

"Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to mention to my colleagues that Sunday, May 28th, will mark the 2nd annual National Multiple Births Awareness Day in Canada, organized by Multiple Births Canada. This yearly event had its beginning last year with the lead event in my riding of Nipissing-Timiskaming at the Dionne Quints Museum. It was commemorated in many Canadian cities from the West Coast to Eastern Canada. This weekend, the multiple-birth community across Canada will continue this celebration.

In Canada, there are approximately 150,000 multiple-birth children under the age of 20. The objective of this Awareness Day is to recognize that multiple-birth individuals and families face many challenges that are not common to the general Canadian population. In any family, the introduction of multiple-birth children presents overwhelming physical, emotional and financial strains. As multiple-birth children grow, multiples and their families face special challenges with daycares, schools, in social situations, as well as an increased chance of health complications. As such, both supporting and improving the capacity for the parents of these children to cope, is a crucial step in securing Canada's social foundations.

Please join me in offering our support to Multiple Births Canada as it works to increase awareness of these issues and in officially proclaiming that the House of Commons recognizes May 28th federally, as National Multiple Births Awareness Day."