

DATE ANNOUNCED FOR \$500 ONE-TIME PAYMENT, AND OLD AGE SECURITY TO BE AUTOMATICALLY INCREASED BY ALMOST \$100 OVER THE COMING YEAR

The Old Age Security (OAS) pension provides retirement income security for seniors because it maintains its value over time, even as prices increase.

Today, Canada's Minister of Seniors, Deb Schulte, announced the highest quarterly adjustment to existing OAS payments since July 2014. She also confirmed that the Government of Canada will deliver the \$500 one-time payment to older seniors, announced in Budget 2021, during the week of August 16, 2021.

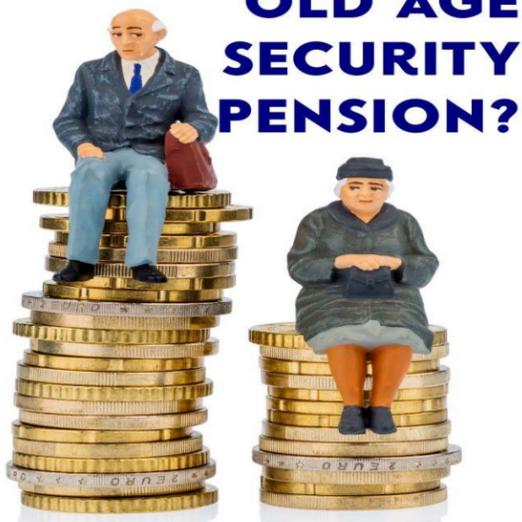
This summer's one-time payment of \$500 will support older seniors' higher expenses, and will apply to 3.3 million seniors who are eligible for the OAS pension in June 2021 and were born on or before June 30, 1947. No action is required by seniors, who will automatically receive the payment if they are eligible.

In July 2021, OAS benefits will automatically increase 1.3%, bringing the maximum monthly OAS pension amount to \$626.49, up from \$618.45. Over the coming year, the increase is worth up to \$96.48. The Guaranteed

Income Supplement (GIS) and the Allowances will also be adjusted for inflation.

Budget 2021 also included a permanent increase of 10% to the OAS pension, to be implemented in July 2022 for seniors aged 75 and over. This will provide an additional \$766 to full pensioners over the first year, and will be the first permanent increase to the OAS pension since 1973, other than adjustments due to inflation. It builds on measures to support all seniors, which include restoring the age of eligibility for the OAS pension and the GIS to 65 from 67, strengthening the Canada Pension Plan for future retirees, increasing the GIS for single seniors, raising the GIS earnings exemption and reducing income taxes for all Canadians.

"The Government is continuing to improve the financial security of Canadians in retirement after a lifetime of hard work. Increasing Old Age Security for older seniors helps all Canadians with their extra needs later in life. While no single solution can meet every need, step by step our progressive measures are



making a real difference in the lives of seniors. Canadian seniors can always count on us to listen, understand their needs and work hard to deliver for them."

— Minister of Seniors, Deb Schulte
"Canada's pension system is designed to provide benefits that reflect changes in the cost of living, with payments only ever increasing or staying the same. They will never go down. This helps seniors enjoy the financially secure

and dignified retirement they deserve." Stéphane Lauzon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Seniors

Quick Facts
Seniors are the fastest-growing demographic age group in Canada. By 2030, the number of seniors is expected to reach 9.4 million, representing close to one quarter of Canada's population.

In 2020 and 2021, the Government is providing \$5.5 billion in additional direct

financial support to seniors, through a \$1.3 billion one-time GST credit in April 2020, \$2.5 billion for a one-time OAS/GIS payment in July 2020 and \$1.7 billion for the one-time payment to older seniors in August 2021.

Older seniors face higher costs. As seniors age, their health and home care costs rise, all while they are more likely to have disabilities, be widowed or be unable to work.

Most seniors have low and modest incomes. About 84% of OAS pensioners have individual incomes below \$50,000.

The objective of the Old Age Security program is to ensure a minimum income for seniors and help reduce the incidence of low income among Canada's seniors. The OAS benefits include: the OAS pension; which is paid to all individuals aged 65 and older who meet the residence requirements; the GIS for low-income seniors; and the Allowances for low-income Canadians aged 60 to 64 who are the spouses or common-law partners of GIS recipients, or who are widowed or widowers.

The maximum OAS pension is payable to seniors aged 65 and over who lived in Canada for at least 40 years after age 18. Partial pensions are payable if they lived in Canada for at least 10 years or qualified under International Social Security Agreements.

All OAS benefits (the OAS pension, the GIS and the Allowances) are indexed on a quarterly basis in January, April, July and October so benefits don't lose value over time. Increases to OAS benefits are calculated using the Consumer Price Index, which measures changes in prices paid by Canadian consumers for goods and services, and is the most widely used indicator of price changes in Canada. If the cost of goods and services goes down, OAS benefits do not decrease. OAS payment amounts will only increase or stay the same. Historical values are available on the Open Data portal.

As a result of automatic indexation, the annual value of the monthly OAS pension has increased to \$7,516 per year from \$6,404 per year over the past decade.

ONTARIO PROTECTING CHILDREN AT RISK OF SEX TRAFFICKING

WHITBY – The Ontario government is investing \$11.5 million over three years in two specialized intervention teams in Durham Region and the City of Toronto to protect children and youth from sex trafficking. The new Children at Risk of Exploitation (CARE) Units pair child protection

workers with police officers on the frontlines to identify and locate children and youth who are being sex trafficked, connect victims and families to services, and investigate and hold offenders accountable. This innovative approach to prevention and early intervention is part of the province's

Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy and is a first for Ontario.

"Protecting children and youth, especially those within the child welfare system, is vital in our work to fighting human trafficking across the province," said Jane McKenna, Associate Minister

of Children and Women's Issues. "These new CARE Units will be dedicated to finding children who are at high risk of trafficking and protecting them from further victimization. This is another strong action our government is taking to keep children and youth safe from this horrific crime."

The Durham and Toronto CARE Units will work closely with local anti-human trafficking service providers, as well as with the province's newly opened dedicated residences for child and youth victims of human trafficking in each region. Building on strong partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children's aid societies, Indigenous Liaison Workers in each CARE Unit will help ensure interventions involving Indigenous children and youth are culturally responsive, safe and respectful.

"Today's announcement further underlines our government's commitment to end human trafficking and reinforces our pledge to build awareness, protect victims, provide support for survivors and hold offenders accountable," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "With the combined expertise of police services, child protection workers and key community partners in Durham and Toronto, these new CARE Units will provide additional, much-needed resources in our fight against this heinous crime."

Ontario's CARE Units model



was developed in consultation with partners in each region. The Durham Region CARE Unit is a partnership between Durham Children's Aid Society, Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiyag Child & Family Services and Durham Regional Police Service. The Toronto CARE Unit partners are Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto and Toronto Police Service, with the support of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto and Jewish Family and Child Service. Another CARE Unit is planned to launch in 2023-24. "In research and literature on human trafficking in Canada, it is acknowledged that Indigenous women and girls are overrepresented as survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The root causes of this exploitation include pervasive racist and sexist stereotypes, ongoing marginalization and the

normalization of colonial violence. It is alarming to note that while Indigenous women only make up four per cent of the Canadian population, they roughly make up 50 per cent of the trafficking victims. Honouring their voice and recognizing the expertise of Indigenous survivors will help to build a knowledge base to address and ultimately combat human trafficking," said Amber Crowe, Executive Director, Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiyag Child & Family Services.

In addition to playing a key part in Ontario's Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy, CARE Units are also an example of how the Ontario government is transforming the child and family services sector, with a focus on strengthening families and communities through prevention and early intervention services that are responsive, high quality and culturally appropriate to better serve those in need.

INVESTIGATION INTO SENIOR'S RESIDENCE IN COURTYARD



Investigators have laid charges stemming from an incident at a retirement residence in Courtice.

On Friday, February 12, 2021, investigators at East Division began an investigation after a complaint came forward against staff members at the White Cliffe Terrace Retirement Residence on Highway 2 in Courtice.

It was alleged that during the COVID-19 Pandemic, staff members had removed door handles to some units in the residence. The DRPS Criminal Investigations Bureau worked with community partners and oversight bodies and have arrested and charged a male, who was the general manager at the time of the incident.

Tawab KARIMI, age 40 of Oshawa is charged with Unlawful Confinement x2.

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