

JUL 19 2017

COR-2016-062130/03

Sharron Callahan, Chairperson
NL Coalition of Pensioners, Retirees and Seniors' Organizations
sharronc@nl.rogers.com

Dear Ms. Callahan:

I am writing to provide you with an update on your request for information regarding the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) back payments.

Departmental officials have engaged with the Federal Government regarding the progress of the repayment plan and potential impact on seniors in this province. We have been advised that 1,000 accounts have been reviewed and 734 received retroactive payments in 2015 (623 individuals) and 2016 (111 individuals).

In consulting with regional health authority staff, as well as other government departments with funding programs for seniors, it has been determined that during that time period no individual had presented identifying that they had received the GIS back payment. Regional health authority staff will be advised that should an individual present who has received the GIS back payment, they are to exclude that payment from assessable income in the financial assessment process for subsidized services.

Should your organization hear from individuals who are in receipt of subsidized health services and had a GIS back payment included in their financial assessment, they should be advised to contact their local regional health authority to request a financial reassessment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the work your organization does to support the seniors of this province.

Sincerely,



JOHN HAGGIE, MD, FRCS
MHA – Gander
Minister

cc: Hon. Sherry Gambin-Walsh, Minister of Children, Seniors and Social Development
Suzanne Brake, Director, Seniors and Aging