

Time to Attach—My Reason Why

Time to Attach is a national campaign to add **15 weeks of Attachment Leave Employment Insurance Benefits for adoptive parents, kinship, and customary caregivers.**

Attachment leave is about giving children and youth 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.

Most children adopted in Canada are over the age of ten at the time of placement and many have a history of trauma or serious loss. Having their new parent or caregiver(s) at home longer, in the critical first year, gives them time to form attachments and begin processing their grief and loss. Yet, Canada's parental benefit system allocates a longer paid leave to biological parents (50 weeks) then to adoptive parents, kinship, and customary caregivers (35 weeks). We are calling on the government for **equality in parental leave benefits.**

Canada's system does not measure up to the standards of many other countries, both in terms of whether there is equality with biological parents and how good the benefits are for adoptive parents. For instance, unlike Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, Sweden, and the UK, Canada does **not** provide equal benefits to adoptive and biological parents. In addition, Sweden, Denmark, and Germany provide greater benefits overall to adoptive parents relative to the benefits offered to these parents in Canada.

We are looking for adoptees (aged 13 -30), adoptive parents, kinship, and customary caregivers who wish to contribute their voice to the national Time to Attach campaign.

You will have a direct impact on:

- Advocating for change in the system and being a part of that change
- Supporting other adoptees
- Supporting adoptive parents, customary and kinship caregivers

Share your reason why 15 weeks additional parental leave is critical for families formed by adoption, kinship, and customary care. You can contribute in various ways!

Tell us your story!

- Record a video of yourself (approx. 1 -2 minute is best!) #timetoattach #strongertogether
- Record your voice (45-60 seconds is best)
- Write a blog (approx. 400 words)
- Post videos on TikTok and share to IG and other platforms and submit to your agency.

Visit www.adopt4life.com/time-to-attach for shareable content and resource.

Be sure to include #timetoattach #strongertogether #myreasonwhy to all social media posts. Let's unite our voices and hold the federal government's election promise to support ALL families a reality!

