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Olson to lose old-age benefits under new bill

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The bill comes out of a review ordered by Prime Minister Stephen Harper into reports that Olson receives \$1,100 a month from Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

The two benefits programs are intended to raise the standard of living for the nation's poorest seniors. Olson and other retirement-aged inmates who receive no other income are currently entitled to access the programs.

Sources told the CBC that Human Resources Minister Diane Finley will table the proposed legislation in the House of Commons. It will affect about 400 federal inmates aged 65 or older who receive payments from these programs.

The bill urges provinces to follow the federal government's lead. If the provinces agree, another 600 inmates in provincial jails will lose their benefits.

Finley is expected to say inmates already have their basic needs looked after by the state and therefore don't need the benefits.

Sources say the change would save \$2 million a year, and \$10 million dollars each year if the provinces sign on.

Olson, 70, killed 11 boys and girls in British Columbia before he was sentenced to life in prison in 1982. Olson, who has never shown remorse for his crimes, is serving 11 consecutive life sentences in a maximum security prison in Quebec.

His retirement benefit money has been put in trust.

He was also paid \$100,000 by the RCMP to lead them to the bodies of his victims. That money was put in trust for his estranged wife and son.

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