



MIKE COLLE, MPP
Eglinton-Lawrence

PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS AWARENESS, RESEARCH, AND CARE ACT, 2015

Given the number of pregnancy losses and infant deaths that occur each year, and the lack of a comprehensive province-wide program of support, counselling, and research into this area, MPP Mike Colle is introducing a private members' bill to help close the gap which exists in our current framework. It is imperative to have a coordinated approach across the province to help mothers and families deal with this loss.

If passed, this bill would require the Ministry of Health to undertake research on pregnancy loss or infant deaths in order to establish and expand counselling programs to assist mothers and families who experience pregnancy loss or infant death, as well as undertake a comprehensive wide-ranging research into the best practices available in risk reduction and causes of pregnancy loss and infant death.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness, Research, and Care Act, 2015

The Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness, Research, and Care Act would, if passed, amend the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care act to require the Minister to:

- Establish and expand comprehensive research initiatives and programs to assist mothers and families who experience pregnancy loss or infant death
- Undertake a comprehensive comparative analysis to understand the factors that contribute to an increased risk of pregnancy loss or infant death
- Develop and expand programs to help reduce the risk of pregnancy loss or infant death
- Develop and expand existing programs across Ontario to provide counselling and support to mothers and families who have experienced pregnancy loss or infant death
- Undertake a comprehensive analysis and survey of the best practices in other jurisdiction in regards to prevention of pregnancy loss or infant death

The bill would also proclaim October 15 as 'Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day' in Ontario and would provide for much needed recognition for mothers and families who have experienced pregnancy loss and infant deaths.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Network (PAIL)

MPP Mike Colle will be working collaboratively with the Pregnancy and Infant Loss Network (PAIL) on this important piece of legislation. PAIL Network was formed in 1992 and is a leader in the field of pregnancy loss and infant death care in Ontario. The PAIL Network provides a variety of unique support services that have been tailored specifically to meet the needs of grieving families. The organization has also developed and implemented education training seminars for health care professionals, caregivers, clergy, and funeral directors on how to provide the best support to families.

The non-profit organization has support groups throughout the province in Brampton, Hamilton, London, Peterborough, Toronto, Markham, Durham Peel, Newmarket, Barrie, Woodstock, Sarnia, Ottawa, and Renfrew County.

MPP Mike Colle will also be working with Dr. Kingdom, Physician, Mount Sinai Hospital & Chair of University of Toronto's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and renowned international expert and his colleagues in Ontario on this important piece of legislation.

Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death in Canada and Ontario

- A stillbirth is defined as a fetal death that occurs after 20 weeks of pregnancy
- A miscarriage is a fetal death prior to 20 weeks of pregnancy
- 1 in every 5 live births end in a loss
- Women who experienced pregnancy loss or infant death are often uncaptured by postnatal surveys and statistics
- In Northern Indigenous communities there is a higher incident of rate of pregnancy or infant loss

Supportive Quotes

“Maternity Care Providers, including high-risk maternal-fetal medicine specialists, welcome this piece of legislation by MPP Mike Colle to address the impact on women, and their extended families, from stillbirth and early infant death. These are common problems, affecting around 1 in 200 pregnancies, and are not declining despite universally accessible health care. Resources committed to research and improved clinical care will be widely appreciated by physicians, midwives and pregnant women.”

- **Dr. John Kingdom , Chair of University of Toronto's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology & Chair in Obstetrics & Gynaecology at Mount Sinai Hospital**

“It is time to end the silence and make it possible to help mothers and families deal with this traumatic loss that so many experience every year in this province.”

- **Mike Colle, MPP Eglinton-Lawrence**

“We believe this is a crucial first step in acknowledging the 37,000 families across Ontario that experience pregnancy and infant loss each year and desperately need our support. As Canada's leading organization for pregnancy and infant loss for more than 25 years, we see on a daily basis how families need greater support and resources, too often they suffer in silence. Healthcare providers frequently seek our expertise across the province and beyond to help them deliver the compassionate care to those suffering from the tragic and traumatic loss of a child. We look forward to

collaborating with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to share our knowledge and find solutions towards establishing standardized care across the province.”

- Michelle La Fontaine, Chair of the Board, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Network (PAIL)

“Having personally supported hundreds of families experiencing the loss of a baby and trained even more healthcare professionals on how to provide compassionate care, it is crucial that we make pregnancy and infant loss a priority healthcare issue. I believe this Bill is an important step to begin collaborating with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Together we can share our knowledge and clinical best practices towards establishing standardized care across the province.”

- Wendy Mouldsdaie, Paediatric Nurse Practitioner, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Education Chair for Pregnancy and Infant Loss Network (PAIL)

“The implementation of the Private Members Bill for Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness, Research and Care in Ontario, will significantly improve our knowledge in this area, will increase awareness, and will create standards of care for this very complex and vulnerable population. This is a very needed and overdue initiative which I wholeheartedly support.”

- Dr. Mathew Sermer, Chief of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Mount Sinai Hospital Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto

“More resources need to be allocated, province wide, to the investigation into the causes and evidence based treatment of pregnancy loss as well as placing infrastructure to support couples during their emotionally traumatic journey through one or more pregnancy losses.”

- Dr. Gareth Seaward, Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Toronto & Associate Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in Chief, Mount Sinai Hospital

“I believe that the strength of the proposed bill lies in its two-pronged approach: a commitment to preventative strategies and support for those who have experienced miscarriage or stillbirth.”

- Dr. Prakesh Shah, Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, Mount Sinai Hospital and University of Toronto

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