

CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF BRITISH PENSIONERS

PRESS RELEASE

HARD SLOG FOR FROZEN PENSIONERS CONTINUES

The British House of Lords (Supreme Court) announced today, May 26, 2005, that they had rejected, four judges to one, the appeal of South African expatriate British Pensioner Annette Carson in her fight to obtain pension parity. Although not quite the end of the road in the fight against human rights discrimination - half a million British expatriates living in Commonwealth countries have their pensions frozen instead of indexed for cost of living as in the UK, Europe, the United States and many other countries such as Turkey and Israel - it has cost Annette and those who have strongly supported her in her fight approaching \$1 million in legal expenses and adverse court awarded costs to date.

Nearly 150,000 British expats living in Canada, many of them Canadian citizens, have paid for and qualified to receive a UK retirement pension.

Canada the British Government arbitrarily decided that the amount they receive will be frozen at the rate they first received it. This means, for example, that pensioners in their late 80s and 90s, many of them war veterans, are still receiving something of the order of \$25 per week instead of the nearly \$200 a week current retirees receive.

The only remaining step available is to petition the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. This is only available to those who have exhausted all legal remedies in their original country and could well take another two or three years to be added to the forty or fifty years this blatantly unfair discrimination has continued to date. Every Canadian Prime Minister for the past thirty years or more has lobbied his British counterpart to end this injustice, to no effect.

Brian Lechem, chairman of the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners, stated today, "We may have lost yet another battle but the war continues.

discriminate but considers that the UK Parliament has a right to do so. We believe that the European Court will not accept this specious argument and that in the end justice will prevail. The Canadian Alliance remains strongly committed to seek an end to this inequity which would place thousands in Canada in financial jeopardy were it not for the significant support of the Government of Canada."

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For further information contact:

Ian Bold
Executive Director
Canadian Alliance of British
Pensioners 416-253-6402

Brian Lechem
Chairman
Canadian Alliance of British
Pensioners (416) 496-2450