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As NDP critic for Veterans Affairs, I am fighting to have the “Marriage After 60” clause (also known as the “Gold Digger’s Clause”) repealed. I have heard from veterans and survivors about the heartbreaking circumstances they have faced as a result of the Marriage After 60 clause, and I am committed to ensuring that the government put an end to this unacceptable measure.

I’m proud to have presented a [Private Member’s Bill to Parliament in 2021](#) asking the government to repeal this clause, and I’m pleased that the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs has called for the elimination of the Marriage after 60 clause.

It’s incredibly frustrating that the government continues to find excuses to leave this measure in place, completely ignoring the rights of Canada’s Veterans, RCMP Veterans, and federal public servants, and forcing them to choose between financial insecurity now as a couple or financial insecurity in the future for their spouse.

In 2019, the Liberal government promised to eliminate the clause, but then instead offered a Veterans Survivor Fund of \$150 million in the 2019 budget, to go to the approximately 4,500 survivors impacted by this clause. To date, not one penny of that \$150 million fund has been sent to any survivors. That’s why I recently [wrote a letter to the Honourable Ministers Anand and MacAulay](#) urging the Ministers to start providing support to spouses from this fund.



Meeting with Rosemary Park of Servicewomen's Salute

Fighting for the rights of veterans and their survivors

The men and women who have bravely fought to protect the rights of Canadians deserve to have their rights respected, regardless of what age they find love. It is inconceivable that we are still fighting to have the Marriage After 60 clause repealed so veterans can have the peace of mind of knowing their

spouse will be taken care of the same as any other married couple.

Instead of taking leadership to address this issue in a meaningful way by eliminating the clause, the Liberal government continues to come up with nonsensical reasons to continue breaking its promises to Canada's veterans.

This is why I will continue raising this issue in the House, [just like I did in April](#), to hold the government accountable for promises it has made and broken.



Rachel in Question Period

Notice of Disallowance from REGS

There is good news coming out of another committee. REGS is a joint committee consisting of members of the House of Commons as well as the Senate. This committee meets a few times per year to periodically review regulations of all types of legislation. For many years the Committee has

attempted to review the regulations of the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (CFSA)*, the legislation that contains the Marriage After 60 pension clause. After years of waiting for a response from the Minister of National Defence about the regulations and receiving no answer, the Committee, on the prompting of the NDP Member, issued a “Notice of Disallowance” on the CFSA regulations. You can see the notice in the minutes [here](#). Minister Anand now has until May 29 to file a motion in the House of Commons if she wants the CFSA regulations to remain in force. If she does not file the motion in the allotted time, the Notice of Disallowance will be deemed adopted and the regulations will no longer apply to the Act. **This could mean the end of the marriage after 60 clause.** My team and I are watching REGS and the Minister closely and will keep you updated on this technical aspect of the clause.

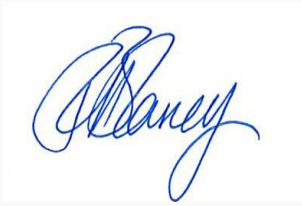
Make your voice heard

The Liberals keep dragging their feet on removing this clause, despite repeatedly promising to take action on it. It’s becoming increasingly clear that the only way to get them to make any meaningful change is to keep the pressure on them by signing petitions and sending letters to ministers.

Add your voice to those who support the rights of spouses of veterans, RCMP and federal public servants who married after age 60 to automatically receive the pension superannuation benefit. Let the government know you want the Marriage After 60 clause repealed by [signing the petition](#).

[Add your name to support eliminating the golddigger clause](#)

Sincerely,



Rachel Blaney, MP
North Island - Powell River



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