

A CALL TO PRESENT AND FUTURE RETIREES

KEEP CANADA FROM GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

The Canada we built together is being changed right in front of our eyes. The Harper government has set about making this a country that caters to the fortunes of big business instead of caring about its ordinary citizens. The sweeping changes to Old Age Security are just the start of driving up the retirement age. It won't be long before every other benefit, including public and private pensions, will be under pressure to adopt 67 as the qualifying age.

Massive cuts to Employment Insurance will impact on thousands of working families here in greater Toronto. People will be forced to accept jobs with much lower wages, or be cut off EI. At the same time, business is allowed to bring more foreign temporary workers than ever imagined, and pay them 15% below the prevailing wage. They are deprived of the rights of normal immigrants to make a secure life for themselves as Canadians – its all about cheap labour for big business.

The Conservative majority is ramming its agenda through Parliament with a vengeance. Corporate tax cuts trump healthcare. Workers of private companies like CP Rail and Air Canada are being stripped of their right to negotiate settlements. Environmental protections are struck down at will. And new trade deals threaten the right of cities and provinces to buy Canadian-made goods.

Retirees helped build this country into one of the greatest in the world. Now you have a special role to play to defend all that is good about Canada. Speak out, and help to spread the word:

1. Hold the line at 65! Demand that Old Age Security be put back to age 65, and that no other pension or benefit be eroded.
2. Expand Canada Pension Plan coverage! CPP is the best, most secure pension plan in Canada. It should be gradually increased so that it provides retirement security for everyone – to make up for the erosion of workplace pensions and provide something for the growing number of workers who have no pension.
3. Defend Democracy! The Conservative MP's in greater Toronto need to be told that they are accountable to the people, not just Stephen Harper and big business. The checks and balances that are essential to a functioning democracy need to be respected and safeguarded – not trampled on.



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