

April 24, 2020

To The Honourable Minister Ahmed Hussen,
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
And to the Honourable Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors

Re: Extension of current Senior Benefit payments

Respectfully, your government has extended the filing deadline for 2019 personal income tax and benefits returns to June 1, 2020. This, however, is unlikely to help the hundreds of thousands of seniors and other low income individuals who are dependent upon the Canadian Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) to prepare their returns. The COVID 19 pandemic has forced the organizations and those providing the facilities for preparing returns to close their doors until at least June 30th. Also, CRA and some of the provinces use the info provided in the returns normally filed by April 30 to determine eligibility for benefit payments that commence each July, specifically the GIS, OAS, GST rebate funds payable to those who rely on it.

To date the federal government has said it will extend the payment deadlines for taxes due but we are urgently requesting the Federal government to address the effect of late filing impacts on the payment of the GIS, OAS, GST rebates and ensure that no lapse in payments will occur.

It is our mandate to support the economic security and wellness of seniors across Canada therefore we request you address the resolve immediately to alleviate the fears of seniors during this stressful time.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important matter. We hope to hear from you and respond to our concerned members and affiliate organizations across Canada.

Sincerely,

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