

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

We, the undersigned residents of Kingston and the Islands, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

THAT increases in the eligibility age for Canada's old age security programs which were legislated by Parliament in 2012 received very limited debate, scrutiny and public input as a consequence of being included in Bill C-38, the omnibus budget implementation bill which amended some 70 pieces of existing legislation and for which time allocation was imposed;

THAT there was, and remains, very limited public awareness of the future impact of those changes on the lives of most Canadians, especially those in the lowest income categories who stand to lose the most income;

THAT, more specifically, the 24 months of benefits which most Canadians currently under 54 years of age will lose as a result of that legislative change amount to at least \$13,500 of foregone retirement income for single individuals and \$27,500 for couples, but the lowest-income individuals and couples will lose up to \$32,000 and \$51,000 respectively;

THAT, by proposing in the 2015 Budget generous new tax benefits (family income splitting and much higher TFSA contribution limits) which primarily advantage already affluent individuals and families and which the Parliamentary Budget Officer's estimates indicate will reduce government revenues by amounts comparable to the projected savings from the 2012 old age security eligibility changes, the Government has effectively demonstrated that the stated rationale for those changes ("action to ensure the sustainability of the old age security program") can no longer be considered valid.

