



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



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***Supporting
Multiple Births
Together***

The Honourable Diane Finley
Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

May 2010

Dear Minister Finley,

On March 22nd, 2006 our organization sent you a complete package outlining our concerns regarding EI parental leave and maternity benefits for multiple-birth families. We outlined three priorities that would enable and sustain Canadian multiple-birth families through their first years of parenting, resulting in stronger, healthier families and communities.

On September 9, 2009, we sent an electronic message again expressing concerns about Employment Insurance (EI) parental benefits for multiple-birth parents. Disappointingly, for a second time, your response was vague, indicating to us that our concerns were not being considered.

This May 28th we extend an invitation for you to join us at 12:15 p.m., on the lawn in front of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, to listen to our families and learn why *Canada's EI Parental Leave must reflect the needs of multiple-birth infants*.

Qualitative and quantitative research 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. There are compelling reasons, indicated in the attached Backgrounder, why multiple-birth infants need more time with their parents at home to care for their needs. It is for these reasons that other countries have legislated additional family leave policies 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 believe it is time for your ministry to talk to the families who can personally explain why this is necessary. For this reason, we sincerely hope you and your lead advisors will join us on May 28th.

For additional information, and to RSVP this invitation, please contact us at mbcboard@multiplebirthscanada.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Moore
Chair, Multiple Births Canada
Attach - 2

cc. Michael Savage, Liberal HRSDC Critic
cc. Ken Dryden, former Minister of Social Development
cc. All Federal Members of Parliament