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**Title**

Make retirement income more secure

**Key message**

Canadians deserve a secure retirement in dignity – one of the keys to that is a guaranteed and sufficient source of income.

**What is the issue?**

Statistics Canada estimates that 12% of senior families are considered low income, and that 28.5% of single seniors qualify as low income — that’s 600,000 Canadian seniors living in poverty. While recent increases to the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP), Old Age Security program (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) are a step in the right direction, more needs to be done to ensure that older Canadians can afford to live in dignity.

Defined benefits are proven to make retirement secure and to enable Canadians to continue to participate in local and national economies. Up to 80 per cent of all pension dollars spent come from investment returns which are then pumped right back into local economies. Smaller communities profit substantially from the impact of defined benefits. In places like Moose Jaw, Nanaimo and Orillia, defined benefit plans represented an average of about 10 per cent of total earnings. Income security in retirement is also linked with health status and better health outcomes, placing less stress on our healthcare systems.

**Some challenges**

* Protect Accrued Benefits: No employer, in either the public or private sector, should be allowed to change the compensation promised to people once they have retired. A pension is a commitment: employees provide their service and employers compensate them with deferred wages; employees and pensioners trust their employers to honour their pension promises.
* Encourage Defined Benefits: The last two governments have made it clear through legislation such as Bill C-27 that they do not value defined benefits despite the fact that they deliver the same retirement income at 48% lower cost than a defined contribution type plan.

**More information**

See the National Association of Federal Retirees website: <https://www.federalretirees.ca/en/Advocacy/Honour-Your-Promise>

**Questions**

* What is your party’s retirement income security plan seniors now and future generations of seniors?
* The rate of individuals covered by a defined-benefit pension continues to decline across the country even though, when properly managed, this pension option is the best way to ensure retirement income security. How will your party support defined-benefit pension plans?
* In 2016, the Federal Government introduced Bill C-27, legislation that would allow employers to cut accrued benefits. Would your party support legislation of this type?