

Layton pitches support for CPP in talks with Edmonton seniors

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Federal NDP Leader Jack Layton brought a message of pension worries to a group of Edmonton seniors on Friday.

Layton was at the Strathcona Place Senior Centre, where he discussed issues related to affordability for seniors and the future of the Canadian Pension Plan, which is up in the air after the Harper government recently announced a new limited private pension plan would go into existence.

It's a plan the NDP isn't backing because it says it offers employers the option to contribute to the CPP fund and will likely add to the economic woes of seniors.

"I'm ready for an election, but I would rather we see action to help seniors right now," said Layton.

The leader feels the best way to ensure adequate retirement dollars for the aging population is to pool resources.

"The CPP is the most secure, reliable, and least costly fund because we're all in it together. It survived through the downturn better than almost any investment.

"We want seniors to look forward to a retirement in dignity and with respect," he added.

"They've earned it. They raised us all. They fed us all. They built our communities. They built our economy and it's time for us to be there for them. Seniors of today and seniors of tomorrow."

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