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## NEWS

# MP Michael Chong supports initiative to help families

Michael Chong, Member of Parliament for Wellington-Halton Hills, joined the Official Opposition this week in introducing the Supporting New Parents Act.

"Welcoming a new child into a family is an incredibly special moment for parents," said Chong.

"Canada's Conservatives understand the importance of supporting young families with children during those important early years."

Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Official Opposition, announced that Conservatives will offer tax relief to young families by introducing the Supporting New Parents Act, which was tabled in Parliament on Feb. 5, 2018.

Raising children is a big responsibility and Canada's Conservatives recognize the sacrifices parents make for their children, including taking a leave from work and losing almost a half of their regular income.

Currently, Canadians taking advantage of EI maternity and parental benefits still pay federal income tax on the money they receive.

The Supporting New Parents Act will create a federal non-refundable

income tax credit for any income earned under these programs.

"A Canadian earning \$50,000 per year would be eligible for a tax credit of around \$4,000 when going on EI for maternity or parental leave," said Chong.

"For any young family, this tax relief will make a big difference and help with the costs of raising a newborn. Canadian parents need our support, especially as the cost of living continues to rise for families."

The proposal must still go to a vote in the House.

## COMMUNITY

# Halton Hills issues discussed during United Way leadership event

The United Way of Halton and Hamilton held a Leadership Event at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club to talk about local issues affecting their communities.

United Way provides

crucial financial support to 25 different programs in Halton Hills.

Of those 25 programs, eight provide supports with the goal of helping children reach their full

potential.

The local organization said that 100 per cent of the donations in Halton Hills stay within the municipality and are invested in existing programs.

## SATURDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL

**Join Us! 8-9 PM \$2 EACH PLAYER**

**Teens and up Parents encouraged to play too!**

**Gymnasium located at 11643 Trafalgar Road Georgetown, ON L7G 4S4 (Halton Hills Christian School)**

**Please drive to the back of the school**

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# legal matters

Non-Custodial Parent Access

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Q

How does a court determine what is appropriate access for the non-custodial parent?

A

It is impossible in this space to list all the factors influencing access. Some Judges state that access is the right of a child and some Judges view access as a joint right of a parent and child. Regardless, standard access for an access parent is every other weekend and one evening every week. Adjustments from this standard are regularly made depending on the circumstances of the family. All courts normally accept that there should be regular and frequent access unless a parent has forfeited such right by misconduct or such contact poses a risk to the child. In future installments I will review some specific factors influencing court access orders.

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