

December 14, 2010

Dear Provincial and Federal Finance Ministers:

Later this week, you will attend a pivotal meeting of utmost importance to all Canadians. In Kananaskis, you will be considering expansion of the Canada Pension Plan, a plan that all Canadian finance ministers support, with the exception of Alberta.

I am writing to ensure you are aware that Alberta Finance Minister Ted Morton does not speak for Albertans; in fact, Mr. Morton's position on CPP expansion runs directly contrary to a groundswell of public opinion in Alberta and even some members of his own Conservative caucus. Furthermore, Mr. Morton's claims that Albertans don't need CPP expansion, that the CPP is a "payroll tax" and will have a negative impact on job creation are not substantiated by evidence.

I am writing to urge you to proceed with CPP expansion because it is the best way to ensure retirement security for all Canadians in all provinces, including Alberta.

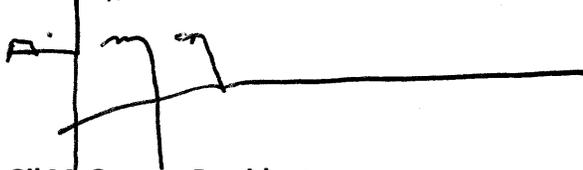
The majority of Albertans are in favour of expanding the CPP. A recent Environics poll found that 66-per-cent of Albertans support CPP expansion, with only 19-per-cent opposed.

On November 26th, Edmonton City Council passed a unanimous motion in favour of expanding CPP. On November 26th, the Calgary Herald editorial board has also endorsed a larger CPP, without reservations. Albertans across the political spectrum support CPP reform.

The reality is Albertans need CPP reform even more than other Canadians. Economist Hugh Mackenzie, one of Canada's top pension experts, has found that Albertans are less likely to be covered by an employer pension plan than other Canadians. Albertans with a workplace pension have inferior coverage compared to other Canadians, and Albertans are no more likely to save via RRSPs than other Canadians. Mackenzie also evaluates claims that modest, phased-in increases to CPP premiums negatively affect job creation, and finds there is no evidence for the claim. Rather, as the Calgary Herald editorial board pointed out, the CPP is not a payroll tax. It is a mandatory savings plan.

Please do not allow Alberta Finance Minister Morton to stand in the way of this crucial moment in Canadian history. Please support a phased-in, fully funded increase to Canada Pension Plan benefits when you meet with your colleagues in Kananaskis on December 20th.

Sincerely,



**Gil McGowan, President
Alberta Federation of Labour**