



## Wendy Chamberlain MP

Member of Parliament for North East Fife

A: House of Commons, London, England, SW1A 1AA

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The Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NA

29 January 2021

Dear Thérèse,

I am writing in response to the welcome news that the Government of Canada has formally requested a reciprocal social security agreement covering the uprating of pensions to ask that the UK open negotiations on this agreement and end the injustice of 150,000 UK pensioners living in Canada on a 'frozen' pension.

The unjust 'frozen' pension policy that denies half a million UK pensioners, who paid into the system, their full UK state pension is a national shame that has been allowed to continue by successive Governments for decades. The proposal of a reciprocal agreement by Canada provides a welcome opportunity to end this injustice for 150,000 of these UK pensioners.

Canada is a fellow Commonwealth nation with close cultural and historic connections with the UK and it is not right that UK pensioners are punished for moving to Canada, often to be close to family, with a 'frozen' pension. I ask that you honour the close ties between these countries and strengthen, rather than harm, our relationship with Canada by acknowledging the right of UK pensioners there to their full uprated UK state pension.

A recent inquiry by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Frozen British Pensions found 1 in 2 'frozen' pensioners receive a UK state pension of £65 per week or less. Many veterans and former public servants who have given so much to this country are now struggling on a 'frozen' pension. One such example is 96-year-old World War Two veteran Anne Puckridge who served in all three-armed forces but now lives on a pension less than half what it should be because she moved to Canada to be close to her daughter.

Canada pay Canadian pensioners that reside in the UK their full pension and we implore your department to provide UK pensioners in Canada with the same rights as their counterparts in the UK. The Government of Canada has now presented an opportunity to rectify a moral injustice that sees thousands of UK pensioners in Canada denied the full UK state pension they paid into.

I call on you to respond to Canada's request positively and open negotiations to end this longstanding and dishonourable policy that denies UK pensioners in Canada their full state pension. I also believe that this should be the first step of many to ensure every UK state pensioner receives a full uprated UK state pension regardless

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of where they live.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Chamberlain', enclosed in a white rectangular box.

**Wendy Chamberlain**  
**Member of Parliament for North East Fife**

Our Ref: WE6546/WC