

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate use

MULTIPLE BIRTHS CANADA APPLAUDS EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BOARD OF REFEREES DECISION

WASAGA BEACH, ON. – An Ottawa father of twins successfully argued two qualified claimants should both receive Employment Insurance (EI) parental benefits if one parent claims for Baby A while the other parent claims for Baby B.

On September 11th, 2009, legal counsel for the father - Stephen Moreau of Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre & Cornish LLP – presented supporting evidence to a three-person Board of Referees at an EI hearing in Ottawa. In rendering their decision, the Board unanimously allowed the appeal by the father whose earlier application for EI had been denied because his wife was already receiving parental benefits. The decision stated that since the two claimants were making separate claims for separate babies, they were each entitled to make separate 35 week claims, he for one baby and she for the other.

Multiple Births Canada (MBC) is pleased with the decision. Canada's national non-profit organization provided the father with experiential evidence and moral support for his appeal. Since 2005, when MBC issued a Call to Dialogue regarding EI benefits for multiple-birth families, MBC has been encouraging the federal government to follow the lead of European countries currently providing additional benefits to multiple-birth families. "The government's intent in providing 35 weeks of parental leave is to provide families with bonding time for their new baby. Allowing each parent to spend individual time with each baby makes that possible," said Gail Moore, MBC Chair.

The decision will set a precedent for future cases where two qualified claimants wish to access parental benefits for two or more children; but, future cases will not be bound by the positive outcome of this appeal. Another Board of Referees may view the evidence from a dissimilar perspective and come to a different decision. In light of the significant challenges of caring for multiple newborn babies at the same time, MBC requests the federal government officially change its benefits policy from a per pregnancy basis to a per child basis, and give full effect to the Board's decision.

- 30 -

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gail Moore, Chair and Director of Communications
Multiple Births/Naissance multiples Canada
1-705-647-2135 – mbcchair@multiplebirthscanada.org

Or

Stephen J. Moreau
Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre & Cornish
1-416-964-5541 – smoreau@cavalluzzo.com

office@multiplebirthscanada.org



www.multiplebirthscanada.org