



**Bill C-220 will extend the length of Compassionate Care Leave beyond the death of a loved one. Canadians who take leave from their job to care for a sick loved one will receive up to three additional weeks of leave past their loved one's death to deal with practical necessities and allow more time to grieve.**

## WHY SUPPORT

Currently, Compassionate Care Leave **ends within days** of a loved one's death, not leaving caregivers enough time to make appropriate arrangements and notifications. Expanding the length of the program will allow Canadians using the program more time to deal with the practical necessities following a death, and also have more time to grieve and return to work in a better mental state.

## WHO IS IMPACTED

Full-time employees of federally-regulated workplaces are eligible to take up to 26 weeks of Compassionate Care Leave to care for an ill loved one with significant risk of death within this time. This is job-protected leave and the employees receive a portion of their pay through Employment Insurance (EI).

## HISTORY

Compassionate Care Leave was introduced in Canada in 2004. Originally, the leave allowed full-time employees of federally regulated workplaces to take six weeks off to care for a sick loved one. In April 2015, the government pledged to extend the length of the leave from six to 26 weeks. This expansion was implemented in January 2016.

## SUPPORTERS

- The Canadian Cancer Society
- The MS Society of Canada
- Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association
- Alberta Hospice Palliative Care Association
- ALS Society of Canada
- Heart and Stroke Foundation
- Parkinson Canada
- Caregivers Alberta

Sources:  
Library of Parliament. "Estimating the Cost of Extending Employment Insurance Compassionate Care Benefits to Include an Additional Three-Week Bereavement Period." January 17, 2020  
Canadian Association of Retired People (CARP). "Caregiving by the numbers." August 10, 2018.  
<https://www.carp.ca/2016/08/10/caregiving-by-the-numbers/>

# MATT JENEROUX

## MP For Edmonton Riverbend



"More and more Canadians are finding themselves in a caregiving role as our population ages. This bill is one way we can continue the journey to change the way compassionate care is looked at in this country."

- MP MATT JENEROUX



"Caregivers supporting a loved one with cancer must often grapple with the physical, emotional and financial strain of their caregiving responsibilities. With so many emotional and practical issues to manage in the wake of a loved one's passing, returning to work should not have to be one of them. We support MP Jeneroux's proposed extension to the Compassionate Care Leave so that caregivers can be afforded the time off work to navigate such an incredibly difficult time in their life, and hope to see support for this legislative change from all political parties."

- CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY

"The MS Society of Canada applauds MP Jeneroux's introduction of a Private Members' Bill that focuses on expanding Compassionate Care Leave for all Canadians. The MS Society has long advocated for greater flexibility within EI sickness benefit policy, as many programs in Canada are designed like a binary switch: either you can work or you cannot work, which does not sufficiently address the realities of caregivers during the bereavement period. Expanding the Compassionate Care Program will certainly benefit MS caregivers, and we encourage Parliamentarians to work together across party lines to ensure longterm support for caregivers and their families can become a reality."

- DR. PAMELA VALENTINE, PRESIDENT AND CEO,  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF CANADA