



HOUSE OF COMMONS
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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Poll confirms majority of Canadians support legislation that creates a new offence for criminals who knowingly injure or cause the death of a pregnant woman's preborn child: Wagantall

Ottawa, ON - Today, MP Cathay Wagantall (Yorkton-Melville) released the results of a national poll that shows the majority of Canadians support legislation that will create a separate offence when a violent criminal knowingly injures or causes the death of a preborn child while committing a crime against a pregnant woman.

According to the Nanos poll, a majority of Canadians are in favour of Cassie and Molly's Law, with nearly 70% of respondents saying that they support a law that would make it a separate crime to harm or cause the death of a preborn child while harming a pregnant woman. Support among women is even higher at nearly 75%.

"It is encouraging to see clear support for Cassie and Molly's Law," said Wagantall. "Ultimately a comprehensive strategy to end violence against women must include many targeted initiatives and legal reforms, including new penalties for those who target pregnant women."

In February, MP Wagantall introduced Cassie and Molly's Law. The bill was tabled in response to the 2014 murder of Cassie Kaake, who was only weeks away from giving birth to her daughter, Molly. This legislation will create a new offence that would apply when crimes committed against pregnant women result in the injury or death of their preborn child. The bill also codifies into law pregnancy as an aggravating factor for the purposes of sentencing.

"According to Statistics Canada, 63,000 pregnant women were victims of domestic violence between 2004 and 2009. Cassie and Molly's law will also send a clear message to criminals who use violence as a means to disrupt or end a woman's pregnancy."

Cassie and Molly's Law has been endorsed by the Native Women's Association of Canada and the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime.

This Nanos Research Poll was commissioned by Cathay Wagantall.

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