

The Last Word

By Brent Rathgeber, MP

Private Members' Bill C-428



I have recently received a lot of correspondence from my constituents regarding Toronto Liberal M.P Ruby Dhalla's Private Members Bill C-428, *An Act to Amend the Old Age Security Act to Reduce From Ten Years to Three Years the Residency Requirement for Entitlement to a Monthly Pension*.

Let me assure you that I am vehemently opposed to this Bill. At a price of over \$700 million, this proposal is costly and irresponsible with Canadian tax dollars.

There are currently 50 Social Security Agreements in place with a wide variety of countries. These allow period of residence and contributions in the other country to be used to meet the 10 year requirement.

This Government is working diligently to sign future agreements. Currently, in order to qualify for Old Age Security, there is a 10 year residency requirement after age 18. If this is met, eligible Canadians can start receiving benefits at age 65. The 10 year requirement period strikes an appropriate balance between an individual's contribution to Canadian society and the economy and his or her access to a lifelong, publicly funded benefit.

I believe that it is realistic to expect that a person live in Canada for a minimum period of time before being granted the right to a lifelong pension. It is important that as your Member of Parliament I ensure that attempts to misspend your precious tax dollars are thwarted. Therefore I assure you that I will not be voting in favour of this Bill.

I always enjoy hearing from constituents. If you have any questions or concerns about this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my Constituency Office at 780-459-0809 or by email at

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