthday and engaging in outreach activities and partnership-building exercises. Canadians can also obtain information about entitlement to benefits by visiting a Service Canada Centre, by calling, toll-free, 1-800-277-9914, or by visiting the Government of Canada website at www.canada.com.

Thank you for sharing your constituent's concerns. The Minister appreciates hearing from citizens regarding their experiences, as this helps inform ongoing efforts to ensure that programs are responsive to the needs of all Canadians.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Boudria', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Daniel Boudria
Director
Parliamentary Affairs