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## Federal Politics

### Surrey Conservative MP defends his parliamentary expenses

By Crawford Kilian May 25, 2010 08:25 pm

As the controversy over MPs' expenses continues to grow, South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale Conservative MP Russ Hiebert has defended his expenses -- the highest in B.C. -- as necessary to keep his family together.

In the parliamentary [report on MPs' expenses](#) for 2007-2008, Hiebert shows travel expenses of \$8,178 out of his Member's Office Budget, with an additional \$163,258 in travel paid for out of Goods and Services Provided by the House.

In [2008-2009](#), Hiebert spent \$5,727 on travel from of his office budget, plus \$214,360 from the House.

According to a [CTV report](#), that put Hiebert over \$200,000 above the national average for MPs' expenses.

CTV quoted Hiebert as saying:

"Because my wife and I made a commitment to keep our family together, that means my wife and kids come with me when the house is in session."

[Hiebert's own website](#), on Tuesday evening, had nothing to say about the issue.

*Crawford Kilian is a contributing editor of The Tyee.*

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