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## **NDP TABLES BILL TO HELP FAMILIES IN THE CASE OF MULTIPLE BIRTHS OR ADOPTIONS**

*Measure would allow parents to take longer leave*

OTTAWA – Faced with a growing number of multiple births in Quebec and Canada, New Democrat MP Sana Hassainia tabled a private member's bill aiming at financially supporting families in the case of multiple births or adoptions.

"The birth of twins has exploded in the last 30 years in Quebec and across Canada. The phenomenon is growing, but assistance is not. It's time for the government to support parents to ensure they have a good experience," said Hassainia.

The private member's bill would allow parents to take a longer leave, up to 72 weeks, in the case of multiple births or adoptions. It would also increase the number of weeks of EI parental benefits from 35 to 70. Parents could also choose to receive their benefits for 35 weeks simultaneously, allowing both parents to be involved. Or they could choose to extend their benefits over 70 weeks for one of them, depending on what best suits them.

"Families face enormous and constant challenges," added the MP. "Multiple births are often premature and babies are exposed to developmental and permanent disabilities. These families face increased physical and financial stress. The NDP wishes to give them some relief and support them from the beginning."

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