



Agreement on Social Security between Canada and Slovenia

Qualifying for Canadian and Slovenian benefits

The Agreement

The Agreement on Social Security between Canada and Slovenia came into force on January 1, 2001.

The Agreement may help you qualify for Canadian and Slovenian old age and disability benefits if you contributed to both the Canada Pension Plan and the pension program of Slovenia or if you resided in Canada and in Slovenia.

The Agreement may also help you qualify for Canadian and Slovenian survivor benefits, if you are the widow, widower or child of a person who contributed to the pension programs of the two countries.

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 for a minimum period.

If you do not qualify for a Canada Pension Plan benefit, Canada will consider periods credited under the Slovenian pension program 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 a Canadian Old Age Security 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 credited under the Slovenian pension program as periods of residence in Canada.

Qualifying for a Slovenian benefit

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

To qualify for a benefit under the Slovenian pension program, you normally must have contributed to the program for a minimum number of years. For example, to qualify for a Slovenian old age pension, you normally must have paid or have been credited with contributions to the program for at least 15 years.

If you have not contributed to the program for the minimum period, you may not qualify for a Slovenian benefit. However, under the Agreement, Slovenia will consider periods of contribution to the Canada Pension Plan and periods of residence in Canada after the age of 18, as credited periods under the pension program of Slovenia.

Payment of your benefits

You may qualify for a Canadian or Slovenian benefit, 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.

For more information

You can find more information on the Social Security Agreement between Canada and Slovenia on our web site. The address is:

- www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ibfa

How to apply for benefits

If you want to apply for a Canadian or a Slovenian benefit under the Agreement, or if you have questions, please call or write us.

From Canada or the United States, you can reach us at:

- 1 800 277-9914
- 1 800 255-4786 (TTY)

From other countries, please call:

- +1 613 957-1954

You can also contact us at:

- Income Security Programs
Human Resources Development Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0L4
CANADA
- E-mail:
isp-psr.mail-poste@hrdc-drhc.gc.ca
- Fax: +1 613 952-8901