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Vellacott introduces Equal Shared Parenting Private Member's Bill – C-422

For Immediate Release

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OTTAWA – Yesterday MP Maurice Vellacott introduced a Private Member's Bill – C-422 – that would amend the Divorce Act to instruct judges to apply the principle of equal shared parenting unless it is established that the best interests of the child would be substantially enhanced by allocating parental responsibility other than equally.

“This bill is very important in bringing Canadian legislation in line with what the best research says about the best interests of children,” said Vellacott. With limited exceptions, children generally demonstrate superior outcomes when both parents – mom AND dad – are actively involved in their children's lives, even if the parents divorce or separate.

This bill also reflects the spirit of recommendations made over 10 years ago in a Joint House-Senate committee presented to Parliament entitled “For the Sake of the Children.”

“I am grateful today for the many expressions of support from Parliamentarians on a multi-party basis. I am thankful that two of my colleagues, Steven Blaney and Liberal MP Raymonde Folco, both representing Quebec ridings, are on the platform today and can speak to the French perspective on this widely-supported initiative in Quebec,” said Vellacott.

“In the few years that I have been dealing with this issue, I have heard from so many men and women who have urged me to pursue these reforms,” added Vellacott. In just the past 24 hours since introducing this bill, I have received an outpouring of thanks and appreciation from across Canada. Many of these people have been working with their own Members of Parliament, as well as with their provincial politicians, to build a strong non-partisan foundation for pursuing lasting equal shared parenting reforms that will be in the best interests of Canadian children.”

Equal shared parenting is the right thing to do for Canadian children. Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff has said that “these are sensible and overdue suggestions, and the fact they are being made shows that men and women are struggling to correct the rights revolution, so that equality works for everyone.”

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For further comment, call (613) 992-1966 or (613) 297-2249