

MHF Letter to the Editor published by the Globe and Mail, January 2012

Although Jane Taber accurately quoted me in her piece on MP Pensions, she neglected to include the two positive recommendations I made. MPs' compensation should be good enough to attract the best people, but there are legitimate cost concerns.

My two recommendations were (i) Increase the age at which payments start from 55 to 60, or even 65; and (ii) put a limit on terms for MPs. Not only would the latter save on pensions, it's valid in terms of good governance. In the corporate world, a common recommendation is limited terms for members of the Board of Directors. For the most part, it's better to not to have anyone around for too long. I feel the same about MPs. Serving as an MP is indeed a public service -- it shouldn't be a life-long career.

A related point: the Liberal Party has offered an alternative to the proposed addition of 30 new MPs, still consistent with the constitution. Those concerned about the cost of MP pensions should be up in arms over an unnecessary 30 new MPs.

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