



Adoption Advocacy- EI benefits for Adoptive Parents

A Fight for Equality

Here is the issue: Currently, adoptive parents are eligible for 35 weeks of EI benefits. However, they are ineligible for the additional 15 weeks of maternity leave benefits available to those women who become mothers through birth, rather than adoption, despite the fact that adoptive parents pay into the EI Fund at rates equivalent to those of birthparents.

Adoptive families and adoption professionals challenge the federal government to recognize that adoptive parents and children have some of the same significant issues that families formed through birth require; inclusive but not limited to the additional leave time to bond and attach.

Adoption professionals and researchers around the world identify a few of the issues facing adoptive parents as:

- The need to attach and bond (from parent to child or child to parent)
- Health issues or developmental delays some adopted children face
- Language barriers and cultural adjustments experienced by parents and children who have gone through the international adoption process, which is often onerous and fatiguing
- Potential post-adoption depression (clinically recognized, as is post-natal depression)
- Children who are adopted through CAS or Internationally often have experienced loss, trauma, abuse, neglect or multiple caregivers

Giving adoptive families the same foundation we provide for birth families is truly a “motherhood” issue. We ask that the Government of Canada create an Employment Insurance Benefit Plan for adoptive families that is financially equivalent to what is offered to biological mothers in the EI Maternity Benefit Plan: an Adoption EI Benefit Plan.

Please visit this website for resources on this initiative:

<http://www.adoption.ca/news/A%20FIGHT%20FOR%20EQUALITY.htm>

