

## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release

February 1, 2012

**Ottawa** - Western Arctic MP Dennis Bevington will be joining his New Democrat Official Opposition colleagues tomorrow, as they face off against the government regarding the Prime Minister's comments of increasing the qualifying age for Old Age Security last week.

"My colleagues in the NDP found Mr. Harper's remarks in his speech in Davos, totally unacceptable. Therefore we will be dedicating our opposition day on Thursday to discuss and debate the need to keep the eligibility at 65," said Bevington.

Currently in the Northwest Territories elders and senior citizens make up 5.6 per cent of the population, compared to 14.4% nationally. Although the NWT's average age is younger than the national average, the number of seniors is expected to grow over the next 3 years to nearly 7 percent.

"Numbers show us now is not the time to be raising the age requirement for OAS. We need to be helping seniors on a fixed income get out of poverty, not force them to payback the national deficit," concluded Bevington.

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For media availability please contact:

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