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## **MNCHP NETWORK BULLETIN JUNE 5 / 09**

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## **----- I. NEWS & VIEWS -----**

### **ONTARIO**

#### **1. COUPLE HELD BAKE SALES TO PAY FOR IN VITRO FERTILIZATION (IVF)**

This article covers the debate of full funding for IVF (Laidlaw, 2009, May 9). Some people argue that it is a personal choice that the rest of society should not have to pay for while others believe it is unethical to deny some women access to a medical procedure on the basis of ability to pay. Christine Overall, a feminist ethicist at Queen's university, warns that the right to be a mother needs to be separated from the right to IVF: "if women had a right to be mothers, men would have a corresponding right to be fathers. And that, she says, would allow men to demand that a woman become pregnant, throwing out decades of progress on contraception and abortion rights" (Laidlaw, 2009, May 9).

<http://www.parentcentral.ca/parent/article/629533>

### **CANADA**

#### **2. 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).

- PJammers Girls Night Shirt: Print on the night shirts does not meet flammability requirements for children's sleepwear.
- Norco Bicycle Frames: Bicycle frame can crack and separate, posing a risk of falling and injuries.
- 2009 Trek Bicycles: Bicycle's suspension fork can lose alignment with the handlebar, causing the front wheel to turn unexpectedly.
- 2008 Model Dahon Folding Bicycles: Hinge on the handle post can crack, posing a potential fall hazard.
- 2008 Cannondale Adventure Bicycles: Suspension fork can lose alignment with the handlebar, causing the front wheel to turn unexpectedly.
- Mood Ring: Contains lead.
- "What's Inside?" Soft Toy Boxes: Head of the pink and purple stuffed butterfly can detach from the body, posing a choking hazard.
- Toy Beach Chairs by Build-A-Bear Workshop: A child's fingers or skin can get caught between the folding legs of the chair, causing pinch and laceration hazards.
- Eddie Bauer Soothe and Sway Play Yard: The rocking bassinet can tilt, causing the infant to roll to one side. The infant can become wedged in a corner or pressed against the side of the bassinet, posing a risk of suffocation or asphyxiation.
- Under Armour Athletic Cups: The cups can break if hit, posing a risk of serious injury to users.

English: [http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/pr-rp/pr-rp\\_e.php](http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/pr-rp/pr-rp_e.php)

French: [http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/pr-rp/pr-rp\\_f.php](http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/pr-rp/pr-rp_f.php)

#### **3. CBC RADIO: THE BRAINS OF BABES**

These broadcasts provide information from research into brain development, human biology, and behaviour about how lifetime health and well-being are related to experiences in early childhood. Episode 1 features information about the phenomenon termed the “social gradient”, that the poorer and lower an individual is on any social hierarchy, the less healthy he/she is. Episode 2 provides an overview of how nature and nurture interact to shape humans in the early years. The final episode covers the United Nations’ Children’s Fund Unicef report documenting how well the richest 25 countries were doing in supporting early child development, with Canada tying Ireland for last place.

<http://www.cbc.ca/ideas/features/brains-of-babies/index.html>

#### 4. CBC RADIO: THE HURRIED INFANT

The first episode in this series provides an overview of the explosive growth of baby learning products (e.g., Baby Einstein, Brainy Baby, Jumpstart Baby, Baby Genius) and whether the studies behind these products are real or exaggerated. In the second episode psychologist Kathy Hirsh-Pasek and neuroscientist Maryanne Wolfe explore the re-invention of childhood. It highlights that time and exploration is important for children and that hurry is not what children do because they are active learners not passive learners.

<http://www.cbc.ca/ideas/features/hurried-infant/index.html>

#### 5. SUPPORT GROWS FOR PROPOSED N.B. ‘SAFE HAVEN’ LAW TO PROTECT NEWBORNS

The proposed “safe haven” bill for babies under 62 hours old would allow desperate mothers to leave their newborn at an emergency room without penalty. It is being well-received by some service providers who work with at-risk women and children but others highlight that something more should be in place for the women, who may have mental health or addiction issues.

<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/05/15/nb-safe-haven-law-557.html?ref=rss>

#### 6. TRANSPORT CANADA AGREES TO RELEASE RESULTS OF CHILD CAR SEAT TESTS

Transport Canada (CBC News, 2009, May 26) has agreed to release the results of six years of tests on child car seats after strong criticism for refusing to share the test results because they “can contain third-party information and ... there may be a potential for unfair material damage to the private sector without cause” (CBC News, 2009, May 26).

<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/05/26/child-car-seat-safety987.html>

#### 7. HEALTH CANADA WEIGHS FORTIFYING JUNK FOODS

This article (CBC News, 2009, May 13) reports that Health Canada may allow food manufacturers to add nutrients to a wider variety of foods including junk foods. Some health specialists are concerned such as Dr. Tom Ransom, an endocrinologist and obesity expert: “My concerns are people might be avoiding healthy foods because they think, ‘Now I don’t need my apple a day, I can have a chocolate bar a day’”.

<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/05/12/junk-food-fortify.html?ref=rss>

#### 8. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SUPPORTS RESEARCH TO CREATE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

(also available in French)

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Bloorview Children’s Hospital Foundation are providing \$3.9 million in funding over three years through *Bright Futures for Kids with Disabilities*, to support the following research projects: (1) Dr. Gillian King of the Bloorview Research Institute and her team will help create optimal environments for severely disabled children; (2) Dr. Patricia Minnes of Queen’s University and her team will help preschoolers with developmental disorders start school successfully; (3) Dr. Adrienne Perry of York University and her team will produce a national report card on the health and well-being of children with severe developmental disabilities and their families; (4) Dr.

Peter Rosenbaum of McMaster University and his team will improve our understanding of the challenges facing the parents of children with neurodevelopmental disorders; and (5) Dr. Roberta Woodgate of University of Manitoba and her team will help us better understand the experience of First Nations families of children with disabilities.

English: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?m=/index&nid=445569>

French: <http://nouvelles.gc.ca/web/article-fra.do?m=/index&nid=445569>

#### 9. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SUPPORTS IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AT THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN IN TORONTO (also available in French)

The Hospital for Sick Children received \$9.2 million in funding for an immigrant support network. This network will improve access to health-care services for immigrant newcomers and assist the staff at Sick Kids to better meet the needs of their patients. It will include the translation of core patient health education articles into the most commonly required languages at the hospital. These articles will also be made available online as audio files. Another component of the network is cultural awareness education for health-care professionals and a needs assessment to determine the nature and frequency of issues faced by immigrant children and their families.

English: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?m=/index&nid=445489>

French: <http://nouvelles.gc.ca/web/article-fra.do?m=/index&nid=445489>

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 10. PREGNANCY WEIGHT GAIN: NEW U.S. GUIDELINES

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) committee of doctors, nutrition experts, and public health researchers that advises the U.S. Government on health released updated guidelines for weight gain during pregnancy. The new guidelines highlights that women should aim to reach a healthy weight before they conceive and provides information about the risks of carrying excess pounds for mothers and for newborns. Health Canada's guidelines are under review and updated guidelines are planned to be released in the fall.

News: <http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/05/28/pregnancy-weight-gain.html?ref=rss>

Report summary: <http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3788/48191/68004.aspx>

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

#### CANADA

#### 11. BETTER BEGINNINGS, BETTER FUTURES: AN EFFECTIVE AND AFFORDABLE PREVENTION PROJECT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN (also available in French)

The Government of Ontario began the "Better Beginnings, Better Futures" project for young children ages 4 to 8 and their families in 1991. These families, who lived in 3 disadvantages neighbourhoods, were followed from the time the children were in Junior Kindergarten to see what the long-term effects would be for them of participating in an early childhood prevention project. This report (Roche, Petrunka, & Peters, 2008) highlights the research findings when the children are in grade 9. The results indicate that the grade 9 youth who had participated in the Better Beginnings project were: better prepared for school, less likely to repeat a grade, less likely to need special education services, and less anxious and hyperactive than the comparison group. The parents who participated in the Better Beginnings project had: more social support, higher marital satisfaction, better family functioning, and more neighbourhood satisfaction than parents in the comparison group. The report also includes an economic analysis and the results show that the Better Beginnings project saved the government \$938 per child by the time the children were in Grade 9, seven years after participating in programs.

English: <http://bbbf.queensu.ca/investinginourfuture.html>

French: <http://bonpas.queensu.ca/FrenchGrade9HighlightsReport.html>

## 12. NEIGHBOURHOOD SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND HOMICIDES AMONG CHILDREN IN URBAN CANADA

This study (Birken, Parkin, To, Wilkins, & Macarthur, 2009) aimed to determine the influence of neighbourhood income on homicides among children living in urban Canada. The researchers used census and death registration data of children under 15 years of age living in any of Canada's metropolitan areas in 1996, 1997, or 1998. Statistical analyses revealed that during the 3-year study period, there were 87 homicides among these children. Compared with children living in high-income areas of urban Canada, children living in low-income areas had significantly greater risks of homicide. Children under 5 years of age had the highest relative risk. The authors concluded that child homicide-prevention strategies should be focused on children under 5 years of age living in low-income areas. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/123/5/e815?rss=1>

### INTERNATIONAL

## 13. PSYCHOLOGICAL AND/OR EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTIONS FOR REDUCING ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN PREGNANT WOMEN AND WOMEN PLANNING PREGNANCY

This systematic review (Stade, Bailey, Dzendoletas, Sgro, Dowswell, & Bennett, 2009) aimed to determine the effectiveness of psychological and educational interventions to reduce alcohol consumption during pregnancy in pregnant women or women planning pregnancy. A total of four studies were reviewed. Based on the evidence from the limited number of studies, the authors (Stade et al., 2009) concluded that psychological and educational interventions may result in increased abstinence from alcohol and a reduction in alcohol consumption among pregnant women, but it is not clear what type of intervention would be most effective.

Abstract: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19370597>

## 14. CONTAMINANTS IN HUMAN MILK: WEIGHING THE RISKS AGAINST THE BENEFITS OF BREASTFEEDING

This article (Environmental Health Perspectives, 2008) provides an overview of human milk and the development of the immune system such as immunoprotective components, bioactive substances in human milk, and other benefits of breastfeeding. The metals in the environment that are a concern to the nursing infant and emergency feeding of infants are reviewed. The World Health Organization, the U.S. Surgeon General, and the American Academy of Pediatrics continue to recommend breastfeeding after having considered the problem of environmental contaminants in human milk. Walter Rogan, a clinical investigator in the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Epidemiology Branch explains: "After three decades of study, there is now fairly good evidence that little if any morbidity is occurring from the more common and well-studied chemical agents found in human milk." Rogan and other environmental scientists encourage women to continue the breastfeeding even in the context of widespread pollution because of human milk's nutritional, immunologic, anticancer, and detoxifying effects. Despite this, Jenny Pronczuk, a WHO medical officer working in the area of children's health and the environment notes that breastfeeding mothers should be advised on how to avoid alcohol and drugs and remove themselves from polluted environments, while also creating healthier, safer, and cleaner environments for themselves and their children.

<http://www.ehponline.org/members/2008/116-10/focus.html>

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

## 15. SAFE KIDS WEEK: MAY 25 TO MAY 31 (also available in French)

"Safe Kids Week" is part of a national project for Safe Kids Canada, which aims to prevent unintentional injuries to children and youth. The Safe Kids Canada website provides information about safety topics such as: riding in cars, drowning, home, off highway vehicles, pedestrian, playground, poisoning, product, rail, rural scalds and burns, wheeled activities, and winter safety. An educational resource for Safe Kids Week 2009 "Home Safe Home" can be downloaded.

English: <http://www.sickkids.ca/SKCFForPartners/section.asp?s=Safe+Kids+Week+2008&slD=22840>

French: <http://www.safekidscanada.ca/securijeunescanada/default.asp>

#### 16. NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY: JUNE 21

(also available in French)

On June 21<sup>st</sup> National Aboriginal Day events will be taking place across the country. Promotional products are available including a pamphlet, bookmark, poster, learning and activity guide, and more. A media kit, National Aboriginal Day history, and a list of events are also provided.

English: <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ach/ev/nad/index-eng.asp>

French: <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ach/ev/nad/index-fra.asp>

#### 17. PARENTS REACHING OUT GRANTS

(also available in French)

Applications can be submitted up until October 16, 2009 for "Parents Reaching Out" grants, which support local projects with a focus on parent involvement. Applications are also open for regional/provincial grants. They are available to parent organizations, school boards, non-profit organizations, volunteer-sector associations or postsecondary institutions working in partnership with parents.

2009-2010 school council grant: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/schools.html>

French: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/fre/parents/schools.html>

Regional/provincial grant: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/regional.html>

French: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/fre/parents/regional.html>

#### 18. DIGNITY FOR ALL – NEW CAMPAIGN FOR A POVERTY-FREE CANADA

Canada Without Poverty and Citizens for Public Justice just launched (2009, May 22) a new campaign for a poverty-free Canada. The initiative is seeking endorsements from organizations and individuals across the country. They are calling for a federal plan to eliminate poverty, a federal anti-poverty act, and increased federal investments in social security.

<http://dignityforall.ca/en/about-dignity-all>

#### 19. ADD YOUR VOICE: ENDORSE DECLARATION FOR HOMES FOR ALL ONTARIANS

As the Ontario government prepares to launch its province-wide housing consultation, the Housing Network of Ontario with partners across the province is asking people and organizations to sign onto their declaration: "We believe everyone in Ontario has the right to live poverty-free and with dignity in housing that is stable, adequate, equitably accessible, and affordable..."

Full declaration and endorsement: <http://stableandaffordable.com/content/our-declaration>

Information and resources for upcoming consultation: <http://stableandaffordable.com/>

### ----- 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>

## ONTARIO

### 20. "TOXIC TRESPASS" FILM SCREENINGS

June 19, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Women's Healthy Environments Network

<http://www.womenshealthyenvironments.ca/node/299>

## CANADA

### 21. INSTITUTE OF HEALTH ECONOMICS CONSENSUS DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE ON FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)

October 7-9, 2009: Edmonton, AB

Hosted by: Institute of Health Economics

<http://buksa.com/fasd/>

### 22. ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S HEALTH, OBSTETRIC, AND NEONATAL NURSES (AWHONN) CANADA 2009 NATIONAL CONFERENCE: OPEN SKIES. OPEN MINDS. OPEN HEARTS

(also available in French)

October 15-17, 2009: Winnipeg, MB

Hosted by: AWHONN Canada

English: [http://www.awhonncanada.org/en/awhonn/2009\\_National\\_Conference\\_p579.html](http://www.awhonncanada.org/en/awhonn/2009_National_Conference_p579.html)

French: [http://www.awhonncanada.org/fr/awhonn/Congrs\\_2009\\_national\\_de\\_lassociation\\_p579.html](http://www.awhonncanada.org/fr/awhonn/Congrs_2009_national_de_lassociation_p579.html)

### 23. FOURTH NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS WITH FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

April 14-17, 2010: Vancouver, BC

Hosted by: University of British Columbia Interprofessional Continuing Education

<http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Adults.html>

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

### 24. SPECIAL THEME BULLETIN OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION: CHILDHOOD INJURIES AND VIOLENCE

The May 2009 edition of the World Health Organization bulletin focuses on childhood injuries and violence. It includes recent news, research, policy and practice, a round table, public health classics, and links to books and electronic media.

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/5/en/index.html>

### 25. AN INTRODUCTION TO EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC HEALTH AND A COMPENDIUM OF CRITICAL APPRAISAL TOOLS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

(also available in French)

This background document (Ciliska, Thomas, & Buffett, 2008) provides a definition and summary of the concept of evidence-informed public health and presents some of the commonly used critical appraisal tools that provide basic guidelines and checklists for public health professionals to evaluate the quality of research when reading the literature. The compendium (Ciliska, Thomas, & Buffett, 2008) that accompanies the background paper directs users to some of the most current and usable tools.

Introduction: [http://www.nccmt.ca/pubs/2008\\_07\\_IntroEIPH\\_compendiumENG.pdf](http://www.nccmt.ca/pubs/2008_07_IntroEIPH_compendiumENG.pdf)

French: [http://www.nccmt.ca/pubs/2008\\_07\\_IntroEIPH\\_compendiumENG.pdf](http://www.nccmt.ca/pubs/2008_07_IntroEIPH_compendiumENG.pdf)

Compendium of tools: [http://www.nccmt.ca/pubs/2008\\_07\\_CompndiumToolENG.pdf](http://www.nccmt.ca/pubs/2008_07_CompndiumToolENG.pdf)

French: [http://www.nccmt.ca/pubs/2008\\_07\\_CompndiumToolFR.pdf](http://www.nccmt.ca/pubs/2008_07_CompndiumToolFR.pdf)

## 26. TRAUMA WEBSITE TO HELP NEWBORNS, CHILDREN, AND TEENS BE ACTIVE AND PLAY SAFE

The trauma specialists at the Montreal Children's Hospital of McGill University Health Centre launched a trauma website that provides parents and teenagers with information on injury prevention and trauma care. It includes an interactive house and quiz which highlights ways of avoiding typical injuries in and around the home sustained by infants and toddlers. There is also a section for health professions seeking information on the management of different types of trauma and research activities.

<http://www.thechildren.com/TRAUMA/>

## 27. COCHRANE LIBRARY: FREE ACCESS

All Canadians now have free access to the Cochrane Library, which contains high-quality, independent evidence to inform healthcare decision-making. It includes evidence from Cochrane and other systematic reviews, clinical trials, and more.

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/mrwhome/106568753/HOME>

## 28. INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITY REPORT (IUHPE) 2008

This report (IUHPE, 2008) summarizes the three-year work plans of the President, IUHPE Officers, and Headquarters Staff for the duration of the current Board of Trustees' term (2007-2010). It presents the structure and networks collaborating with the IUHPE, important highlights, action strategies, and developments and achievements for each area of work.

[http://www.iuhpe.org/uploaded/About%20us/Activity\\_reports/IUHPE\\_AR\\_08.pdf](http://www.iuhpe.org/uploaded/About%20us/Activity_reports/IUHPE_AR_08.pdf)

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

As noted in the "Recent Reports and Research Studies" section of the bulletin, the authors of a recent systematic review based on the evidence from a limited number of studies concluded that psychological and educational interventions may result in increased abstinence from alcohol, and a reduction in alcohol consumption among pregnant women. The following resources may be helpful to service providers in providing information to clients.

## 29. SUPPORTING CHANGE: PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING ALCOHOL USE IN PREGNANCY HANDBOOK (also available in French)

This guide was created by the Best Start Resource Centre in collaboration with Motherisk, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, City of Hamilton Social and Public Services, Health Canada Population and Public Health Branch, Ontario Region, Breaking the Cycle, FAS World, AWARE, Focus Resource Centre, Equay wuk, and concerned physicians (2005). It was designed as part of a training module to inform physicians about alcohol use and abuse in pregnancy and to support physicians in appropriate screening and assessment of their pregnant patients and provides tools and resources.

English: [http://www.beststart.org/resources/alc\\_reduction/index.html](http://www.beststart.org/resources/alc_reduction/index.html)

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

## 30. KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL ALCOHOL AND PREGNANCY COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN (also available in French)

This resource (Best Start Resource Centre, 2003) supports service providers in developing effective campaigns on the topic of alcohol use and pregnancy.

English: [http://www.beststart.org/resources/alc\\_reduction/index.html](http://www.beststart.org/resources/alc_reduction/index.html)

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

31. BE SAFE: HAVE AN ALCOHOL FREE PREGNANCY – BROCHURE  
(also available in French)

This colour brochure (Best Start Resource Centre, 2004) provides information and tips for expectant parents.

English: [http://www.beststart.org/resources/alc\\_reduction/index.html](http://www.beststart.org/resources/alc_reduction/index.html)

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