



M.P. HALIFAX WEST

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House of Commons passes Purple Day bill

I am thrilled to report that my Private Members' Bill, Bill C-278, was passed unanimously in the House of Commons and is now making its way through the Senate.

Bill C-278 will officially declare March 26th Purple Day in Canada, and encourages all Canadians to wear purple on that day in support of epilepsy awareness.

Purple Day was founded in 2008 by Cassidy Megan, who lives in Halifax West and was only nine years old at the time. Cassidy's goal was to help people understand what epilepsy is and let other children with epilepsy know they aren't alone. Purple Day is now celebrated in more than 60 countries.

I have already heard from a number of people that having Bill C-278 debated in Parliament is helping to create more awareness about epilepsy. Epilepsy affects 300,000 Canadians

and over 50 million people worldwide. A deeper understanding of epilepsy will help educate people about what needs to be done during a seizure and will help



Aurore Therrien, Executive Director of Épilepsie Montréal Métropolitain, Geoff and medical student Sarah Ward discuss Bill C-278 at the House of Commons Health Committee.

First Aid for Seizures

1. Stay Calm
2. Stay with the person and move dangerous objects out of the way
3. DO NOT restrain the person or put anything in the person's mouth
4. Gently guide the person away from danger or block access to hazards
5. If the seizure lasts more than 5 minutes, call 911
6. After the seizure, talk reassuringly to the person



Geoff and Cassidy Megan at the Purple Day Gala

provide more security and support for people with this neurological disorder.

I would like to thank Cassidy, Deirdre Floyd, the Epilepsy Association of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Epilepsy Alliance for their countless hours of hard work promoting Purple Day. Their efforts have touched the lives of people with epilepsy all over the world. I am very proud to be part of the movement, and I look forward to seeing Bill C-278 become law very soon.

If you would like to learn more about epilepsy and Purple Day, please visit www.purpleday.org.