



**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,

Please accept this letter as an official request from my family for the Ministry of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to review and address current EI Parental Leave provisions for Canada's multiple-birth parents.

While this letter is part of a national effort to voice our concern that *Canada's EI Parental Leave must reflect the needs of multiple-birth infants* – it is also my personal wish that the information we are sending you be analyzed and considered with due diligence.

We believe 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.

The positive outcome of additional leave time for parents of multiples is:

1. *Mothers have better support during pregnancy complications*
2. *Parents can better focus on short or long term health problems of the infants*
3. *Primary caregiver is better equipped to handle physical and emotional stress*
4. *Parents can focus on their babies not their financial challenges*
5. *Babies will have better (quality and quantity) bonding time with parents*

For additional information on these documented issues, please refer to the attached Backgrounder. Also enclosed is a copy of the letter I am sending to my local Member of Parliament.

Respectfully submitted,

(Your Name
Your Chapter or non-member group)
Attach - 2

cc. (My local MP)