

# Turner pushing for tax cut for senior citizens

Halton MP Garth Turner is pushing the federal government to cut seniors a tax break.

The outspoken politician has teamed up with 16 national seniors groups to attack what he calls "one of the great unfairnesses of our system" that's resulted in single-income retired couples paying much more tax than those with two pension streams coming into a household.

Turner explained that the tax system doesn't allow two spouses to pool income for tax purposes and as a result, senior couples with one pension often find themselves short of money as that pension is taxed at the highest rate in the hands of just one spouse, typically the husband.

This means a couple with one income of \$62,000 is forced to pay \$2,500 more in tax than two seniors making exactly the same income, but with \$11,000 of that earned by one and \$51,000 by the other.

"There is no justification for this," Turner said. "Retired Canadians worked hard to build this country and often had no choice about how to

structure their lives. A generation ago most men worked outside the home and most women raised families, so it's completely unfair that the tax system should penalize them. It's time to change that."

Now, Turner has recruited a growing number of MPs to support the coalition of 16 seniors groups in an effort to make Finance Minister Jim Flaherty consider improving the system for pensioners.

The endeavour will see a national conference take place in Ottawa on October 3, bringing together pension groups, politicians and expert speakers who'll make the case for pension splitting.

"Over nine million Boomers are heading for retirement, many of them in financial stress," noted Turner. "Giving all Canadians the ability to split income for tax purposes will ease that stress, add tax fairness and show this government is listening."

For more information call (905) 693-0166 or (613) 996-7046 or visit [www.garth.ca](http://www.garth.ca).

# Another round of Town Hall meetings planned

Halton MP Garth Turner will soon hold another round of Town Hall meetings focusing on several key federal issues.

The local sessions will take place October 10 at Hugh Foster Hall at 7:30 p.m. and October 15 at the Campbellville Lions Hall at 4 p.m.

Topics of discussion will include tax cuts, the marriage vote, Afghanistan and the government's new environmental action plan.

"I know there are large numbers of people who want to talk to me about the major issues we're facing as a country," said Turner. "I have said repeated-

ly, I work for the voters first and my political colleagues and party second. So it is essential for me to do my job that I hear from the people sending me to the House of Commons."

Since being elected in January, Turner has held nine Town Hall meetings, which helped form the basis for his pre-budget submission to Finance Minister Jim Flaherty that called for family income-splitting and further tax reductions.

For more information on the meetings or to contact Turner call (905) 693-0166, visit [www.garth.ca](http://www.garth.ca) or e-mail [garth@garth.ca](mailto:garth@garth.ca).

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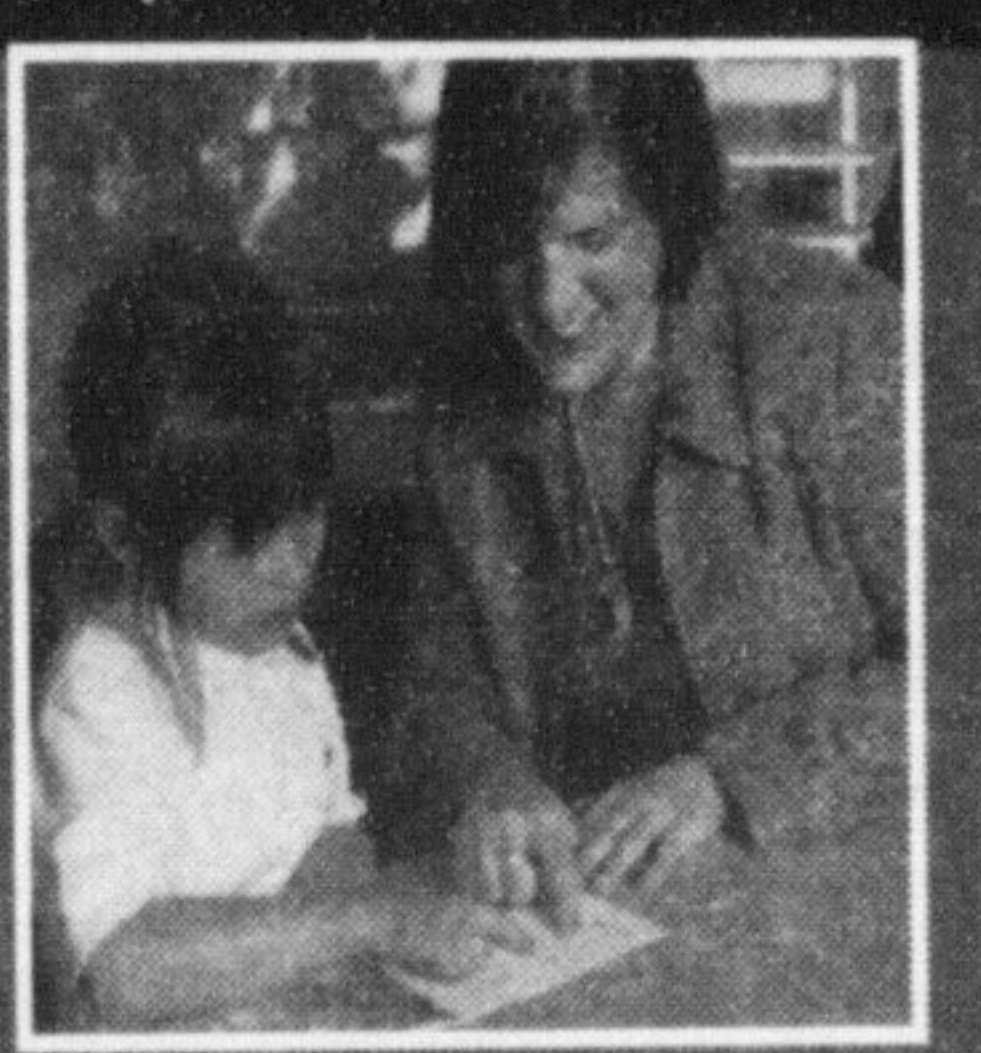
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