



## **Bill C-228 – Landmark Bill Passes Third Reading in the Senate – April 18, 2023**

### ***Bill C-228 – An Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act and the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985***

Bill C-228 passed the Senate on April 18, and it will now go to Parliament for Royal Assent. Once Royal Assent is granted, the higher priority for pensioners in a bankruptcy will take effect four years after the Assent is granted.

**What is Bill C-228?** This Bill extends super-priority to the unfunded pension liability of private sector, single-employer, Defined Benefit pensions when a company goes insolvent. Canadian pensioners will now move up the line of priority for payout if a company goes bankrupt. **In simple terms, this bill will ensure that, in the case of a company's insolvency, pensions get paid ahead of large creditors and executive bonuses, improving the likelihood of pensioners receiving their full pensions.**

Efforts on protecting the pensions of Defined Benefit pensioners by the Air Canada Pionairs Pensions Sub-Committee began in 2005, following Air Canada's exit from CCAA in 2004.

A big "thank-you" is extended to all Pionairs members who supported the efforts of the Pionairs Pension Sub-Committee, by speaking with their MPs, and by following up with their email-writing campaign. Bruce Aubin, former Chair of the Pionairs Pension Sub-Committee, stated that "The unity of the Pionairs organization with other retiree organizations, such as the Canadian Federation of Pensioners (of which we are a founding member), helped to provide the number of voices to achieve traction on this important file".

Here is an excerpt from a speech on April 19, 2023 by Hon. Senator Hassan Yussuf, contained in the "Pension Protection Bill – April 18, 2023 – Bill to Amend – Third Reading":

*Finally, I want to especially recognize the pension advocates and their tireless and selfless efforts fighting for a fairer future for pensioners across this country. I want to recognize and thank groups like the Canadian Federation of Pensioners, Yellow Pages Pensioners' Group, Air Canada Pionairs, CanAge, CARP, the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Réseau FADOQ, the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada and the National Pensioners Federation. They have fought, not for their benefit, but for the benefit of the next generation of pensioners in this country. All of these people and groups are why this bill is before us today. They are looking to us to take the final step to ensure a fair and dignified retirement for pensioners like themselves.*

Additional information:

News wire:

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/defined-benefit-pensioners-win-battle-for-pension-protection-810177542.html>

April 21, 2023