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## **NEWBORN REGISTRATION SERVICE INITIATIVE LAUNCHED TODAY**

VANCOUVER – Effective April 2, 2007, British Columbia parents of newborns will be able to use a single application form to apply for both their child’s birth certificate and Social Insurance Number (SIN). The joint initiative was announced today by the Honourable Monte Solberg, Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and Minister responsible for Service Canada, and British Columbia Health Minister George Abbott.

“New parents have enough to think about when a baby arrives and don’t need the added pressure of having to fill out a lot of forms,” said Minister Solberg. “I’m pleased that Canada’s New Government has been able to collaborate with the government of British Columbia to streamline the birth certificate and SIN application process, which will provide assistance to families.”

This initiative builds on the measures Canada’s New Government has already introduced, including:

- the Working Families Tax Plan which provides parents with a Child Tax Benefit, as well as a strengthened Registered Education Savings Plan program;
- the Universal Childcare Benefit under which parents have been receiving cheques for their children aged six years or less since July 2006; and
- the Children’s Fitness Tax Credit – effective since Jan. 1, 2007 – to help with expenses related to students’ registration.

There are approximately 40,000 birth registrations in British Columbia each year. The Province requires the birth of every newborn to be registered with the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency within 30 days. With the Newborn Registration Service, after the birth registration is completed, the information will be sent to Service Canada, which is responsible for issuing SINs to Canadians. The child’s SIN card will be delivered within five business days at no cost.

“The Newborn Registration Service offers parents the convenience of applying for their child’s SIN with the federal government at the same time as registering their child’s birth with the province,” said Minister Abbott. “An important consideration in developing this new service was to ensure that parents’ and newborns’ information is protected.”

The British Columbia Information and Privacy Commissioner supports the new SIN application option. Adding the SIN application to the birth registration package complies with the provincial Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act and ensures the protection and security of all SIN information.

A SIN is required to access social benefits from the Government of Canada such as the Registered Education Savings Plan, Canada Learning Bond and Canada Education Savings Grant.

Children will also need a SIN when they eventually apply for a job and pay income tax. A birth certificate is required for many other federal and provincial services.

Service Canada is a service delivery network that brings a range of federal government services and benefits together to meet the needs of Canadians. Its goal is to provide easy access, personalized, one-stop service to more Canadians within their communities.

For more information on the Newborn Registration Service, parents can visit the BC Vital Statistics Agency website at [www.vs.gov.bc.ca](http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca) or the Service Canada website at [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca).

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