
Introduction of Bill C-318 Will Create Attachment Leave for Adoptive Parents: A Step in the Right Direction

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A new Private Member's Bill will provide adoptive parents with 15 additional weeks of attachment leave through Employment Insurance benefits. Bill C-318, which passed first reading this week, is an important step towards recognizing the needs of more families and the critical importance of building healthy attachment in newly formed families. Julie Despaties, Executive Director of Adopt4Life who has co-led this campaign for #TimetoAttach alongside national partners adds, "I am encouraged by MP Falk's efforts to introduce this important Private Member's Bill, which seeks to provide adoptive and intended parents with fair access to parental benefits. #TimeToAttach has had extensive bipartisan support, and we hope that all parties will come together to support Bill C-318 to ensure that every family, regardless of how they are formed, has access to the support they need to thrive."

Attachment is complex and necessary to help children develop a sense of safety and security. Without this important foundation, their health, learning and development is impaired. Creating a parental leave system that reflects the diversity of families today is essential, and has long-term benefits to children, their parents, and society.

"Canada's current parental leave program does not recognize the unique attachment needs of children and youth joining adoptive families and is creating avoidable harms. We need this change, so families are no longer disadvantaged because they are formed through adoption."

— Julie Despaties

Adopt4Life has heard from many Canadian families who have struggled under the current Employment Insurance system. Most children adopted in Canada are over the age of 10 at the time of placement and many have a history of trauma or serious loss. Bill C-318 has the potential to make a real difference for adoptive parents and their children alike. It marks an important step forward in recognizing the needs of modern-day families and providing them with more equitable access to parental leave employment insurance benefits.

"The Child and Youth Permanency Council of Canada is pleased to see Private Members Bill C-318 from MP Falk brought to first reading. Equitable attachment leave for adoptive parents, customary and kinship caregivers is long overdue, and we look forward to seeing these EI revisions."

— Cathy Murphy, Chairperson of CYPCC.

To learn more about the need for attachment leave and the experiences shared by families across Canada in support of #TimetoAttach, visit adopt4life.com/time-to-attach.



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