
MNCHP NETWORK BULLETIN APRIL 24 / 09

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---- I. NEWS & VIEWS ----

ONTARIO

1. GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO PESTICIDE BAN IN EFFECT (also available in French)

The Government of Ontario (2009, April 22) announced that more than 250 pesticide products are banned for sale and more than 80 pesticide ingredients are banned for cosmetic use. Consumers will only be able to purchase pesticides for public health or safety reasons (e.g., fighting West Nile Virus, killing stinging insects, and controlling plants poisonous). Communities in Bloom will be organizing free seminars across the province to help Ontario gardeners learn how to care for their laws and gardens using greener alternatives.

News: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GONE/2009/04/22/c4073.html?lmatch=&lang= e.html>

French: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GONF/2009/04/22/c4072.html?lmatch=&lang= f.html>

Rules and exceptions: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/news/2009/030401mb.php>

French: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/fr/news/2009/030401mb.php>

Tips on caring for laws and gardens using greener alternatives: <http://additupontario.ca/en/index.php>

French: <http://www.additupontario.ca/fr/index.php>

2. ONTARIO APPOINTS NEW CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. Arlene King will be appointed as the new Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario effective June 15, 2009. Dr. King has worked for the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, served as a medical officer of health in Vancouver and Burnaby, B.C., and is currently director general of the Centre for Immunization and Respiratory Infectious Diseases at the Public Health Agency of Canada.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/toronto/story/2009/04/23/king-mooh.html>

3. FIRST NATIONS LEADERS SAY THEY WILL EVACUATE 700 CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HARMFUL FUMES

Grand Chief Stan Louttit explains that Attawapiskat First Nation near James Bay is preparing to airlift children out of the community this month even though it could cost millions of dollars. These preparations are being made over fears that harmful fuel fumes are making residents ill. Community members have reported headaches, nausea, nosebleeds, and other ailments since an abandoned elementary school was torn down in March. "Both levels of government refuse to help...We are left with no choice but to exhaust what little funds that community has to get the people out of the poisoned environment" (The Canadian Press, 2009, April 9).

http://www.medbroadcast.com/channel_health_news_details.asp?news_id=17707&rss=67&rid=999999&channel_id=1017&rot=3

4. ONTARIO DOCTORS URGE FAST-FOOD CHAINS AND SCHOOLS TO LIST CALORIES

A group of doctors in Ontario feel that menus at fast food restaurants and school cafeterias should be required to list how many calories are found in the foods (CBC News, 2009, April 7). Dr. Ken Arnold,

president of the Ontario Medical Association, explains: "We know that they do have that information available; they have it on their websites, they have it on brochures...We're simply asking that they would make that more readily available to consumers in the store, at the time of purchase". They are calling for: (1) restaurant leaders to label menus quickly and voluntarily; (2) the provincial government to enact legislation to require calories to be listed next to the price of items on menus and menu boards at large chain restaurants and school cafeterias across Ontario; and (3) An education campaign to inform people about the impact of calorie intake on weight gain and obesity.

<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/04/07/menus-calories-oma.html?ref=rss>

CANADA

5. LATEST PRODUCT RECALLS

(also available in French)

Note: Products that are recalled for containing lead or barium are in excess of the allowable level per the Canadian Hazardous Products Act (CHPA).

- Shape-O Maraca: Can break and release small parts, posing a choking hazard.
- Three Channels R/C Helicopter: Rechargeable lithium-ion battery inside the helicopter can ignite while charging, posing a fire hazard.
- CARS Fleece Clog Children's Shoes: Decorative wheels may separate from the shoe, posing a choking hazard.
- Spektrum DX6i Radio Transmitter: Poses impact and laceration hazards to consumers and a risk of property damage.
- Solar System and DNA Craft Kits: Green surface coating on the wire components in the craft kits contain lead.
- Expansion – Evenflo Majestic High Chair: Plastic caps and metal screws on both sides of the high chair can loosen and fall out, allowing the seat back to fall back or detach from the high chair unexpectedly. This poses both fall and choking hazards.
- Evenflo Envision High Chair: Recline fasteners and screws on either side of the high chair can loosen and fall out, posing both a fall and choking hazard.
- Bizou Necklace with Flower Pendant: Contains lead.
- Zebco Youth Fishing Reel: Paint on the fishing reel contains lead.
- Stretchin' Squid Yo-Yo Ball: Poses risk of strangulation.

English: http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/pr-rp/pr-rp_e.php

French: http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/pr-rp/pr-rp_f.php

6. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON RISE AS RECESSION WORSENS

Social service organizations are saying that there has been a significant spike in the number of Canadians seeking counselling for family violence since the recession began (The Canadian Press, 2009, April 15). Lisa Falkowsky, executive director of the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, explains: "In all of our programs where we're seeing new people come in, we're finding that they are talking more about the economic impact that has caused them to come forward".

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090415/domestic_abuse_090415/20090415

7. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TAKES STEPS TO MAKE CRIBS, CRADLES, AND BASSINETS SAFER

(also available in French)

The Government of Canada (2009, April 20) proposed regulatory changes to the Hazardous Products Act, which would, among other things: (1) include bassinets and specifications relating to their construction and performance, and require information, such as warning statements and assembly and use instructions; (2) eliminate toe-holds from cribs; (3) establish the same side-height and performance requirements for portable and standard cribs, thereby eliminating any distinction between portable and standard cribs; (4) require the inclusion of warning statements regarding blind cord proximity, moveable

sides and substituting parts;(5) clarify the definitions of various types of moveable sides; (6) align Canadian requirements with those of the United States concerning the safety of crib corner post extensions and cut-outs; and (7) require manufacturers or importers to maintain records relating to the sale, advertisement and testing of crib, cradle, and bassinet products for a period of at least three years.

English: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/_2009/2009_58-eng.php

French: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/_2009/2009_58-fra.php

Full text of proposed regulatory amendment: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2009/2009-04-11/html/reg3-eng.html>

French: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2009/2009-04-11/html/reg3-fra.html>

More information on crib safety: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/cons/cribs-lits_enfants-eng.php

French: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/cons/cribs-lits_enfants-fra.php

8. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ANNOUNCES NEW REGULATIONS FOR CORDED WINDOW COVERINGS

(also available in French)

The Government of Canada (2009, April 16) announced new safety regulations for corded “window coverings”, defined as “an interior window covering that incorporates a bead chain, cord, or any type of flexible looped device in its operation”. These new regulations are designed to reduce the strangulation hazard by limiting the use of flexible cord and bead chain loops.

English: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/_2009/2009_59-eng.php

French: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/_2009/2009_59-fra.php

INTERNATIONAL

9. CHILD ABUSE SPIKES AS U.S. ECONOMY FOUNDERS

This article (Szep, 2009, April 16) reports that there has been an increase in child abuse cases in the United States during the recession, which has overwhelmed child protection agencies. According to Allison Scobie, program director of the Child Protection Team at Boston's Children's Hospital: “Many of the hospitals around here report an increase of 20 to 30% of requests for consultation regarding suspected child maltreatment”.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE53F00Y20090416?feedType=RSS&feedName=healthNews>

10. TWENTY-FOUR HOUR NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING HELPLINE: AUSTRALIA

The Minister of Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, launched a national toll-free 24-hour helpline called “1-800-MUM-2-MUM” to provide support with breastfeeding information (Australian Government, 2009, April 20). The helpline is staffed by Australian Breastfeeding Association volunteers across the country. In addition to its investment to establish and run the helpline, the Australian Government is developing a National Maternity Services Plan and the first National Women's Health Policy since 1989.

<http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/content/internal/page.cfm?ObjID=C1F74714-052D-1440-A0DB48D533F14945>

----- II. RECENT REPORTS AND RESEARCH RESULTS -----

ONTARIO

11. THE WELLESLEY INSTITUTE'S SUBMISSION: A POVERTY-FREE ONTARIO NEEDS EFFECTIVE POVERTY REDUCTION LEGISLATION

The Wellesley Institute (2009, April 20) provided an oral submission to the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Social Policy on the province's draft anti-poverty law (Bill 152). It includes

recommendations for specific amendments, and suggestions for a provincial action plan to reduce inequities and inequalities, strengthen the third sector, and provide practical support for low-income Ontarians.

<http://wellesleyinstitute.com/files/Bill%20152%20-%20Submission%20to%20Ontario%20Legislature%20April%202020.pdf>

CANADA

12. INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S HEALTH REPORT: HEALTH ASSESSMENT IN ACTION

This report (Smylie & Adomako, 2009) focuses on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children's health status and assessment in Canada but there are also chapters about Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. The report can be used as a reference and advocacy tool. It includes information describing the health of Indigenous children and best practices on how health assessment information can be applied to improve the health of Indigenous children. Common health disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in all four countries include: (1) infant mortality rates that are 1.7 to 4 times higher than those of non-Indigenous infants; (2) higher rates of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; (3) higher rates of child injury, accidental death, and suicide; (4) higher rates of ear infections; (5) a disproportionate burden of respiratory tract illness and mortality; (6) a disproportionate burden of dental caries; and (7) increased exposure to environmental contaminants, including tobacco smoke. The authors note the roots of Indigenous child health disparities in colonization and document the differential access to healthcare, economic, and social resources, and provide successful strategies for change.

Report: http://www.stmichaelshospital.com/pdf/crich/ichr_report.pdf

News: <http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/03/31/native-infant-health.html>

13. PROPOSAL TO THE FEDERAL LABOUR STANDARDS REVIEW COMMISSION TO LEGISLATE PAID BREASTFEEDING BREAKS IN THE REVISED CANADIAN LABOUR CODE

The Breastfeeding Committee for Canada (2005, September 5) presented to the Federal Labour Standards Review Commission about the importance of legislated paid breastfeeding breaks. This proposal provides a good summary of evidence to support breastfeeding.

http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/labour/employment_standards/fls/submissions/formal_briefs/brief24/page02.shtml

INTERNATIONAL

14. MULTIPLE BIRTHS ARE A RISK FACTOR FOR POSTPARTUM MATERNAL DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS

This study (Choi, Bishai, Minkovitz, 2009) assessed the relationship between multiple births and maternal depressive symptoms measured 9 months after delivery using data derived from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Birth Cohort. A total of 19% of mothers of multiples had moderate to severe depressive symptoms nine months after delivery, compared to 16% among mothers of singletons. Only 27% of women who had moderate/severe depressive symptoms reported talking about emotional or psychological problems with a mental health specialist or a general medical provider within the 12 months before the interview. The authors concluded that mothers of multiples have 43% greater odds of having moderate to severe depressive symptoms nine months after giving birth compared with mothers of single-born children. Cynthia Minkovitz, M.D., MPP, senior author of the study and an associate professor with the Bloomberg School's Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health explains the implications: "Paediatric practices should make an additional effort to educate new and expecting parents of multiples regarding their increased risk for maternal postpartum depression. Furthermore, well-child visits are potentially valuable opportunities to provide education, screening, and referrals for postpartum depression among mothers of multiples; such efforts require linkages between paediatric and adult systems of care and adequate community mental health resources".

Abstract: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/123/4/1147>

News: <http://psychcentral.com/news/2009/03/31/depression-after-multiple-births/5058.html>

----- III. CURRENT INITIATIVES -----

15. GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO LAUNCHES ANNUAL SPRING SEATBELT CAMPAIGN (also available in French)

One of the key messages at the launch of this year's seatbelt campaign was that less than 35% of children between 4 and 8 years of age are properly secured in motor vehicles, which makes them four times more likely to suffer a head injury in a crash (Government of Ontario, 2009, April 15). The campaign runs until April 26, 2009 and includes a series of child safety seat inspection clinics, seatbelt blitzes, and other educational activities.

News: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOE/2009/04/15/c9899.html?lmatch=&lang= e.html>

French: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOF/2009/04/15/c9908.html?lmatch=&lang= f.html>

Information about choosing a car seat and installation tips:

www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/smartlove/index.shtml

French: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/french/safety/smartlove/index.shtml>

16. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIDWIFE: MAY 5

The aim of the International Day of the Midwife is to celebrate midwifery and to bring awareness of the importance of midwives' work to as many people as possible. The International Confederation of Midwives notes that midwife numbers must be expanded to achieve the Millennium Development Goals 4 (Reduce Child Mortality), 5 (Improve Maternal Health), and 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases).

<http://www.internationalmidwives.org/CongressesWorkshops/InternationalDayoftheMidwife/tabid/327/Default.aspx>

17. NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY: MAY 25 (also available in French)

National Missing Children's Day aims to remind all parents and guardians of the need for high-quality photographs of their children for use in case of an emergency, and for the need for everyone to pay close attention to the posters and photographs of missing children (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 2009).

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/NewsEventServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=1305

Poster: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/omc-ned/publications/poster-affiche-eng.htm>

French: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/omc-ned/publications/poster-affiche-fra.htm>

----- IV. UPCOMING EVENTS -----

This section lists events that have not been included in earlier editions of the MNCHP bulletin or listserv postings. For the details of these events and a complete list of events noted in previous MNCHP bulletins and postings, including contact information, links to organizations, and descriptions, see <http://www.beststart.org/events/otherevents.php>

ONLINE

18. DR. VINCENT FELITTI: ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACE STUDY)

May 4, 2009: Edmonton, AB and webcast

Hosted by: Alberta Children and Youth Services

<http://www.research4children.com/admin/contentx/default.cfm?PageId=8834>

Dr. Vincent Felitti: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE Study)

ONTARIO

19. INDIGENOUS FEMINIST ACTIVIST 'HERSTORY' FORUM

April 26, 2009: Toronto, ON

For more information contact Deb at (416) 597-1171 ext. 230

<http://www.beststart.org/events/otherevents.php>

20. SUMMIT: "OUR CHILDREN, THEIR FUTURE" (also available in French)

April 30-May 2, 2009: Hearst, ON

Hosted by: Hearst

English: <http://hearst.ca/portail/index.aspx?sect=0&module=5&module2=1&MenuID=1684&CPage=1>

French: <http://hearst.ca/portail/index.aspx?sect=0&module=5&module2=1&MenuID=1673&CPage=1>

21. PEDIATRIC NUTRITION DAYS

May 1-2, 2009: Hamilton, ON

Hosted by: McMaster Children's Hospital

<http://www.nutritiondays.ca/>

22. EATING IN A WEIGHT-OBSSESSED WORLD: HELPING YOUR CHILD HAVE A HEALTHY BODY IMAGE AND A HEALTHY WEIGHT

May 11, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: The National Eating Disorder Information Centre

Contact: 416-340-4156 or nedic@uhn.on.ca

<http://www.beststart.org/events/otherevents.php>

23. SKILLS FOR HEALTH PROMOTION: INTRODUCTORY-LEVEL WORKSHOP

June 1-2, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: The Health Communication Unit

<http://www.thcu.ca/workshops/registration.cfm>

24. IGNITING THE SPIRIT: AN EVENING CELEBRATING ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH

June 11, 2009: Ottawa, ON

Hosted by: Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health

http://www.wabano.com/evnt_ignitingthespirit.html

CANADA

25. THE 1ST NATIONAL OBESITY SUMMIT

May 7-10, 2009: Kananaskis, AB

Hosted by: The Canadian Obesity Network

<http://www.con-obesitysummit.ca/>

26. 2009 CHILD CARE SYMPOSIUM: EXPLORING INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN CHILD CARE

May 23, 2009: Edmonton, AB

Hosted by: Alberta Children and Youth Services

<http://www.research4children.com/admin/contentx/default.cfm?PageId=8790>

----- V. RESOURCES -----

27. LIST OF ONLINE RESOURCES TO HELP PROFESSIONALS, PARENTS, AND POLICY ADVISORS SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

The Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research (2008) has compiled a list of online resources for professionals, parents, and policy makers to help them support the development of preschool children.

<http://www.research4children.com/admin/contentx/default.cfm?PageId=8413>

28. HELPING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WHO ARE LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE

The Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research webpage (2009) highlights specific resources that relate to helping preschool children who are learning a second language and working with culturally diverse families.

<http://www.research4children.com/admin/contentx/default.cfm?PageId=8785>

29. THE ONLINE HEALTH PROGRAM PLANNER (OHPP) (also available in French)

The Health Communication Unit (THCU) and the National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (2009) released the Online Health Program Planner to help support evidence-informed planning. A range of planning support is also available including information and tools for: planning a program, creating a logic model, completing outcome objectives, creating a structured plan to collect situational assessment data, organizing situational assessment data, reflecting and reviewing critical planning decisions, and prioritizing a long list of possible activities.

English: <http://www.thcu.ca/ohpp/index.cfm>

French: <http://www.thcu.ca/ohpp/index.cfm?&language=fr>

30. SCHOOL INFORMATION FINDER FOR PARENTS IN ONTARIO (also available in French)

The School Information Finder is now available in the Ministry of Education website. It is designed to help parents and the general public learn more about all of Ontario's publicly funded schools. Parents can search for schools in a variety of ways, view school profiles (e.g., enrolment, student achievement, student population), and compare the data for up to three schools at a time.

School Information Finder: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sift/>

French: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/fre/sift/index.html>

News: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOE/2009/04/04/c7515.html?lmatch=&lang= e.html>

French: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOF/2009/04/04/c7517.html?lmatch=&lang= f.html>

To provide feedback about the website: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sift/sitesurvey.html>

French: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/fre/sift/sitesurvey.html>

----- VI. FEATURED BEST START RESOURCES -----

As noted in the "News and Views" section of the bulletin, there has reportedly been an increase in child abuse cases including Shaken Baby Syndrome in the United States during the recession. In Canada there have been reports of an increase in cases of domestic violence. The following resources may be helpful to service providers in providing information about Shaken Baby Syndrome including infant crying and comforting techniques and abuse and pregnancy.

31. SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME: HANDOUT (also available in French)

This resource, a collaborative project of the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Program, Toronto Public Health, and the Best Start Resource Centre (2008), provides information about infant crying and comforting techniques. It is available in English, French, and 17 other languages, for download only. The handout includes a text box to insert local contact information.

English: http://www.beststart.org/resources/hlthy_chld_dev/index.html

French: http://www.meilleurdepart.org/resources/develop_enfants/index.html

Other languages: http://www.beststart.org/resources/hlthy_chld_dev/index.html

32. YOU AND YOUR BABY DESERVE TO BE SAFE: BROCHURE
(also available in French)

This wallet sized fold-out brochure for women (2006) provides a self-assessment questionnaire and strategies (including contact information) for seeking and getting help.

English: <http://www.beststart.org/resources/anti-violence/index.html>

French: <http://www.meilleurdepart.org/resources/violence/index.html>