



For Immediate Release
June 18th 2009

Dhalla Introduces Bill to Support Immigrant Seniors

Ottawa- Today Member of Parliament for Brampton-Springdale, Dr. Ruby Dhalla, introduced Bill C428: An Act to Amend the Old Age Security Act to equalize the residency requirement for all immigrant seniors regardless of country of origin.

“It is with great pleasure I introduce a private members Bill to amend the Old Age Security Act. This bill seeks to increase support to immigrant seniors and erase an inequality that exists against seniors coming to Canada from certain countries like China, India and others in Africa, South America, and the Caribbean. Immigrant seniors from these areas have to wait 10 years to receive their Old Age Security benefits vs. 3 years for seniors coming from other countries. Bill C428 is the result of the hard work of thousands of seniors from across the country and organizations like the Old Age Benefits Forum which have advocated for many years for fairness and equality for all seniors,” said Dhalla in her speech in the House of Commons.

For years, immigrant seniors have been marginalized and forced to live close to the poverty line. At present, depending upon country of origin, some seniors must wait 10 years to receive their benefit while others wait 3 years. This practice is unfair, unjust, and discriminatory.

“All seniors in Canada, irrespective of their country of origin deserve to age with dignity. Seniors form the foundation of our country and deserve to be treated with equality, fairness and respect so that they may age in comfort,” said Dhalla.

It is my hope that all Members of Parliament from all political parties will support this Bill and support our immigrant seniors.

-30-

For More Information Contact:
Office of Ruby Dhalla
Candice Debi
905 874 6868