



**Newfoundland and Labrador
Public Sector Pensioners' Association**

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**&
Newfoundland & Labrador Coalition of
Seniors, Pensioners, and Retirees Associations/Groups**

January 21, 2020

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Disability Inclusion
Carla.Qualtrough@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen
Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development
Ahmed.Hussen@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Deb Schulte
Minister of Seniors
Deb.Schulte@parl.gc.ca

Re: Name Change for Old Age Security Program

Dear Ministers:

As Chairperson of the Newfoundland and Labrador Coalition of Seniors, Pensioners, and Retirees Associations/Groups and President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Sector Pensioners Association, I am writing to you on behalf of the associations that comprise this Coalition to ask you to consider a change of name for the Old Age Security Program.

The term 'Old Age Security' is long outdated and inappropriate for the clientele it serves. Emphasizing the words 'old age' is an unfair way to stereotype such a large group of individuals who have contributed to our Canadian economy most of their lives. Seniors today wish to continue as healthy active members of society and while some are frail, vulnerable and require support services, many continue to be important contributors to the social and economic culture of Canada well beyond the age of 65. It is also a truth that many seniors are responsible for the multiple hours of volunteerism that support a healthy and vibrant Canadian society, which would not be possible if these active older persons did not make this daily contribution.

The program name "Old Age Security" reflects an attitude of ageism and a name change would be more reflective of the contribution that persons aged 65 years and over make to the social and economic culture of Canada. Today, this title name lacks relevance. While a

suggested simple replacement term, such as 'Seniors Security Program', might be more acceptable, more meaningful and current with today's attitudes, this is only a suggestion. We would be accepting of any other possible name that would remove the stigma of ageism.

And, as an addition, this Coalition urges the Government of Canada to discontinue referring to the demographic of our senior Canadians as the "grey tsunami". A tsunami by definition is something damaging and destructive which is totally oppositional to the past and continuing contributions being made by elder Canadians to Canadian living.

The Coalition looks forward to receiving your response to our suggestions. If I have not submitted this letter to the correct Minister(s), could I ask your indulgence to forward it as appropriate. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sharron Callahan

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Chair

NL Coalition of Seniors, Pensioners, and Retirees Associations/Groups

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c.c. NL Federal MP's