

### Agreement on Social Security between Canada and Jamaica

## Qualifying for Canadian and Jamaican benefits

### The Agreement

The Agreement on Social Security between Canada and Jamaica came into force on January 1, 1984.

The Agreement may help you qualify for Canadian and Jamaican old age, disability or survivor benefits.

Social security legislation and agreements are complex. This sheet contains only *general* information and may not describe all the provisions that apply to your situation.

### Qualifying for a Canadian benefit

The Canadian pension programs included in the Agreement are the Canada Pension Plan and the Old Age Security program.

Under the Canada Pension Plan, you can receive a benefit when you retire or if you become disabled. The Plan may also pay benefits to your survivors after you die.

To qualify for a benefit, you normally must have contributed to the Plan, which came into force on January 1, 1966, for a minimum period.

If you do not qualify for a Canada Pension Plan benefit, Canada will consider periods credited under the pension program of Jamaica as periods of contribution to the Canada Pension Plan.

The Old Age Security program covers most persons who live or have lived in Canada. The Old Age Security pension is payable at the age of 65 to persons who meet certain residence conditions. To qualify for this pension in Canada, you normally must have lived in this country for at least 10 years after the age of 18. You normally need 20 years of residence in Canada after the same age to receive an Old Age Security pension outside Canada.

What happens if you do not qualify for a Canadian Old Age Security pension because you have not lived in Canada for the minimum number of years? Under the Agreement, Canada will consider periods of residence in Jamaica from January 1, 1966, and after the age of 18, as periods of residence in Canada.

### Qualifying for a benefit from Jamaica

The pension program of Jamaica is similar to the Canada Pension Plan and covers most employed and self-employed persons in Jamaica.

To qualify for a benefit under the pension program of Jamaica, you normally must have contributed to the program for a minimum number of weeks. For example, to qualify for a Jamaican old age pension, you normally must have paid or have been credited with contributions to the program for at least 1,248 weeks.

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## Qualifying for Canadian and Jamaican benefits

If you have not contributed to the program for the minimum period, you may not qualify for a Jamaican benefit. However, to determine eligibility for a Jamaican benefit under the Agreement, Jamaica will consider periods of contribution to the Canada Pension Plan from April 4, 1966, and periods of residence in Canada from that same date and after the age of 18 as periods credited under the pension program of Jamaica.

### Payment of your benefits

You may qualify for a benefit from Canada or Jamaica, or both. Under the Agreement, each country will pay a benefit based *solely* on your periods of contribution or periods of residence under its pension program.

### Applying for benefits or finding out more about the Agreement

If you want to apply for a benefit from Canada or Jamaica under the Agreement, or if you need more information about the Agreement, please contact us:

On the Internet:

[www.sdc.gc.ca](http://www.sdc.gc.ca)

By phone:

**From Canada or the United States:**

1 800 277-9914

1 800 255-4786 (TTY)

**From other countries:**

+1 613 957-1954

By email:

On the Internet, please visit our  
“Contact Us” page at: [www.sdc.gc.ca](http://www.sdc.gc.ca)

By mail:

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Ottawa, ON K1A 0L4  
CANADA

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1 613 952-8901