

An update on Rachel Blaney's work as critic for seniors

The past few years have taken their toll on Canadians, and seniors have been hit incredibly hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. As NDP MP for North Island – Powell River and in my role as critic for seniors, I have used my time in the House to fight for the rights of Canada's aging citizens.

Every day, Canadian seniors are making heart-breaking decisions about whether they can afford to eat or take their medications. They rely on a secure income to ensure they can afford their daily expenses, but the cost of living is increasing drastically and they are finding themselves in increasingly vulnerable positions—in this riding and across Canada.

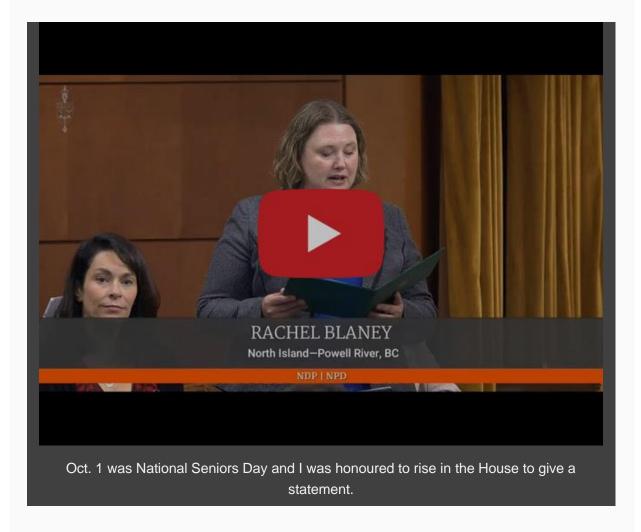


I have heard from seniors who are concerned about their ability to pay for necessary dental care, or are worried about losing their Guaranteed Income Supplement because their taxes were filed late—through no fault of their own. I've seen the consequences of a Liberal government who provides lip service about assisting Canada's seniors but refuses to take action until I push them.

That's why I introduced Motion M-70, calling on the government to require the Minister of Employment and Social Development to:

- estimate the income of seniors (for the purposes of the GIS calculation) who cannot make the required statement for up to one year, and
- provide resources to pensioners so they aren't prevented from accessing crucial services due to paperwork requirements.

I also introduced Motion M-72, requesting the government enact a National Strategy on Aging to ensure seniors' needs are met.



You can also watch it here: https://youtu.be/lcjqggJE5D8

Many Canadian seniors urgently rely on government assistance. They are scared about losing their benefits and being unable to afford food, shelter, and medication. The Liberal government has not done enough to protect those rights.

I have set up a <u>petition to support Motion M-70</u>. You can sign it online to show the Liberal government that you support this motion and are holding them accountable for respecting seniors' rights.

If you have any ideas, concerns, or suggestions you'd like to raise for me as seniors critic, please send your thoughts to Rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca. Together, we can push the Liberal government to ensure all seniors receive the vital assistance they need.



Sincerely,

Rachel Blaney, MP

North Island - Powell River



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