

Canadian
Alliance of British Pensioners

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Canada backs case against British government

The Canadian government to-day announced it was supporting a case filed against the British government by a British expatriate pensioner living in South Africa. The litigant has filed her case because Britain refuses to uprate her pension.

The case before the courts in London on April 15 and 16 will be watched very carefully by 490,000 (53%) British expatriate pensioners living around the world who have their pensions frozen by Britain. Also anxious to see the case succeed are hundreds of thousands of other people who are so adversely affected by this discriminatory policy of the British government. Many of these are the children of the frozen pensioners and are having to supplement the incomes of their parents as they are short-changed by Westminster. Others may be elderly people living in the United Kingdom who, as they advance in years, need to join their families who are working and living in overseas countries, but cannot afford the severe financial risk imposed by the UK government's policy of freezing their pensions if they make the move to the 'wrong' country. Yet others may be found among the ranks of hundreds of thousands of British expatriates who, having lived and worked in Britain for much of their working life, are now living in countries where UK state pensions are frozen. They are anxious to see this case succeed so that when they retire, the pension to which they were required to contribute will be uprated in the same way as with all other pensioners.

Pensions are uprated annually for the 11 million beneficiaries of the mandatory, contributory pension plan living in the United Kingdom, as well as for the 47% (442,000) living in some 40 other countries including the European Union, the United States. The frozen pensioners live in most Commonwealth, and close to 100 other countries around the world. Zimbabwe, Grenada, Canada and Australia are just some of the countries where pensions are frozen by Britain.

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