

# Bill C-560

An Act to amend the Divorce Act (equal parenting) and to make consequential amendments to other Acts

A Private Member's Bill sponsored by Maurice Vellacott  
(Saskatoon—Wanuskewin)

This bill was introduced and given first reading on December 06, 2013 and defeated in second reading on May 28, 2014. The bill, complete text [Complete Text of Bill C-560](#) would have made changes in the Divorce Act, the Criminal Code, and Family Orders and Agreements Enforcement Assistance Act, to make Shared Parenting and Custody the default agreement in Divorce cases in Canada.

## *SUMMARY of the Act.*

*This enactment amends the Divorce Act to replace the concept of “custody orders” with that of “parenting orders”. It instructs judges, when making a parenting order, to apply the principle of equal parenting unless it is established that the best interests of the child would be substantially enhanced by allocating parental responsibility other than equally.*

In the lead up to the critical second reading, pressure was put on parliamentarians by the well-organized feminist lobby and the various Bar Associations to vote no to the bill. A useful and well written document titled [Myth versus Facts regarding Bill C-560](#) was produced and distributed to parliamentarians who appeared not to have bothered to read it.

Unfortunately for families, parents and children, Prime Minister Steven Harper chose to force his cabinet ministers to either vote against or abstain. Some, in cabinet chose to not vote against or abstain and simply didn't show up for the vote. Many of the Conservative caucus followed the lead of the Cabinet and voted in concert with the opposition NDP and Liberal parties who whipped their members into voting no with not one NDP or Liberal party MP choosing to buck party discipline. This caused the bill to be defeated by a vote of 174 Nay votes to 80 Yeas.

The bill had many merits and if it had passed would have reduced substantially the conflicts and costs of deciding custody for the majority of cases. Those who would have been hurt most by the passage were the lawyers who feast like vultures on the carcasses of a failed marriage.

This passage of this bill or one like it ought to be part of the Conservative platform or become part of the party policy at the next convention. Conveniently, this next convention is also a leadership convention with many candidates running for Party leader.

What is needed is for the grassroots of the party to now ask those leadership candidates ***“would you support Bill-560 if re-introduced either as a private members bill or would you take the initiative and make it part of the party platform?”***

The candidates that were in the previous government are listed below along with how they voted.

- Chris Alexander voted Nay
- Maxime Bernier Absent
- Steven Blaney voted Nay
- Michael Chong voted Yea
- Kellie Leitch voted Nay
- Pierre Lemieux voted Yea
- Deepak Obhrai voted Nay
- Kevin O’Leary not elected to a seat.
- Erin O’Toole voted Yea
- Rick Peterson not elected to a seat
- Lisa Raitt voted Nay
- Andrew Saxton Absent
- Andrew Scheer Speaker of the House
- Brad Trost voted Yea

Following below is a list of currently sitting Conservative MPs, who were in the house the day of the vote and how they voted. Some were Cabinet Ministers and therefore whipped into voting Nay, others voted their own conscience. The question conservative voters should ask those MPs who are still sitting as MPs is this, ***“If you had a free choice, would you support Bill-560 or it’s equivalent if your party forms the government in the next election?”***

The Yea votes are listed first, followed by the Nays. Cabinet Ministers at the time of the vote are in bold and highlighted in blue.

<b>Yea Votes on Bill C-560</b>	
Mr. Harold Albrecht (Kitchener—Conestoga)	Yea
Mr. Dean Allison (Niagara West—Glanbrook)	Yea
Mr. David Anderson (Cypress Hills—Grasslands)	Yea
Mr. Gordon Brown (Leeds—Grenville)	Yea

<b>Yea Votes on Bill C-560</b>	
Mr. Blaine Calkins (Wetaskiwin)	Yea
Mr. Colin Carrie (Oshawa)	Yea
Mr. Michael Chong (Wellington—Halton Hills)	Yea
Mr. Earl Dreeshen (Red Deer)	Yea
Mr. Ted Falk (Provencher)	Yea
Mr. Ben Lobb (Huron—Bruce)	Yea
Mr. Tom Lukiwski (Regina—Lumsden—Lake Centre)	Yea
Mr. Larry Miller (Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound)	Yea
Mr. Erin O'Toole (Durham)	Yea
Mr. Scott Reid (Lanark—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington)	Yea
Mr. Bev Shipley (Lambton—Kent—Middlesex)	Yea
Mr. Mark Strahl (Chilliwack—Fraser Canyon)	Yea
Mr. David Sweet (Ancaster—Dundas—Flamborough—Westdale)	Yea
Mr. Brad Trost (Saskatoon—Humboldt)	Yea
Mr. Dave Van Kesteren (Chatham-Kent—Essex)	Yea
Mr. Chris Warkentin (Peace River)	Yea
Mr. Bob Zimmer (Prince George—Peace River)	Yea

<b>Nay Votes on Bill C-560</b>	
Mr. Dan Albas (Okanagan—Coquihalla)	Nay
<b>Ms. Candice Bergen</b> (Portage—Lisgar)	Nay
Mr. James Bezan (Selkirk—Interlake)	Nay
<b>Mr. Steven Blaney</b> (Lévis—Bellechasse)	Nay
Mrs. Kelly Block (Saskatoon—Rosetown—Biggar)	Nay
<b>Mr. Ed Fast</b> (Abbotsford)	Nay
<b>Ms. Diane Finley</b> (Haldimand—Norfolk)	Nay
Mr. Jacques Gourde (Lotbinière—Chutes-de-la-Chaudière)	Nay
Mr. Guy Lauzon (Stormont—Dundas—South Glengarry)	Nay
Mr. Denis Lebel (Roberval—Lac-Saint-Jean)	Nay
<b>Ms. K. Kellie Leitch</b> (Simcoe—Grey)	Nay
Mr. Dave MacKenzie (Oxford)	Nay
Mr. Larry Maguire (Brandon—Souris)	Nay
Mrs. Cathy McLeod (Kamloops—Thompson—Cariboo)	Nay

<b>Nay Votes on Bill C-560</b>	
<b>Mr. Rob Nicholson</b> (Niagara Falls)	Nay
Mr. Deepak Obhrai (Calgary East)	Nay
<b>Mr. Pierre Poilievre</b> (Nepean—Carleton)	Nay
<b>Ms. Lisa Raitt</b> (Halton)	Nay
<b>Ms. Michelle Rempel</b> (Calgary Centre-North)	Nay
Mr. Blake Richards (Wild Rose)	Nay
<b>Mr. Gerry Ritz</b> (Battlefords—Lloydminster)	Nay
Mr. Robert Sopuck (Dauphin—Swan River—Marquette)	Nay
Mr. Kevin Sorenson (Crowfoot)	Nay
Mr. David Tilson (Dufferin—Caledon)	Nay
Mr. Bernard Trottier (Etobicoke—Lakeshore)	Nay
<b>Mr. Peter Van Loan</b> (York—Simcoe)	Nay
Mr. Mark Warawa (Langley)	Nay
<b>Mrs. Alice Wong</b> (Richmond)	Nay