

Families formed through adoption are left out of Budget 2022

The adoptive family community is disappointed that the federal government is not supporting families formed through adoption, kinship and customary care in Budget 2022.

The federal government is not keeping its promise. Despite the creation of 15 weeks of attachment leave being included in Minister Qualtrough's mandate letter in 2019 and again in 2021, the federal government failed to include Time to Attach, or a 15-week attachment leave, in the 2022 federal budget.

"This is a missed opportunity to provide support to families formed through adoption, kinship and customary care," notes Cathy Murphy, Executive Director of Child and Youth Permanency Council of Canada. "It is unacceptable to keep adoptive parents, kinship and customary caregivers waiting."

We released a report about these needs in the Western University report [TIME TO ATTACH: An Argument in Favour of EI Attachment Benefits – 2019](#) in which 72% of respondents across the country said they parental leave system did not provide enough time for their adopted children to adjust to a new family.

"How can we keep failing our children?" says Julie Despaties, Executive Director of Adopt4Life, Ontario's Adoptive Parents Association. "We need to do better for those who have already experienced trauma and losses. We need to invest in them so that they can reach their greatest self, and we can't do that without attachment leave."

Attachment is a human need and a critical component of a **healthy childhood** that, for many of our kids, has been disrupted or damaged. Our children need time and support to build an attachment with their new parents or caregivers. Attachment leave is about giving children more **Time to Attach** to improve the long-term outcomes for them and their families and would complement the existing parental benefits of 35 weeks. Families in our community face certain additional challenges in building their families through adoption or through a customary or kinship care arrangement.

We would also like to extend our deepest appreciation to our key partners across Canada and to all adoptive parents, kinship and customary caregivers who have shared their experience and their voices as part of our collaborative Time to Attach campaign. We see you, we hear you, and we will continue to fight for you.

Adopt4Life - Julie Despaties, Executive Director, is available for media interview. To book an interview please contact media@adopt4life.com

Child and Youth Permanency Council of Canada – Cathy Murphy is available for media interview. To book an interview please contact cathy@adoption.ca

