

Bill #4
The Population Stabilization Act
Moved by: Minister of Government Services

WHEREAS children are costly in terms of money, but also in terms of opportunity costs, especially for women building or maintaining a career¹; and

WHEREAS Canada is too small a society to pay for needed investments in infrastructure and public services, and address the aging of our population²; and

WHEREAS based on current trends, immigration will account for 80% of our population growth in twenty years.³

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

Purpose

1. The purpose of this act is to
 - 1) Establish the **GROWTH** committee with the mandate laid out in Clause (3).
 - 2) Provide financial and logistical assistance to parents (or prospective parents) residing in Canada.
 - 3) Compile demographic data related to reproduction and population growth in Canada.
 - 4) Create a monthly statutory holiday for parents of young children, called Family Day.

GROWTH Committee Established

- 2 The Gaining Reproductive Outcomes With Temporary Help [**GROWTH**] committee is hereby established.

Mandate and Powers

- 3 The mandate of **GROWTH** is to provide assistance and incentives to parents and prospective parents in order to ensure the growth of the Canadian population at a stable replacement rate of 2.1.
- 4 **GROWTH** shall provide assistance in the form of:
 - (1) Monetary support,
 - (2) Partially subsidized housing,
 - (3) Prenatal and postnatal health care subsidies,
 - (4) Acquiring stable employment for prospective parents,
 - (5) Job security.

¹ REAL Women of Canada, “Canada Has a Population Problem,” November 20, 2017, <http://www.realwomenofcanada.ca/canada-population-problem>.

² Andrew Griffith, “Is Canada’s Population Too Small?” *Policy Options*, November 3, 2017, <http://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/november-2017/is-canadas-population-too-small>.

³ Sheryl Ubelacker, “Canada’s Fertility Rate Continues to Put Pressure on Immigration,” *The Star*, February 8, 2017, <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/02/08/canadas-fertility-rate-continues-to-put-pressure-on-immigration.html>.

Program Implementation

- 5 **GROWTH** assistance shall be implemented as follows:
- (1) All support under Clause (4) shall be provided based on the financial needs of each applicant family.
 - (2) Job security, as per (4.5), shall be ensured for parents
 - (a) Until the child reaches the age of 1.
 - (3) Monetary support, as per Clause (4.1), shall be provided for
 - (a) Childcare until the child reaches the age of 12.
 - (b) Education until the child reaches the age of 16.
 - (c) Healthcare until the child reaches the age of 18.
 - (4) In the case of divorce with equal joint custody, both parents are independently eligible to apply for support under Clause (4).
 - (a) In any other case of divorce or separation, only the primary caregiver is entitled to apply for support provided by **GROWTH**.

Oversight and Accountability

- 6 **GROWTH** shall maintain careful records and procedures to ensure accountability in its practices
- (1) All requests for support under Clause 4 must be filled out online and submitted to **GROWTH** annually by parents or prospective parents.
 - (2) Recipients of support under Clause 4 must submit proof of their use of the previous years' support to **GROWTH** annually.
 - (3) **GROWTH** will provide assistance to individuals who need help filling out the support forms in (6.1) and (6.2).
 - (4) **GROWTH** must process forms submitted under (6.1) and (6.2) within six weeks of submission.
 - (5) **GROWTH** may deny support to applicants only if
 - (a) They are deemed to not require assistance based on their application, or;
 - (b) They are deemed to have misused or abused **GROWTH** support in the past.

Demographical Data Report

- 7 **GROWTH** will collect Canadian demographical data and compile an annual report on population growth in Canadian provinces and territories.
- (1) All relevant demographic data will be documented in each report, including but not limited to the birth rate, mortality rate, conception rate, and immigration rate.
 - (2) This data will be used to determine the amount of resources that will be allocated to **GROWTH** in each province and territory.

Monthly Family Day Holiday

- 8 The second Thursday of every month will be a nationwide family day.
- (1) Parents with children under the age of 6 are entitled to paid leave for half of one workday to spend time with their family.
 - (2) Each parent may choose a maximum of six of the allocated family days per year.