

Sample letter for taxpayers to send to their MP in Ottawa (a postage free letter). Please feel free to adapt this electronic file as indicated, then print and send asap to your MP. Any taxpayer in Canada is encouraged to use this letter or to adapt it as you feel necessary. Remember to delete or adapt all these italicized editorial references before you finalize your letter for printing.

Your return address

Date

Insert name and address of your MP

REFERENCE: THE DISCRIMINATORY NATURE OF CANADA'S INCOME TAX ACT

As a voter and taxpayer, I continue to be concerned about unfair provisions of Canada's Income Tax Act especially when comparisons are made with taxation laws of all other G7 countries. These other six nations permit spouses to pay taxes as if the total family income was earned equally. The government already permits Canada Pension Plan benefits to be split between partners. Such a provision in our tax code starting with income from registered pension plans, would have the immediate effect of a significant tax break and an easing of the financial burden on a great many Canadian seniors. The Canadian Association of Retired Persons notes that "Canada is the only G7 country that discriminates between households in this way, and pensioners suffer most by this unfair treatment". "It is time", it reports, "to restore fairness for a generation of seniors, who through no fault of their own are victims of a tax system that is lagging behind the times".

Helen Guergis, MP, and deputy critic on seniors' issues has noted that "some senior households pay as much as 46% more in tax because of Canada's tax formula". Many seniors' and pensioners' organizations are mounting what will be significant lobbies as well. This is a grass-roots issue which goes directly to the hearts and bank accounts of nearly every senior in this country, and obviously will affect future voting decisions. You may wish to review the research on income-splitting and note the potential for putting more disposable income in the hands of seniors who are anxious to spend rather than save, at this point in their lives. The potential uplift to the Canadian economy could vastly outweigh tax revenue concerns.

I urge you to use your influence to convince the Government to undertake a comprehensive review of the personal taxation system in Canada, in particular as it applies to dual and single-income households. This review should be undertaken with a view to ensuring that Canada's personal taxation system is both fair and competitive with other countries, particularly the United States.

Thank you for adding value to this initiative by advocating it. With best personal good wishes,

Yours,

Sign here

(Type your name here)

