



August 10, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Re: Bill C27: An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985

We are writing on behalf of the 76,000 members of The Retired Teachers of Ontario/Les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario to urge you and your government to deeply reconsider the introduction and continued discussion of Bill C27.

Bill C-27, as it currently reads, would impact the accrued pensions of people employed by, and who have retired with many years of service with Crown corporations and federally-regulated employers. Although Bill C-27 would not directly impact our provincial education retirees if enacted as-is, the legislation will permanently shift the pension landscape in Canada and could very likely erode the retirement security earned by our members and the millions of Canadians who earned defined benefit pensions.

Retiree groups impacted if Bill C-27 proceeds will naturally apply to many vulnerable seniors including surviving spouses. If they are pressured to accept a target benefit plan that ultimately places them in financial jeopardy, such individuals may be unable to return to work or find other means to supplement their income.

Bill C-27, as it currently stands, could erode retirement security for millions of Canadians who have defined benefit plan coverage and accrued or earned defined benefit pensions. Enabling a new pension framework for target benefit plans should not be done at the expense of defined benefit plans and plan members – yet that is what this piece of legislation will likely do. Bill C-27 is unfair and inappropriate.

RTO/ERO respectfully urges you to honour promises made to retirees in 2015. We ask you to consider withdrawing aspects of Bill C-27 that enable retroactive changes and reductions to defined benefit pensions. We further ask that the government undertake meaningful dialogue, involving employees and retirees, national and provincial non-profit organizations, labour organizations, businesses, and others, to find the best solutions to protect and improve pension coverage and retirement security for all Canadians.

Best regards,

Martha Foster, President

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