

Third, support the cause.

The Citizens Centre for Freedom and Democracy is a nonprofit professional organization promoting provincial solutions to federal problems.

We depend upon donations (any amount) and regular memberships (\$100 a year, or \$9 a month by credit card debit).

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- Patron (\$2,000 or more)
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Please make cheques payable to Citizens Centre, and mail to #203 10441 178 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5S 1R5.

The Citizens Centre and the "Alberta Agenda"

The Citizens Centre for Freedom and Democracy was founded in 2003 by Link Byfield, former editor and publisher of western Canada's noted *Report* magazines.



The Centre promotes provincial solutions to federal problems.

In Alberta, this takes the form of the "Alberta Agenda" — meaning the formation of an Alberta pension plan to replace the Canada Pension Plan, an Alberta police force to replace the provincial activities of the RCMP, and provincial collection of provincial personal income tax.

All of these measures are legally open to any provincial government. Implementing them would give Albertans more control over their own public services, and reduce the authority, influence and presence of the federal government in western Canada.

The Citizens Centre is promoting the "Alberta Agenda" in close co-operation with another nonprofit group, the Alberta Residents League (ARL). The Citizens Centre promotes public awareness of the issues, while the ARL works directly with local and provincial decision-makers.

To become a member of the Citizens Centre or to learn more about us, fill out the form in this brochure, or go to www.citizenscentre.com, or call us toll free at 1-866-666-6768.



#203 10441 178 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5S 1R5

CITIZENS CENTRE FOR FREEDOM & DEMOCRACY

IT'S TIME TO REPLACE THE CANADA PENSION PLAN



**If Albertans start growing their own
provincial pension system now, they
will reap big future benefits**

The Alberta Pension Plan — an idea whose time has come

There is growing demand in Alberta for the provincial government to create an Alberta Pension Plan, by opting out of the Canada Pension Plan.

The idea is not new. People in government have been talking about it for over 10 years. Most recently, former Alberta Treasurer Stockwell Day was seriously considering it when he left Alberta for federal politics in 2000.

Since then, many civic, business and municipal groups have started pressing the provincial government to proceed. The sooner we start to invest in our own provincial plan, the better off we will be.

The Citizens Centre for Freedom and Democracy has produced a Policy Report with a detailed analysis of the Alberta Pension Plan proposal. To get your own free copy of the Policy Report, call the Citizens Centre at 1-866-666-6768, or go online to citizenscentre.com, or fill out the form on the back of this pamphlet.

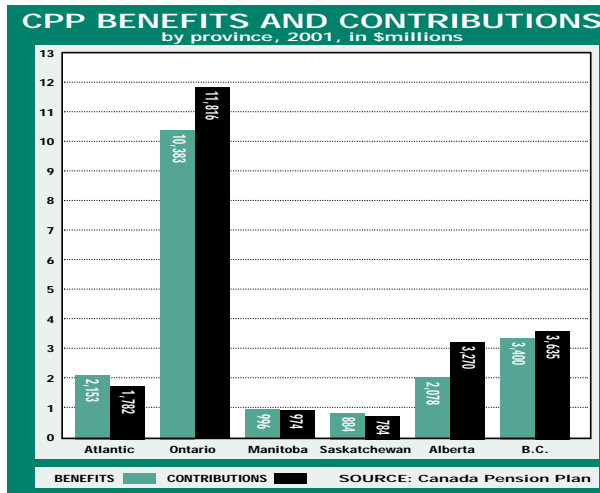
Why opt out of the Canada Pension Plan?

- The Canada Pension Plan now takes close to \$4 billion annually from working Albertans. Only about half of that comes back to the province in the form of pension and other benefits.
- The other \$2 billion stays under federal control, partly to pay benefits in other provinces, and partly to be invested by a government-appointed board.
- Still, even at the present high rate of contribution (9.9% of earnings), the CPP will carry a permanent unfunded liability.

- The CPP is a “one-size-fits-all” plan that doesn’t respond to regional needs and priorities.
- Because of the CPP’s flawed design, it penalizes younger Albertans who pay far more into the scheme than they will ever get back in benefits.
- Albertans are proportionally the highest net contributors to the CPP (see graph). For instance, in 2001 Albertans paid 57% more into the plan than they received in benefits.

Why an Alberta Pension Plan?

- Social programs are a provincial responsibility under the Canadian Constitution, and the CPP Act allows provinces to opt out of the federal plan (as Quebec did right at the beginning).
- Albertans would pay lower premiums and save about \$500 per working family annually.
- Billions of dollars now sent to Ottawa would be managed in Alberta.
- Alberta would increase its independence from Ottawa, and re-establish the historic distinction between federal and provincial constitutional responsibilities.



It’s time to stop looking for answers from Ottawa and start taking responsibility for ourselves.

How you can help

First, know the facts.

Read the Citizens Centre’s Policy Report online at citizenscentre.com, or call us for a free printed copy (1-866-666-6768).

Second, spread the word.

Tell us the name, address and e-mail of people you know who should know about the Alberta Pension Plan. We’ll send them the information they need.

CONTACT 1

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code (if you know it) _____

E-mail address (if you know it) _____

CONTACT 2

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code (if you know it) _____

E-mail address (if you know it) _____

CONTACT 3

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code (if you know it) _____

E-mail (if you know it) _____