



Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, M.P.
Beaches-East York



July 30, 2020

Sir Roger Gale, MP
Chairman of the APPG for Frozen British Pensions
Houses of Parliament, Westminster,
London SW1A 0AA, United Kingdom

RE: Frozen British Pensions in Canada

Dear Sir Gale:

As a Canadian Member of Parliament, I represent a number of constituents who receive U.K. pensions that are unjustifiably frozen. Across Canada, approximately 150,000 British expatriates receive a frozen U.K. pension.

Your work is critical, as it is past time for the U.K. to amend its rules and index to inflation the U.K. pensions for those living in Canada.

First, as a matter of dignity in retirement, it is important for U.K. pensioners, many of whom are veterans. In Canada, our seniors' benefits are based on the number of years one has lived in Canada and the contributions one has made into the Canada Pension Plan. Since pensioners who have lived for many years outside of Canada only qualify for reduced benefits, an indexed U.K. pension matters to an even greater degree for these seniors.

Second, our countries share common values, a proud history, and membership in the Commonwealth. We should each ensure our respective citizens receive fair treatment, whether they live in Canada or the U.K. It is a disservice to our long-standing and close relationship that U.K. pensions are not indexed in Canada but are indexed in many other countries, including in the U.S.

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Thankfully, the answer is equally straightforward: our countries must negotiate a social security agreement and index U.K. pensions to inflation for pensioners living in Canada.

I have received confirmation from our Minister of Seniors that Canada remains prepared to engage in a social security agreement with the U.K.

Kindly,

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MP Beaches-East York

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