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From: donaldpwhite [REDACTED]
Sent: March 31, 2021 5:04 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Law Amendments Committee Submission ref: Bill 23 Adoptions Records Act

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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My name is Donald White and I send this e-mail as my submission to the Law Amendments Committee with reference to Bill 23 - The Adoption Records Act.

I have read the act as it was presented at second reading and have concerns as to how the act does not appear to address the concerns of children and other relatives of an adopted person.

Article 2 (Purpose of the Act) (a)(ii), (d)(iv), (z) refers to an adopted person. Nowhere can I find where any descendants of an adopted person may apply for information.

The results of the "What we heard report" clearly show that a high percentage of respondents were seeking medical history.

In the summary of the report it again stated that "History was repeatedly raised as an issue".

I site the following as an example: A young couple are about to start a family. One of their parents was adopted. No information is known concerning the medical history of the birth parents. The young couple have concerns over any possible health issues which could arise. This may affect their decision as to whether they want to have any children. I understand that the privacy of the birth parent(s) needs to be considered and honoured.

However; there is a means by which the medical information could be given without violating the privacy wishes of the birth parent.

The medical history could be passed on to the descendant applying for the medical history.

I understand that there are any number of reasons for this privacy. They could include, but not be limited to, fear of shame, financial, legal issues.

Supply the medical history with no mention of contact information or names of the birth parents.

The appeals section of the act does not include descendants as being able to access the appeal process.

I would also like to add that in many cases there is little information on the birth father in the adoption records as it was deemed that he had no rights in the matter.

This is supported by the above referenced report.

I respectfully request that you amend Bill 23 to allow descendants of adopted persons access to the medical history of the birth family.
submitted by:

Donald White, [REDACTED]