



**Honourable Deepak Obhrai, P.C.**  
Member of Parliament  
Calgary Forest Lawn

# Media Release

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Liberal Speech from the Throne missing key international development initiatives: Obhrai**

(Ottawa) - In a statement responding to the Liberal government's Speech from the Throne today, the Hon. Deepak Obhrai, International Development Critic for the Official Opposition, has noted the absence of two important initiatives that saves lives and empowers women and girls around the world.

"The Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) partnership is a development initiative that saves the lives of mothers, newborns and children. This was spearheaded by the Conservative government at the G-20 and had huge success. The Liberal government should continue to support this important initiative to improve the health and lives of millions of women and children.

"The other initiative without mention is providing support to ending early childhood and forced marriage (child brides) - a harmful practice that violates the very basic of human rights. It doesn't just disrupt the childrens' education, it deprives them from fully participating in a normal, healthy life.

"The absence of these initiatives from the Speech from the Throne points to a lack of leadership in addressing the plight of women and young girls around the world," Mr. Obhrai said.

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