

# MNCHP Network Bulletin



*best start  
meilleur départ*

by/par health **nexus** santé

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## I. NEWS & VIEWS

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### CANADA

#### 1. 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).

- Stork Craft Drop-Side Cribs and Stork Craft Drop-Side Cribs with Fisher-Price Logo: Drop-side plastic hardware can break or deform. The drop-side can be installed upside-down, which can result in broken or disengaged plastic parts. All of these problems can cause the drop-side to detach in one or more corners. When the drop-side detaches, it creates space between the drop-side and the crib mattress. The bodies of infants and toddlers can become entrapped in the space which can lead to suffocation. Complete detachment of drop-sides can lead to falls from the crib.
- Roman Blinds by Vadain International: Loop of the inner cord on the backside of the roman blinds is too big, posing a risk of strangulation.
- Slice and Bake Cookie Set, Shape Sorting Cube, and Pound a Peg by Melissa & Doug: Surface paint on the toys contains barium.

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)

#### 2. CINDY BLACKSTOCK AWARDED ATKINSON FELLOWSHIP FOR HER ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES

Cindy Blackstock was awarded the Atkinson Foundation's Economic Justice Fellowship, which will provide \$100,000 annually for her advocacy on behalf of First Nations children and Communities (CNW Group, 2009, November 23). Cindy Blackstock is one of Canada's leading and most passionate spokespersons for the promotion and strengthening of First Nations cultures, knowledge, and rights. She explains: "With every generation comes an opportunity to create a better world. But First Nations children are debilitated by funding inequalities in education and child welfare. We can correct past mistakes by giving this generation a real opportunity to understand their place in the world differently and to succeed". According to Dr. Charles Pascal, Executive Director of the Atkinson Foundation: "...It's time to turn a page and commit to a better future for everyone".

### INTERNATIONAL

#### 3. MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS

Robbie Goodrich is a university professor in Marquette Michigan and his wife died hours after giving birth to their son. Mr. Goodrich made arrangements to get breast milk trucked in from a milk bank more than an eight-hour drive away. While he was waiting for the milk to arrive, he received a telephone call from a family friend who offered to breastfeed his baby. Mr. Goodrich wondered whether other women might be willing to help as well and the request quickly went out through doulas, midwives, breastfeeding support groups, and friends. By the next morning, his friends had begun organizing a breastfeeding schedule. Now Mr. Goodrich carries with him a list of two dozen telephone numbers of the women who take turns breastfeeding his son. Some of the women pump breast milk and drop it off at the door for night time feeds while others visit the house and hold his son. According to Mr. Goodrich: "Some people think this is just about food, I think there's so much more. It's the nurturing aspect".

<http://www.nationalpost.com/todays-paper/story.html?id=2292704>

## II. RECENT REPORTS AND RESEARCH RESULTS

### CANADA

#### 4. CHILD AND SPOUSAL SUPPORT: MAINTENANCE ENFORCEMENT SURVEY STATISTICS

(also available in French)

Maintenance Enforcement Programs (MEPs) exist in each province and territory. They were created to provide administrative support to payers and recipients of child and spousal support and to improve compliance with support payments (Statistics Canada, 2002). This report includes statistical information on the characteristics of cases that are registered with the MEPs. On March 31, 2009, about 400,000 cases, most involving children, were registered in MEPs in the eight provinces and two territories reporting data (174,927 for Ontario). Sixty-four percent of cases in Canada had money owing from earlier missed payments, an increase of 3% from the previous year. In March 2009, about two-thirds of cases with a regular payment owing in the month had an amount due between \$1 and \$400.

English: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-228-x/85-228-x2010000-eng.pdf>

French: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-228-x/85-228-x2010000-fra.pdf>

#### 5. ANNUAL REPORT CARD ON CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

(also available in French)

In response to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the unanimous House of Commons' all-party resolution to end child poverty in Canada, Campaign 2000 and seven of its partners released special national and provincial report cards in various cities. A total of 1 in 10 children in Canada still live in poverty. The report card indicates that lone mothers are still at high risk for poverty as well as children of immigrants, of 'Aboriginal identity', in radicalized families, and those with a disability (Campaign 2000, 2009). Strategies for addressing child poverty are provided. A "2009 Report Card on Child & Family Poverty in Ontario" was also developed. It provides an overview of the key commitments from Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy and progress as of November 2009. A 20 year retrospective analysis of the indicators of child and family poverty indicates that in 2007:

- 317,900 children and youth under age 18 (almost 1 in every 9) were living below the poverty line, when there was strong economic growth. Ontario's child and family poverty rate will have increased with the current recession.
- 34% of all poor children in Ontario lived in families where at least one parent was working the equivalent of a full time full year job, but unable to earn enough to escape poverty.
- The risk of poverty is four times higher for children in female lone parent families than for children in two parent families.
- Consistent with the national findings, children in Aboriginal, visible minority and immigrant families, as well as children with disabilities, experience poverty rates significantly higher than the average Ontario rate.
- The number of people who rely on social assistance rises during a recession and immediately afterwards. As people run out of EI benefits they are forced to deplete their savings before they can apply for assistance. Between August 2008 and August 2009, the number of people receiving social assistance (Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program) rose to 798,105, a 12% increase in one year. Almost half (47%) of people receiving Ontario Works last August were sole support parents and their children.
- The largest proportions of people served by food banks in Ontario are working people, children, and people with disabilities. The economic recession and rising prices for food and energy has led to increased reliance on Ontario food banks in the last year.

- Over the past 20 years the percentage of Ontario tenant households living in unaffordable housing (where they spend 30% or more of income on housing), has risen from 32% to 45%.
- The Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care reports that there are tens of thousands of children on child care waiting lists across the province for access to quality, regulated child care. The June 2009 report of the Special Advisor on Early Learning recommended a seamless system of early learning for children aged 0-12 that includes: full-day learning for 4 and 5 year olds; after-school and summer programs for school children; quality programs for younger children; and enhanced parental leave (as cited in Campaign 2000, 2009).

The next steps in poverty reduction for Ontario are provided including: good jobs at living wages, a strong social safety net, access to early learning and child care, affordable housing, education, and training.

<http://www.campaign2000.ca/?cfid=3562563&cftoken=71769082>

## 6. QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE CANADIAN IMMIGRANT LABOUR MARKET

(also available in French)

This series of reports (Statistics Canada, 2009, November 23) provides an overview of the Canadian labour market experiences of immigrants to Canada, based on data from the Labour Force Survey in 2008. The findings indicate that there were key differences in many indicators of quality of employment between immigrants and non-immigrants. For example, on average, immigrant wages were lower than non-immigrants. The average hourly wage of a Canadian-born employee in the core working-age group of 25 to 54 was \$23.72, \$2.23 an hour more than an immigrant worker. The widest earning gap at \$5.04 was for immigrants who had landed within the previous five years. There were also higher rates of involuntary part-time work, temporary employment, and over-qualification among immigrants. The share of immigrants who cited working part time involuntarily (38%) was higher than Canadian-born employees in 2008 (30%). Immigrants who landed within the previous five years who worked in temporary positions (16%) was nearly double that of Canadian-born employees. However, the share of those who landed more than 10 years earlier in temporary jobs (7.2%) was lower than that for Canadian-born employees. Of immigrant workers aged 25 to 54, 42% had a higher level of education for their job than what was normally required, compared to 28% of Canadian-born workers.

English: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/71-606-x/71-606-x2009001-eng.pdf>

French: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/71-606-x/71-606-x2009001-fra.pdf>

## INTERNATIONAL

### 7. WOMEN AND HEALTH: TODAY'S EVIDENCE TOMORROW'S AGENDA

The World Health Organization (2009) released a new report that reveals that societies continue to fail to meet the health care needs of women at key moments of their lives, particularly in their adolescent years and in older age. It includes the evidence available to date on women's specific needs and health challenges over their entire life-course and the latest global and regional figures on the health and leading causes of death in women from birth to older age. There are specific chapters about the "girl child" (e.g., infant and child deaths, sex differentials in health, abuse and maltreatment), "adolescent girls" (e.g., adolescent pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, poor diet and physical inactivity), "adult women during the reproductive years" (e.g., maternal health, women and HIV/AIDS), "adult women" (e.g., violence, risk factors for chronic disease), and "older women" (socioeconomic influences to health, managing disabilities). The report indicates that there are widespread inequities between:

- women and men (e.g., income and employment);
- high- and low-income countries (e.g., maternal mortality is 99% of the more than half a million maternal deaths that happen every year in developing countries); and
- within countries (e.g., girls and women living in wealthier households have lower levels of mortality and higher use of the health-care services than those living in the poorest households).

The report highlights that sexuality and reproduction are central to women's health and that chronic diseases, injuries, and mental ill-health are also important health challenges. In order to improve women's health, WHO (2009) calls for "a fair start for all girls" since many of the health problems faced by adult women have their origins in childhood and changing behaviour now brings major health benefits later. [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241563857\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241563857_eng.pdf)

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### **III. CURRENT INITIATIVES**

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#### **8. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: DECEMBER 3**

The 2009 theme focuses on the empowerment of persons with disabilities and their communities around the world. It aims to promote an understanding of disability issues, the rights of persons with disabilities and gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of the political, social, economic, and cultural life of their communities (United Nations enable, 2009).

#### **9. NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN CANADA: DECEMBER 6**

This day was established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada to mark the anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. YWCA Canada highlights that it is a day for Canadians to reflect and work towards ensuring the safety of women and girls in their communities. [http://www.ywacacanada.ca/docs/RoseButtons/RoseButtons\\_ENG.html](http://www.ywacacanada.ca/docs/RoseButtons/RoseButtons_ENG.html)

#### **10. HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2009 – EMBRACE DIVERSITY, END DISCRIMINATION: DECEMBER 10**

Human Rights Day 2010 focuses on non-discrimination: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". The realisation of all human rights is hampered by discrimination and often, when faced with prejudice and discrimination, political leaders, governments, and ordinary citizens are silent or complacent (United Nations, 2009). The Office of the High Commission for Human Rights urges everyone to celebrate Human Rights Day by advocating non-discrimination, organizing activities, raising awareness, and reaching out to your local communities on 10 December and throughout 2010. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/HumanRightsDay2009.aspx>

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### **IV. UPCOMING EVENTS**

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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**

#### **11. HOW TO EVALUATE AN ORGANIZATION'S SUCCESS**

December 10, 2009: Online  
Hosted by: Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition  
<http://www.ohcc-ccso.ca/en/webinars>

**12. SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

January 14, 2010: Online

Hosted by: Physical Activity Resource Centre

[https://event-](https://event-wizard.com/secured/EWV3.01/Forms/reg1.asp?ClientCode=opheaconf&Ecode=wtwparc2009&Lang=English)[wizard.com/secured/EWV3.01/Forms/reg1.asp?ClientCode=opheaconf&Ecode=wtwparc2009&Lang=English](https://event-wizard.com/secured/EWV3.01/Forms/reg1.asp?ClientCode=opheaconf&Ecode=wtwparc2009&Lang=English)**13. HOW TO RECRUIT, ORIENT, AND NURTURE A BOARD THAT CAN LEAD YOUR ORGANIZATION INTO A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE**

January 14, 2010: Online

Hosted by: Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition

<http://www.ohcc-ccso.ca/en/webinars>**ONTARIO****14. BULLYING IN THE WORKPLACE: INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP FOR HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS**

December 11, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Ontario Hospital Association

<http://www.oha.com/Education/Pages/CalendarofEventDetails.aspx?eventid=EP%20351>**15. SHADES OF POWER: WOMEN ONLY FUNDRAISER TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN OF COLOUR IN THE GTA**

January 10, 2010: Toronto, ON

Funds raised will support Across Boundaries

For tickets contact: Mya at [mya.vijendran@gmail.com](mailto:mya.vijendran@gmail.com)**16. SOCIAL MEDIA DEMYSTIFIED: BEST PRACTICES AND SETTING STRATEGY WITH CONFIDENCE**

January 21, 2010: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Ontario Hospital Association

<http://www.oha.com/Education/Pages/CalendarofEventDetails.aspx?eventid=EP%20353>**17. UNDERSTANDING AUTISM AND THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF THE CHILD AND THE FAMILY**

January 25, 2010: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Infant Mental Health Promotion, The Hospital for Sick Children

<http://www.sickkids.ca/IMP/professional-education/IMP-Workshops/index.html>

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**V. RESOURCES**

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**18. SACRED CHILDREN: ABORIGINAL PARENT EDUCATION RESOURCE KIT**

(also available in French)

This booklet was designed for parents, caregivers, or anyone looking for information on self-esteem, communication, nutrition, discipline, or bullying. It focuses on Aboriginal parenting with ideas being shared on traditional teachings from Elders, traditional advisors, families, and organizations within Aboriginal communities.

English:

[http://shop.preventioninstitute.sk.ca/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=375&osCsid=6e45633861a72ea82971fc24cf3f2c6c](http://shop.preventioninstitute.sk.ca/product_info.php?products_id=375&osCsid=6e45633861a72ea82971fc24cf3f2c6c)

French:

[http://shopfr.preventioninstitute.sk.ca/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=399&osCsid=ada4a911fb8e67a5a695613bca8449e9](http://shopfr.preventioninstitute.sk.ca/product_info.php?products_id=399&osCsid=ada4a911fb8e67a5a695613bca8449e9)

## 19. NEW CITIZENSHIP STUDY GUIDE TO HELP NEWCOMERS AND CANADIANS BETTER UNDERSTAND CANADA

(also available in French)

“Discover Canada: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship” includes information on common values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and the equality of men and women. The guide promotes a greater understanding of Canada’s history, values, symbols, and important Canadian institutions (e.g., Parliament, the Crown). The contribution of ethnic and cultural communities in shaping Canadian identity and the sacrifices made by Canada’s veterans are also highlighted.

Study Guide Discover Canada: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/discover/index.asp>

French: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/francais/ressources/publications/decouvrir/index.asp>

News: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?m=/index&nid=495509>

French: <http://nouvelles.gc.ca/web/article-fra.do?m=/index&nid=495509>

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## VI. FEATURED BEST START RESOURCES

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Citizenship and Immigration Canada (2009) released a guide to help newcomers better understand Canada. The following resource provides strategies for service providers to work in a culturally competent manner when offering reproductive health services.

### 20. GIVING BIRTH IN A NEW LAND: STRATEGIES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS WORKING WITH NEWCOMERS

This manual shares information about the beliefs and practices of newcomer women when accessing reproductive health services. It explains strategies for service providers to offer services in a culturally competent manner.

[http://www.beststart.org/resources/rep\\_health/Newcomer\\_%20Guide\\_Final.pdf](http://www.beststart.org/resources/rep_health/Newcomer_%20Guide_Final.pdf)

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### Click here to access Health Nexus’ other e-bulletins and listservs:

In English:

- **OHPE** - The free weekly Ontario Health Promotion E-mail bulletin (OHPE) offers a digest of news, events, jobs, feature articles on health promotion issues, resources, and much more, to those working in health promotion. <http://www.ohpe.ca/>
- **Click4HP** - An open, facilitated public listserv, is an international dialogue on health promotion. Participants exchange views on issues and ideas, provide leads to resources, and ask questions about health promotion. <https://listserv.yorku.ca/archives/click4hp.html>
- **Health Nexus Today** - Health Nexus Today is our Blog on health promotion. According to Google, "Blog is short for weblog - a journal or newsletter that is frequently updated and intended for the general public." Find the latest on health promotion including breaking news, highlights, studies, and issues in health promotion and the determinants of health in Canada and internationally. <http://www.blogs.opc.on.ca/>

## In French:

- **French distribution list** – The free distribution list offers information in French on maternal, newborn, and child health promotion topics. [http://www.meilleurdepart.org/index\\_fr.html](http://www.meilleurdepart.org/index_fr.html)
- **Le Bloc-Notes** – The biweekly French language bulletin provides information on health promotion. <http://leblocnotes.ca/>