

## Ire grows over prisoner pensions

**PETER ZIMONJIC**  
Parliamentary Bureau

Ever since QMI first broke the story that child-killer Clifford Olson was collecting \$1,200 in government benefits — from behind bars — there have been cries for justice.

On Monday, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation dropped off a petition of 46,000 signatures at the office of Human Resources Minister Diane Finley demanding an end to benefit payments for jailed criminals.



**FINLEY**  
Change coming

"When the government gets a petition they can take it and ignore it, they can take it and consider it, or they can accept it and promise to take action," said Kevin Gaudet, federal director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. "This time the minister promised to do that latter of the three"

The federation estimates the payments total nearly \$7 million a year for an estimated 500 prisoners over the age of 65.



BRYN WEESE/QMI AGENCY

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation presents the Conservative government Monday with a petition of 46,000 signatures calling for an end to pension payments for convicted criminals.

Finley says the petition shows "Canadians are as upset as the government is" when it comes to criminals pocketing government money.

Her office has been working on trying to change the law, but she won't say whether it will require a change in regulations or a new bill.

"We will have an announcement soon," Finley said Monday.

peter.zimonjic@sunmedia.ca