

Routine Proceedings

A basic level of earnings replacement is provided for working Canadians by the Canada and Québec Pension Plans (C/Qpp).

In 1992, the basic personal credit will exempt from tax the first \$6,456 of income for all taxfilers. For all Canadians over the age of 65, the age credit will exempt an additional \$3,482. In 1992, the age credit will cost the federal government about \$1.1 billion in foregone tax revenues.

The federal government also provides tax assistance for retirement saving through the deferral of tax on contributions to registered pension plans (RPPs) and registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs), as well as the investment earnings in these plans. These tax concessions are estimated to cost the federal government \$6 billion per year in foregone tax revenue.

Benefits provided to Canadian seniors under the OAS and the C/QPP are fully indexed for changes in inflation. In addition, the tax system already provides substantial benefits to Canadian seniors at a large revenue cost to the federal government. For these reasons, there is no need to provide further tax relief for OAS and C/QPP benefits under the pension income credit.

Question No. 186—Ms. Callbeck:

Is plant and animal health as it pertains to a quarantinable disease the responsibility of the federal government and, if so, (a) what precisely are the federal responsibilities, (b) under what regulations or legislation can they be found?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, the Plant Protection Act and the Health of Animals Act are both federal legislation.

a) Animal Health:

Depending on the disease and its science, these responsibilities involve investigation, inspection, testing, quarantine, ordering destruction, awarding compensation, cleaning and disinfecting, and sometimes treatment.

Plant Protection:

The responsibilities are to enforce control and eradication regulations and inspect plants and plant products, by prohibiting movement, ordering treatment, destruction and removal from Canada of plants and plant products which have or are suspected to have quarantine pests. Agriculture Canada is not obliged to control or eradicate a pest. Any control or eradication action usually is carried out upon a balanced consideration of economic benefits and costs.

b) Animal Health:

These responsibilities and authorities are found in the Health of Animals Act and Regulations.

Plant Protection:

These responsibilities and authorities are found in the 1990 Plant Protection Act and Plant Quarantine Regulations.

Question No. 190—Mr. Milliken:

Does the Government financially contribute to the Canadian International School in Hong Kong and, if so, what has been the amount of the contributions during the current and three prior financial years?

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Canadian International Development Agency, External Affairs and National Defence did not make any financial contributions to the Canadian International School in Hong Kong.

Question No. 201—Mr. Wappel:

What are the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's specific policies and guidelines with respect to the personal use of its assets and equipment by employees?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of Communications): This matter has been brought to the attention of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). We are informed as follows:

CBC's capital assets are sometimes relocated to sites off the corporation's premises, both temporarily and on a continuing basis, either in order to facilitate operational efficiency or on loan to employees or others. The policies which govern such relocations are:

a) The relocation of capital assets to sites off CBC premises must be authorized in writing and supported by appropriate written records.

b) Network/regional heads, or officers acting with their approval, must issue the authorization, ensure that the relocations are documented, and put into effect adequate arrangements for the ongoing safe custody of the equipment involved.