



after the month of departure and is then suspended, to be resumed only in the month in which he returns to Canada.

A 1966 amendment to the OAS Act provided for the payment of the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). Recipients of the OAS pension with no other income may receive the maximum monthly supplement; those with other income may receive a partial supplement. The maximum GIS is reduced by \$1 a month for every \$2 a month of income over and above the Old Age Security pension and any supplement that may have been received. Income for this purpose is the same as that computed in accordance with the Income Tax Act. In the case of a married couple, each is considered to have one half of their combined income. Where one spouse does not receive the Old Age Security pension or a Spouse's Allowance, six times the amount of the monthly OAS pension of the current quarter is deducted from one half of the combined income in calculating the income of the pensioner for purposes of determining the amount of the supplement.

In June 1975 a further amendment to the Old Age Security Act introduced a Spouse's Allowance (SA), designed to provide relief in situations where two persons would otherwise have to live on the pension of one. The SA program went into effect on October 1, 1975. The spouse of an OAS pensioner is eligible for SA if that spouse is between 60 and 64 years of age and meets the same residence requirements as those stipulated for OAS. As of October 1, 1976 Spouse's Allowance is payable, upon application, if the annual combined income of the couple is less than \$6,432 (excluding the OAS pension, the GIS and the Spouse's Allowance). The maximum amount is reduced by \$3 for every \$4 of the combined monthly income of the couple until the OAS equivalent portion is elimin-