

**DARYL KRAMP, MP** Prince Edward-Hastings

**NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release  
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## **MP Kramp seconds Private Members Bill which would see end of favoured treatment for convicted criminals**

**Ottawa, ON** - Yesterday, Daryl Kramp, Member of Parliament for Prince Edward-Hastings seconded Cariboo-Prince George MP Dick Harris's Private Members Bill C-316, *An Act to amend the Employment Insurance Act*.

This enactment would repeal the provisions of the Employment Insurance Act that allows extended qualifying and benefit periods for convicted criminals because of confinement in a jail, penitentiary or other similar institutions.

At present to qualify for employment insurance benefits, a Canadian worker must have worked enough hours to qualify for benefits in the 52 weeks before their claim. The benefit period then lasts 52 weeks following the date of their claim. All benefits must be taken within this 52 week period. As it stands, convicted criminals can extend their qualifying period and benefits period by the time they were in prison up to 104 weeks.

Criminals who qualified for benefits before incarceration are allowed to extend their benefits by the number of weeks they were confined because they were unavailable for work during their confinement.

"Why should those who are incarcerated get better treatment than those people who are law-abiding", said Mr. Kramp. "Mr. Harris' Bill rectifies this injustice".

"This bill is about ensuring that convicted felons are forced to live by the same rules as law abiding citizens", said MP Harris.

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