



Hamilton

# CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>To:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
<b>From:</b>	Ron D. Smithson, Chair Seniors Advisory Committee _____
<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement (SAC12002)</b>

## **Recommendation:**

That the Seniors Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton request the Mayor and members of Council to advocate:

- (i) against any action by the Provincial and/or Federal Governments to cut the Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement for all seniors, and;
- (ii) that the age of eligibility to receive Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement be maintained at age 65.

## **Background:**

As a result of the Federal Government's proposal to change eligibility for OAS/GIS benefits from age 65 to age 67 to be phased in between 2023 and 2029, members of the Seniors Advisory Committee Housing Subcommittee discussed this issue at their meeting of March 22, 2012.

This change will not affect citizens who are currently age 54 or older. Those who will be affected are our children and grandchildren. With the declining rate of workplace pension coverage, these are the people who need improved, not reduced, public pension benefits.

On April 13, 2012, members of the Seniors Advisory Committee Housing Subcommittee brought a proposal to the full Seniors Advisory Committee requesting that Committee and Council be requested to speak against action involving cuts to Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, which the Seniors Advisory Committee supports.