

However, the applicant may request that the claim to the benefit under the legislation of the other Party be deferred.

3. In any case to which paragraph 1 or 2 applies, the authority or institution to which the claim, notice or appeal has been submitted shall transmit it without delay to the competent authority or institution of the other Party.

ARTICLE XIX

1. (a) The competent institution of Canada shall discharge its obligations under this Agreement in the currency of Canada.
- (b) The competent institution of Saint Lucia shall discharge its obligations under this Agreement:
 - (i) in respect of a beneficiary resident in Saint Lucia, in the currency of Saint Lucia;
 - (ii) in respect of a beneficiary resident in Canada, in the currency of Canada; and
 - (iii) in respect of a beneficiary resident in a third State, in any currency freely convertible in that State.
2. In the application of sub-paragraphs 1(b)(ii) and (iii), the conversion rate shall be the rate of exchange in effect on the day when the payment is made.
3. Benefits shall be paid to beneficiaries free from any deduction for administrative expenses that may be incurred in paying the benefits.

ARTICLE XX

The competent authorities of the Parties shall resolve, to the extent possible, any difficulties which arise in interpreting or applying this Agreement according to its spirit and fundamental principles.

ARTICLE XXI

The relevant authority of Saint Lucia and a province of Canada may conclude understandings concerning any social security matter within provincial jurisdiction in Canada insofar as those understandings are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement.

PART V

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XXII

1. Any creditable period completed before the date of entry into force of this Agreement shall be taken into account for the purpose of determining the right to a benefit under the Agreement.