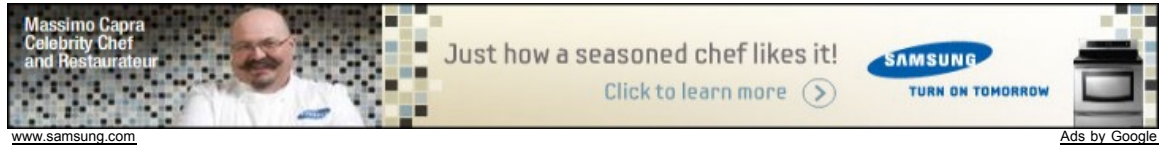


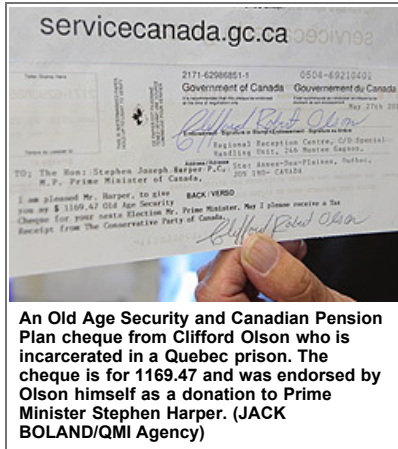
Autos Careers Classifieds Homes



Olson's donation to PM a no-go

By BRIAN LILLEY, PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

Last Updated: September 17, 2010 3:29am



OTTAWA - Clifford Olson's donation to Prime Minister Stephen Harper won't be accepted.

Olson, furious with government plans to cancel Old Age Security (OAS) payments for convicts, mailed his cheque for May to QMI Agency columnist Peter Worthington.

The cheque had been signed over to Prime Minister Harper with a note that said "for your nexts (sic) election Mr. Prime Minister."

Olson also asked the Conservative Party for a tax receipt, but it doesn't look like he'll get one.

"We will not accept one penny from a reprehensible child killer," said Harper's chief spokesman, Dimitri Soudas.

"As soon as Parliament returns, we will proceed quickly on our bill to cancel pensions for prisoners. In the meantime, if Clifford Olson doesn't want his pension, then that's one thing we agree on."

Soudas said Olson doesn't deserve the money and it should go back to Canadian taxpayers.

On June 1, the Conservative government introduced Bill C-31, which would eliminate OAS payments for convicts doing serious time. If passed, the bill would affect about 400 prisoners and save the federal government \$2 million a year.

The Liberals say they will support the move as long as prisoner's spouses are not left in the lurch.

The feds also asked the provinces to help them save another \$8 million a year by eliminating OAS payments for convicts in provincial prisons serving sentences of more than 90 days.

Unlike the Canada Pension Plan, which each Canadian must contribute to in order to receive payments, OAS is an extra payment to cover the cost of living and is based on income.

Human Resources Minister Diane Finley called the idea that Olson and other prisoners would get pensions "offensive and outrageous."

Despite the federal plea for the provinces to help scrap pensions for convicts, so far only British Columbia has issued a public statement supporting the move.

Sources have told QMI Agency that Finley wrote to her provincial counterparts in June, and Newfoundland, Alberta and Saskatchewan have replied they will work with the feds.

The two biggest provinces with the most provincial prisoners, Ontario and Quebec, haven't responded.

brian.lilley@sunmedia.ca

Copyright © 2010 Winnipeg Sun All Rights Reserved