

Military/RCMP Veterans
**Against Annuity
Benefit Reduction at age 65**

To: Our Supporters and Friends

Info: Mr. Peter Stoffer, MP
Sackville-Eastern Shore
Mr. Mel Pittman
Mr. Roger Boutin
Mr. Billy Willbond
Mr. C.J. Wallace
Publisher Veteran Voice Info

November 17, 2009

Subject: Military/RCMP Veterans Pension Bill C-201 **Died Today!**

**It is with much sadness that I must inform you that Bill C-201 Died today,
November 17, 2009 at 1000 hrs EST.**

- **5 Conservative voted: NO**
- **3 Liberals: Abstained**
- **2 Bloc Quebecois Voted: Yes**
- **Mr. P. Stoffer, MP (NDP) voted: Yes**

It is difficult to understand how two (2) Canadian major Political Parties can praise Veterans on Remembrance Day and then vote **NO** or abstain, with regard to Bill C-201, Veterans Pension issue. They have now effectively cut off a democratic free vote in the House of Commons regarding the Military/RCMP Veterans Pension issue.

We continue to praise Mr. Stoffer, MP, The Bloc Quebecois, our Committees across Canada and more than one hundred thousand supporters for their most valuable support given to the Campaign during the past 4.5 years.

Mr. Stoffer official report is enclosed.

I hope that you can understand that my e-mail box is full to capacity and that I may not be able to answer them all. I will address the issue and my participation at a later date. I will be away Nov 21-27.

We shall remember them at the ballot box!

Sincerely,

John Labelle
Campaign Coordinator
florencejohn@ns.sympatico.ca
Trust in the Lord! Serve the People!
(John Labelle, 2009)

Important Sites:

www.petitiononline.com/vets8
www.veteranvoice.info

Dear Friends,

Bill C-201 was defeated today by Conservative and Liberal members of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACVA). At the committee, Conservative MPs voted against the bill, Liberal MPs abstained, and the Bloc Quebecois and the NDP supported it. Unfortunately, the lack of support by the Conservatives and Liberals means that Bill C-201 will not be going to the House for third reading and is effectively dead.

As you know, Bill C-201 aimed to eliminate the unfair benefit reduction of retired and disabled Canadian Forces and RCMP service pensions. Opposition members did not support the bill because of the supposed financial cost of implementing the bill. The government suggested that eliminating the deduction at age 65 (or earlier if disabled) would be cost prohibitive. While I suggested that a variety of options exist to offset these potential costs, Conservative and Liberal MPs did not agree to move the bill forward.

While I am disappointed that the bill was defeated, we did have some success along the way. The issue became national in scope under the great leadership of John Labelle, Roger Boutin, and Mel Pittman. They coordinated a campaign to end the claw back that gained the support of over 110,000 individuals. As well, several major veterans organizations including the Royal Canadian Legion (500,000 members), the Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada Association (20,000 members), and the Air Force Association in Canada (12,000 members) expressed their support for this initiative. And, at the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, we were successful in convincing CF and RCMP pension administrators that more communication is needed about how and why service pensions are reduced at age 65 or earlier. We were also successful in showing the committee that we need to take a serious look at how CF and RCMP members receive CPP disability payments.

I would like to thank John Labelle, Roger Boutin, and Mel Pittman for all of their work over the last four years. I also want to thank every single person who called, emailed, or wrote their Member of Parliament about the unfair

reduction of their service pension. It is through your hard work that the bill passed second reading and made it to the committee stage.

As the New Democrat Critic for Veterans Affairs, I will continue to work on ways we can correct this injustice of behalf of our veterans and their families. I plan to re-introduce the bill in the next Parliament (after the next election) and will continue to press the Conservative and Liberals MPs to support this bill.

Thank you again for your tremendous interest and undying support for Bill C-201.

Sincerely,

Peter Stoffer, MP

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