



June 20, 2018

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Dear :

According to our records, you are receiving assistance, and are at an age where you may soon qualify for one or more of these federal benefits:

- The **Old Age Security (OAS)** pension is a monthly payment available to persons 65 years of age or older who have lived in Canada 10 years or more and are Canadian citizens or legal residents. You may already be automatically enrolled to receive OAS. Service Canada sends a Notification to persons who are automatically enrolled the month after their 64th birthday. If you do not receive a letter from Service Canada, you must apply for OAS. You can apply one month after you turn 64.
- The **Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)** provides a monthly, non-taxable benefit to OAS pension recipients who have a low income and are living in Canada. **You must apply for GIS.**
- The federal **Allowance** is a benefit that may be available to the 60-64 year old spouse or common-law partner of a Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) recipient. You can apply for the Allowance 11 months before you turn 60.
- The **Allowance for the Survivor** is a benefit that may be available to people with low income who have resided in Canada for at least 10 years and whose spouse or common-law partner is deceased. You can apply for the Allowance for the Survivor 11 months before you turn 60.

For more information about federal pensions, please visit the Service Canada web site at: www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/publicpensions.html or call Service Canada, toll-free, at 1-800-277-9914.

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction operates under the authority of the *Employment and Assistance Act* and Regulations, and the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act* and Regulations.

Ministry of Social
Development and
Poverty Reduction

OAS/GIS Program
Services

Telephone: 1-866-866-0800
Facsimile: 1-855-771-8777

HR3228 (17/12/29)

Security Classification: PERSONAL

In order for Service Canada to determine your eligibility for OAS, GIS and the Allowances, you must file your income taxes each year. If you have not yet filed your return for the last tax year, you should do so immediately to make sure you receive your federal benefits as soon as you are eligible. You will also need to file a tax return each year from this point forward to continue receiving federal benefits. If you need your T5007 information from the ministry, it is accessible through My Self Serve at www.myselfserve.gov.bc.ca. If you are unable to register with My Self Serve, you can confirm the amount on your T5007 by calling 1-866-866-0800.

If you need help with completing and filing your income taxes, a list of volunteer tax preparation clinics is available at: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/vlntr/clncs/.

Section 14 of the *Employment and Assistance Act* requires you to apply for all sources of income you may be eligible for, including federal pensions. If you do not apply for these pensions, your provincial assistance may be delayed or you may be ineligible for provincial benefits.

Please contact us at 1-866-866-0800 within six weeks of receipt of this letter to confirm you have applied for federal pensions or received notification from Service Canada that you have been approved for federal pensions. If you received this notification via My Self Serve, please respond to this message to confirm that you have applied. Please keep all documents you receive from Service Canada regarding your application as we may request to see them at a later date.

If you have been advised by Service Canada that your application is not approved, please fax verification to: SDSI, Federal Pension Application Confirmation at 1-855-771-8777, or drop off the documents at your local Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction service office. **Please include the Service Request (SR) number (located at the top of this letter).**

If you have any questions, please contact the ministry at 1-866-866-0800.

Sincerely,

OAS/GIS Program Services

Enclosure(s):

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