

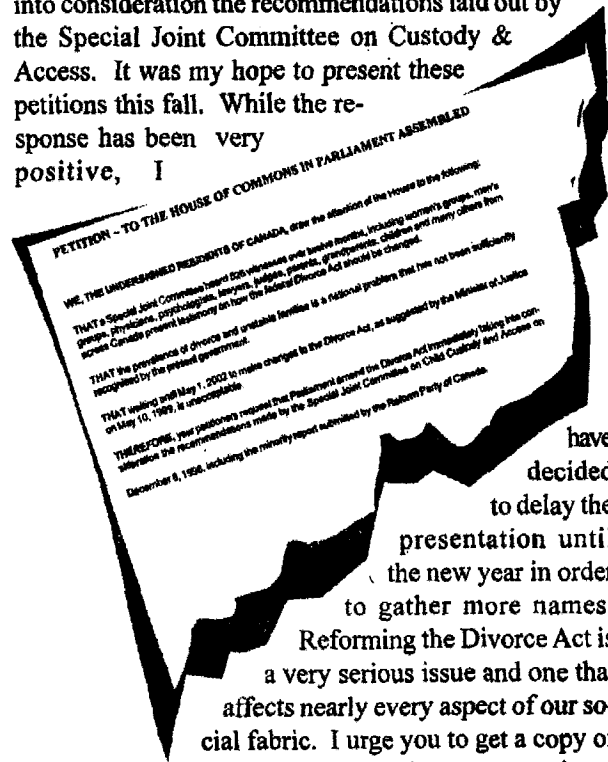
Child Custody Access



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Petition Update

Approximately a half year ago, I prepared a petition requesting Parliament to amend the Divorce Act and take into consideration the recommendations laid out by the Special Joint Committee on Custody & Access. It was my hope to present these petitions this fall. While the response has been very positive, I



have decided to delay the presentation until the new year in order to gather more names.

Reforming the Divorce Act is a very serious issue and one that affects nearly every aspect of our social fabric. I urge you to get a copy of this petition and gather as many signatures as possible. Many of you have been instrumental in gathering signatures, and for this you should be commended. However, there is still a great deal of work to do! To obtain a petition, you can choose one of three ways: 1) call my Constituency Office at (604) 666-5446; 2) call my Ottawa Office at (613) 947-4455; or 3) visit www.paulforseth.com and download a copy.

Constituency Office
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In November I spoke privately with Anne McLellan, here's what I asked.....
.....and here's what she said

When I sat with the Justice Minister recently, I asked her to explain to me the reference to Family Law that appeared in the recent Throne Speech, which is a statement of what the government plans for the next session.

She said that she eventually intends to change the Divorce Act, generally in-line with the published Minister's response to my committee's report "For the Sake of the Children". She said that she will be meeting with Provincial Ministers in December to see what they are willing to do. The Minister says that she will only move forward in concert with the Provinces.

What we will actually get, is lots more talk and Liberal-style consultation. Sadly, the Minister has no sense of urgency, and is not about to show national leadership to change the law to help children.

So how is it that Anne McLellan is so eager to move quickly in dealing with offences to animals, yet so slow in taking action on much needed family law reform? While offences against animals is a serious issue that should be raised, one must question the Minister's overall priorities.

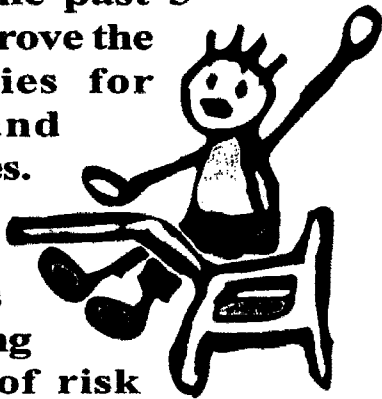
I doubt that there will be legal improvements to the Divorce Act before the next election.



However, I made a pledge to keep pushing for major change, and that's exactly what I intend to continue doing.

What's Wrong With This Statement?

“The Government of Canada has taken a consistent approach in its efforts over the past 5 years to improve the opportunities for children and their families. We have identified populations who are facing conditions of risk that adversely affect the developmental outcomes of children and are making substantial investments in local communities with early child development and support of families as the goals.”



This statement was made by federal Health Minister Allan Rock, Human Resources Development Minister Jane Stewart and Secretary of State Ethel Blondin-Andrew in a joint press release commemorating National Child Day on November 20, 1999 in Ottawa.

The Federal Government has done everything but improve the opportunities for children and families. Not only are high taxes hurting family life, the failure to amend an ineffective Divorce Act, places thousands of children in unnecessary distress.

Have you answered the question at the top of the page? The simple answer is that Liberals have once again missed the boat. However, one should take a closer look at the statement. First, the Liberals have not had consistent approaches to social policy. Second, opportunities for children and families have not improved over the past 5 years despite some piecemeal programs. Finally, for the child who is torn between a mother and father, the words provide nothing more than hollow political banter.

what's new...

- ◆ www.paulforseth.com
- ◆ Be sure and check out the “updated” CHILD CUSTODY SECTION
- ◆ Make my website your source for info on what the Federal Government is doing or not doing on Custody and Access
- ◆ If you know of any support groups, and or web sites devoted to divorce or the issue of custody and access, please let me know
- ◆ On-line petition now available. Download it and pass it on to as many people as possible. For more details, see next page

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