

HOW DO CHILDREN OF SURROGATES PERCEIVE THE BABY BORN OF THEIR MOTHER'S SURROGACY?

CONTEXT

Does the act of carrying a child inevitably create a **sense of kinship** between those involved in the project, i.e. the **partner** and the surrogate's **own children**?

The few studies carried out among this population show that these young people have different perceptions of their family ties.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

52% consider the baby born of the surrogacy as a member of their family.

The fact that the child carried by their mother is considered a member of the family is partly explained by the fact that it was carried by the same woman, but pregnancy alone is not enough to create family ties.

A **close relationship** must also exist between the two families, and special moments must be shared on a daily basis.

42% see surrogacy as an aid to procreation. They don't use kinship terms to describe their relationship with the baby and the intended parents.

METHODOLOGY

Our research team conducted interviews with **62 young participants** from 34 families, mainly in Quebec and in Ontario.

SHE'S LIKE MY LITTLE COUSIN!



“I think my relationship with her will be similar to the one I have with my little cousins. (...) Her fathers are like my uncles. I see them quite often and they come to our Christmas and Easter dinners.”

Myla, 18 years old

“This is the child my parents had for other parents.”

“They're friends of the family.”

Dylan, 11 years old

The closeness of the relationship between the two families influences the terms used by the children of surrogates to talk about the bonds that unite them. For example, if the child and her family have little or no contact with the family created by their mother, the surrogacy process is seen as a simple aid to procreation.

On the contrary, frequent, ongoing contact during pregnancy and after birth helps to position the baby and its parents as members of the family.

