



## RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

---

PETITION No.: **421-01376**

BY: **MRS. BLOCK (CARLTON TRAIL-EAGLE CREEK)**

DATE: **MAY 19, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE GINETTE PETITPAS TAYLOR**

---

Response by the Minister of Finance

SIGNATURE  
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

---

SUBJECT

**Canada Pension Plan**

---

**ORIGINAL TEXT**

---

**REPLY**

The Government of Canada recognizes the difficult circumstances that many persons with disabilities face, particularly those living with a terminal illness.

The Canada Pension Plan (CPP) disability pension provides partial income replacement to eligible CPP contributors that are no longer able to work regularly due to a severe and prolonged disability. In order to qualify for a CPP disability pension, applicants must meet several criteria, which are necessary to ensure that the CPP pension system remains both affordable and sustainable for current and future generations of Canadians.

A recent attachment to the work force at the time a person becomes disabled was considered by legislators to be a reasonable requirement for eligibility for a disability pension, and is in keeping with the CPP's earnings-replacement role.

However, to recognize the contributions of Canadians with a long-term attachment to the work force, an amendment to the CPP disability contributory criteria was made in 2008. This change enables CPP disability applicants with 25 years or more of contributions to meet the contributory rules with valid contributions in 3 of the last 6 years instead of 4 of the last 6 years.

In addition, the CPP recognizes the contributions of Canadians who may have qualified at one time but, for various reasons, did not apply at the onset of their disability, by providing them with the opportunity to do so at a later date. To qualify as a late applicant, claimants must have had a severe and prolonged physical or mental disability starting from the date that they last met the CPP contributory requirements and continue to be disabled.

The CPP is an area of joint federal-provincial responsibility. Every three years, federal and provincial Ministers of Finance, as co-stewards of the CPP, are required under legislation to review the financial state of the Plan and determine whether changes to contribution rates and/or benefits should be made. Ministers of Finance have agreed to prioritize the review of supplementary benefits, including disability, as part of the 2016-2018 Triennial Review of the CPP at the Finance Ministers' Meeting on December 19, 2016. Plan changes affecting contribution rates and/or benefits will require the consent of at least seven provinces representing two-thirds of the population to come into effect.

The Government recognizes the strain that a terminal illness diagnosis places on an individual and their family, and we continue to work closely with our partners, including our clients, to identify areas for improvement in the program, including support for applicants with a terminal illness. To ensure that the CPP disability program is responsive to the needs of Canadians with severe and prolonged disabilities, a comprehensive renewal of the program is currently underway. In October 2016, this led to the launch of new service standards for the program to better serve the many Canadians who depend on it, including those with terminal illnesses. The target is to make a decision, in 95% of cases, within 5 business days of receiving a complete application from those with a terminal illness.