

Essex MP Jeff Watson calls on Parliament to examine current federal support measures available to adoptive parents and their children

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JEFF WATSON’S SPEECH IN HOUSE OF COMMONS ATTACHED:

<http://www.canadiansformoralclarity.com/en/AdoptionDebateSpeech2009-10-30.pdf>

Ottawa – Essex MP Jeff Watson today put forward a Private Members Motion today calling on the House to give the Standing committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development, and the Status of Persons with Disabilities a mandate to examine current federal support measures that are available to adoptive parents and their adopted children.

This Motion recognizes “the strength and value of Canadian families”, said Watson, himself an adoptee. “I was adopted as an infant into the care of a wonderful family. It may come as a surprise that my wife, Sarah, and I have desired for several years now to add to our five beautiful biological children an adopted child.” Watson added, “It is this journey that has connected us to many other Canadians who are seeking to adopt – or have adopted – and the myriad challenges they face along the way.”

In his speech to the House today, Watson affirmed “the family as the basic building block of society”, stating, “The family is where we raise, nurture, and protect our children. It’s where we teach them about who they are, where they come from, and why they are here, regardless of the biology of the parents involved.”

Watson is recommending that the Committee look at the process and experiences of adopting families within the existing framework with an eye to ensuring that the federal government is providing full support to all Canadian families, while “recognizing and respecting provincial and territorial jurisdictions”.

Elaborating, Watson went on to say, “ So much of our society’s future depends on making sure Canadian families receive the proper respect and support they need to ensure their children succeed, learn, grow, and take their place in society.”

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In explaining his rationale for this initiative, Watson commended adopting families as an important part of building strong communities.

“Adoptive families need their unique circumstances understood by those with a mandate to legislate; to know that their desire to parent is met with policies that support their choice to adopt. It has been said, "It takes a village to raise a child". With thousands of children in foster care across Canada and children orphaned around the world through famine, natural disaster, civil unrest and wars, those among us able and willing to adopt are key to the well-being of these children and to the building of vibrant families and communities. A grateful society must do all it can to assist them in their parenthood journey.”

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