



**National
Multiple Births
Awareness Day!**
May 28th



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*Supporting
Multiple Births
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CANADA'S EI PARENTAL LEAVE MUST REFLECT THE NEEDS OF MULTIPLE-BIRTH INFANTS

HOLD FOR RELEASE ON
OR AFTER MAY 1, 2010

WASAGA BEACH, ONTARIO – National organization, Multiple Births Canada (MBC), is urging supporters of Canada's multiple-birth community to take it to their MPs with the message *Canada's EI Parental Leave must reflect the needs of multiple-birth infants.*

As part of this year's National Multiple Births Awareness Day activities, MBC is encouraging a letter writing campaign with the intent of delivering a strong message to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, the Honourable Diane Finley. In addition, multiple-birth families will be contacting their local Members of Parliament enlisting in their support to facilitate changes to current EI Parental Leave benefits for multiple-birth families. "Canada's multiple-birth community has been frustrated by the lack of leadership taken by this government as it relates to Canadian families. We want them to hear the message and learn firsthand why we believe Canada's EI Parental Leave must reflect the needs of multiple-birth infants," said Gail Moore, National Chair for Multiple Births Canada. Advocacy activities culminate with a rally in Ottawa, on Parliament Hill, on Friday, May 28th at 12:15 p.m.

MBC strongly believes it is time for the Government of Canada to follow the lead of European countries and consider qualitative and quantitative research that indicates the experience of caring for newborn multiples is remarkably different than caring for a single-born infant, as it places additional demands on multiple-birth parents. These countries acknowledge the compelling evidence that indicates multiple-birth infants need more time with their parents at home to care for their needs. These countries have passed legislation providing additional family leave benefits for their multiple-birth families—including Finland, where multiple-birth parents may take 10 additional weeks for each additional child, and Sweden, where multiple-birth families receive 180 additional days for each additional child. We applaud these nations for not only recognizing the challenges multiple-birth families face, but also changing their legislation to reflect the needs of these families.

MBC has supported multiple-birth families in Canada for over 32 years. It is the only national, non-profit, non-governmental organization solely committed to improving the quality of life for multiple-birth individuals and their families in Canada. MBC's mandate includes improving access to support, resources and informed care for multiples and their families; building stronger member chapters across Canada; and encouraging government and service providers to recognize the unique needs of multiples and their families and to provide appropriate services to them. For more information about MBC, call 1-866-228-8824, or visit the website at www.multiplebirthscanada.org.

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