

# Old Age Security pension

## Eligibility

### To be eligible, you must:

- be 65 years of age or older;
- be a Canadian citizen or legal resident of Canada when your pension application is approved; and
- have lived in Canada for at least 10 years since the age of 18 (or for 20 years if you now live outside of Canada).

## How to apply

You should apply 6 to 11 months before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

You must complete, sign and mail the **Old Age Security pension application (ISP3000)** to Service Canada.

If you apply after you become eligible, you could receive a retroactive payment. The maximum retroactive payment is 11 months from the date Service Canada receives your application.

## Required documents

### Note

Service Canada staff can certify pension related documents for free. If you cannot visit a Service Canada office, the document **How to Certify Photocopies for the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security (ISP1730)** contains a list of professions whose members can certify documents.

**If you were born in Canada**, you do not need to provide proof of your date of birth. However, Service Canada has the right to request proof at any time.

**If you were not born in Canada**, you must provide certified copies of your citizenship or immigration documents.

**If you cannot provide proof of legal status and residence documents**, Service Canada could obtain on your behalf initial proof of entry into Canada and proof of legal status documents directly from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. To do this, you must complete, sign and mail the **Consent to Exchange Information with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (ISP3210)** to Service Canada. The information can be used only to prove residence for purposes of the Old Age Security program.

**If you have not lived continuously in Canada since the age of 18**, you must provide proof of all the dates you arrived in or left Canada for periods of over six months. You can do this by providing certified copies of passports, visas, airline, ship and bus tickets, or other documents that prove your residence history in Canada.

## Other useful information

If you have lived or worked in Canada and in another country, or you are the survivor of someone who has lived and/or worked in Canada and in another country, you may be eligible for pensions and benefits from both countries. For more information, go to [Canada.ca](http://Canada.ca) and search for “**Lived or living outside Canada.**”

## For more information

**Click** [Canada.ca/OAS](http://Canada.ca/OAS)

**Call** 1-800-277-9914 (please have your Social Insurance Number available)

**Visit** a [Service Canada office](#)

Forms are available on [Canada.ca](http://Canada.ca). Search by form name or document number (e.g. ISP3000).

This document is available on demand in multiple formats by contacting 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232), teletypewriter (TTY), 1-800-926-9105.

Cat. No.: ISPB-354(8)-04-17

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