

Joy Smith - Biography

Joy Smith holds a Bachelor's Degree (B.Ed.) and a Master's Degree (M.Ed.) in education and was a teacher for 23 years devoted to educating high school students in mathematics and science.

Mrs. Smith is also a best-selling author and a recipient of the Hedley Award for Excellence in Research. She was nominated as Manitoba's Woman Entrepreneur of the Year. She is also a wife and mother of six children.

Joy Smith served as Member of Parliament for Kildonan - St. Paul (2004-2015) and Member of the Manitoba Legislature (MLA) for Fort Garry (1999-2003) and served as critic for Justice, Education, and Intergovernmental (Urban) Affairs. She also led the Manitoba Task Force for Building Sustainable Communities.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING EFFORTS AS MP

Mrs. Smith is recognized as one of Canada's leading anti-human trafficking activists. Following her election in 2004, Mrs. Smith led the discussion on human trafficking at a national level which resulted in important changes in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. Her continued efforts to raise the issue of human trafficking on the Status of Women Committee resulted in an intensive study of the issue by the committee and the release of highly regarded report on human trafficking in 2007 called *Turning Outrage Into Action*.

One of her major achievements was the unanimous passing by the House of Commons in 2007 of her Private Members Motion M-153 on human trafficking which called on Parliament to condemn the trafficking of women and children across international borders for the purposes of sexual exploitation and to immediately adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat the trafficking of persons worldwide.

Mrs. Smith worked with federal Ministers on key legislation to further combat human trafficking and protect its victims

Mrs. Smith has also been acknowledged for securing federal funding to fight the trafficking of aboriginal women and children from First Nations communities from across Canada.

In September 2010, Mrs. Smith released a proposal for a National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking called *Connecting the Dots*. This proposal has been strongly endorsed by law enforcement, agencies and victims groups across Canada and adopted by the Conservative election platform in the recent election. It led to the development and launch of the federal government's 2012 National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

BILL C-268 - CHILD TRAFFICKING OFFENCE

In 2009, Joy Smith introduced Bill C-268, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (minimum sentence for offences involving trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen years)*. This Bill amended Section 279.01 of Canada's Criminal Code to create a new offence for child trafficking with a five year mandatory penalty.

Bill C-268 received broad support from stakeholders in the fight against human trafficking including law enforcement, victims' services, First Nations representatives, and religious and secular non-governmental organizations.

Joy Smith worked with her colleagues across party lines to gain support for this important legislation. On September 30, 2009, Bill C-268 received near unanimous support from Conservative, Liberal and NDP parties and was passed by the House of Commons.

On June 29, 2010, Bill C-268 was granted Royal Assent and became law. The successful passage of a Private Members Bill is rare and it was only the 15th time in the history of the Canada that a Private Members Bill amended the Criminal Code.

BILL C-310 - ENHANCING DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXTENDING EXTRATERRITORIALITY

On October 3, 2011, Joy Smith introduced Bill C-310, *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (trafficking in persons)*. Bill C-310 amends the Criminal Code of Canada to make two important changes regarding human trafficking. First, Bill C-310 adds the current trafficking in persons offences [s.279.01, s.279.011, s.279.02 & s.279.03] to the list of offences which, if committed outside Canada by a Canadian or permanent resident, could be prosecuted in Canada. The second amendment enhances the current definition of exploitation in the trafficking in persons offence [s.279.04 of the Criminal Code].

Bill C-310 was supported by law enforcement, NGOs, and victim service representatives. It also received unanimous support from all MPs and Senators.

On June 28, 2012, Bill C-310 received Royal Assent and became law. Joy Smith became the first Parliamentarian in Canadian history to pass two Private Members' Bill that amended the Criminal Code.

JOY SMITH FOUNDATION

In 2011, she founded the "Joy Smith Foundation", where she tirelessly volunteers her time combatting human trafficking, and fighting for the rights of women in Canada and around the globe. Joy Smith was moved to action by personally meeting victims of human trafficking, and coming to understand that traffickers prey on children from every demographic, community, and neighbourhood in Canada.

Sustained by her faith, she continues to work with victims, advocates and law enforcement through the Joy Smith Foundation by raising awareness and providing tangible support to organizations dedicated to ending human trafficking.

Joy Smith is known as a leading advocate against human trafficking worldwide, and a champion of women's rights. Over the years she has helped many young victims who have been exploited or trafficked by their abusers.

"Human Traffickers are empowered by public apathy and emboldened by despair. So let us shake off the shackles of indifference, and refuse to be complacent. Let us work together to bring an end to this injustice as we rescue the victims of Modern Day Slavery." – Joy Smith

MP JOY SMITH'S AWARDS

Order of Manitoba (2019)

Presented by the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba on July 18, 2019 to recognize Joy Smith's excellence and achievement in making a mark on the province of Manitoba and its people over the years.

Caritas Award (2019)

Presented by the Catholic Foundation of Manitoba on April 11, 2019 to recognize Joy Smith's outstanding contributions to the well-being of the citizens of Manitoba in support of Catholic values and causes, through her work to combat human trafficking in the province.

Soroptimist Women Helping Women Award (2017)

Presented by Soroptimist International of Winnipeg April 22, 2017 to recognize Joy Smith's significant contribution to improving the lives of women and girls.

Distinguished Christian Leadership Award (2017)

Presented by Providence College for Joy Smith's significant contributions to the work of Jesus Christ and His church.

Outstanding Citizen Award (2016)

Recognizing dedicated service within the community of the RM of East St. Paul.

Together We Can Award (2016)

Carlson Wagonlit Travel selected the Joy Smith Foundation as one of three recipients of this annual bursary award.

Winnipeg Police Force (2014)

Commendation award recognizing Joy Smith for her assistance with a specific human trafficking case that spanned four years.

Soroptimist International Club of Edmonton Joy Award (2013)

Presented to MP Joy Smith on March 8, 2013, on International Womens Day. Soroptimist Edmonton has set up the special Joy Award to honour an outstanding woman each year who has stepped up to the forefront in the war against trafficking of people.

Winnipeg YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Awards: Circle of Inspiration (2012)

Presented to MP Joy Smith, Dianna Bussey, and Diane Redsky on May 2, 2012 for their work to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation. These women of distinction have stood up to fight for women and children who are vulnerable and at risk.

UN Women Canada Recognition of Achievement Award (2011)

Presented to MP Joy Smith on October 3, 2011 by UN Women Canada, National Committee for her contributions to gender equality through her advocacy of anti-trafficking legislation.

Stand Firm Award & Ceremonial Shawl (2011)

Presented to MP Joy Smith on January 19, 2011 by First Nations Women's Council of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) for her 'outstanding leadership and commitment to combating the sexual exploitation of First Nations People.'

Ratanak Wilberforce Award (2010)

Presented to MP Joy Smith by Ratanak International Founder Brian McConaghy on December 2, 2010 for her dedication to ending the practice of the modern day slave trade. The Wilberforce Award is inspired by William Wilberforce, a British MP in the early 1800s, who sacrificed his personal and political life to end the Atlantic Slave Trade.

i Stand Award (2010)

Presented to MP Joy Smith by [FREE-them] on October 3, 2010 at the Toronto Stop Child Trafficking Walk for her ongoing efforts to combat human trafficking.

Glendene and Jessie Foster Award (2010)

Presented to MP Joy Smith by Walk With Me on April 15, 2010, for her relentless work to implement human trafficking related policy and legislation.

My Canada 2009 Hero Award (2009)

Presented to MP Joy Smith by MY Canada on November 16, 2009 for 'resisting the injustice of human trafficking in Canada and abroad.'

Victor Award (2008)

Presented to MP Joy Smith by the Temple Committee Against Human Trafficking on April 13, 2008. The Temple Committee presents the Victor award each year to a Canadian who has made significant contributions to combating human trafficking.