

Petition - 228

Petition to extend access to Post Adoption Birth Information (Identifying information) to next of kin, and/or extended next of kin, if an adult adopted person or a natural/birth parent is deceased. (Tabled by MPP Taylor, March 10, 2020)

Response:

In Ontario, adoption information disclosure provides a means of accessing information relating to an adoption while safeguarding the privacy of those involved in past adoptions. The *Vital Statistics Act* provides for disclosure of uncertified copies of original birth registrations and adoption orders to adopted adults. It also provides for disclosure of information contained in those documents, as well as information contained in any substituted birth registration for the adopted person to birth parents.

Currently, our government is working to modernize the child welfare system. We have been engaging with stakeholders on a plan that includes modernizing the public adoption system. A key priority of our work is to increase the opportunities for permanency and family-based care for children and youth in care.

We are aiming to:

- increase public awareness of adoption;
- strengthen post-adoption supports;
- create consistency in adoption service delivery; and
- improve matching of children with prospective adoptive parents.

As you are well aware, when we announced our plans to modernize child welfare, our government highlighted the need to reform adoption as well. In November, our government encouraged all MPPs to host adoption-focused roundtables in their communities and share the results. This was done to help ensure that we are hearing from adoptive parents, prospective adoptive parents and leaders in the adoption sector and incorporate their feedback into the redesign.

Our main focus is on how we can support more children to develop long-term supportive relationships. This includes increasing the number of parents looking to adopt, especially from varying racial backgrounds. We look forward to hearing further ideas in how we can support this goal.



Hon. Jill Dunlop
Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues