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

ONTARIO

1. ONTARIO GOVERNMENT LINKING PATIENTS WITH FAMILY DOCTORS

The Ontario Government is announcing the implementation of a program to alleviate the pressure on hospital emergency rooms by linking patients with doctors and clinics closer to home (Canadian Press, 2009, February 12).

http://www.medbroadcast.com/channel_health_news_details.asp?news_id=17264&rss=67&rid=999999&channel_id=1002&rot=3

2. POOR ONTARIANS AT HIGHER RISK OF CHRONIC AND SEVERE HEALTH CONDITIONS

Chronic and severe health conditions hit poor Ontarians at rates that are far higher than those of average Ontarians, according to the study by the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto, the University of Toronto’s Social Assistance in the New Economy Project, and the Wellesley Institute. The study, entitled, “Sick and Tired: The Compromised Health of Social Assistance Recipients and the Working Poor in Ontario”, examined health and income data from across the province and found that people on social assistance had worse health on 38 of 39 indicators when compared with the non-poor. The study found that one in ten social assistance recipients considered suicide in the 12-month period preceding the study (Community Social Planning Council of Toronto website, 2009).

<http://socialplanningtoronto.org/uncategorized/sick-and-tired-report-released/>

3. EATRRIGHT ONTARIO – NEW HOURS

EatRight Ontario is now open two evenings per week (Tuesday and Thursday until 9:00 p.m.). Speak to a Registered Dietitian in Ontario, toll-free at 1-877-510-5102.

CANADA

4. LATEST PRODUCT RECALLS

(also available in French)

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

- Button-eyed stuffed toys by Old Navy (Canada) Inc.: Eyes can become detached, posing a choking hazard.
- Skull-And-Crossbones Necklace: Contains lead.
- Evenflo ExerSaucer Triple Fun Stationary Activity Centre: End cap can loosen and fall off posing a fall hazard.
- Critter Puff Yo-Yo Ball Toy: Poses strangulation risk.
- Spider Earrings: Contains lead.
- Playhouse Disney “Handy Manny” Tool Set Toy: Small parts pose choking hazard.

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

5. PRENATAL SUPPLEMENTS MAY BE MISSING TABLETS (also available in French)

Health Canada is informing expectant mothers and women who are planning pregnancy taking the product PregVit Folic 5 and/or PregVit distributed by Duchesnay Inc. to check the product's individual sealed packages. Reports related to incorrect packaging of some blister packs have been received by Health Canada; however no concerns have been raised regarding the tablets themselves (Health Canada, 2009, February 17).

English: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/_2009/2009_17-eng.php
French: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/_2009/2009_17-fra.php

6. PROMOTING NORMAL – THE NEW JOINT STATEMENT ON NORMAL CHILDBIRTH (also available in French)

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) (2009, January 28) has released a new policy statement on normal childbirth that is endorsed by the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses of Canada (AWHONN Canada), the Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM), the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), and the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC).

English: http://www.sogc.org/media/advisories-20090128_e.asp
French: http://www.sogc.org/media/advisories-20090128_f.asp

7. BREASTFEEDING CUTS BABY GIRLS' PNEUMONIA RISK

A study of babies in Buenos Aires, Argentina, conducted by Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee (2009), indicates that girl babies who are breastfed are least likely to contract pneumonia than boy babies.

News item:

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_80534.html

8. COUNTERFEIT TOOTHBRUSHES FOUND ON THE CANADIAN MARKET (also available in French)

Health Canada (February 16, 2009) is advising Canadian consumers and retailers to exercise caution when purchasing toothbrushes. Counterfeit toothbrushes falsely labelled as Colgate Massager, Colgate Navigator, Oral B Classic 40, Oral B Contura and Colgate 360 have been found on the Canadian market.

English: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/_2009/2009_16-eng.php
French: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/advisories-avis/_2009/2009_16-fra.php

9. SAFE WINTER FUN (also available in French)

Being active in winter is an important part of enjoying life for many Canadians. Winter sports and pastimes allow Canadians to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends, get involved with others in the community, and maintain our health. It is also important to be safe when enjoying winter sports. This website provides information about how to "slide" safely through winter. For more, visit:

English: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/securit/season-saison/winter-hiver/index-eng.php>
French: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/securit/season-saison/winter-hiver/index-fra.php>

10. SIMPLE TEST, COMPLEX QUESTIONS

Learning about the genetic health of an unborn child could soon be as simple as giving blood. A new prenatal test is slated to hit the market this summer that requires nothing more than a sample of a pregnant woman's blood for doctors to analyze the DNA of her developing fetus (Abraham, 2009, February 7).

News item:

http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090206.wbabies07/BNStory/National/?cid=al_gam_mostdiscuss

11. HONEY, EAT YOUR DIRT

This article (Ottawa Citizen, 2009) reports on a new book "Why Dirt is Good" by immunology expert Mary Ruebush. The book explains how recent research is proving Strachan's hypothesis: "A baby's immune system is like a computer that hasn't been programmed. It needs to practise responding to bacteria and viruses and other things found in dirt to learn what it should fight and what it should ignore".

News item: <http://www.canada.com/health/Honey+your+dirty/1261050/story.html>

12. CHILDHOOD PHOBIAS

This news item (ABC News Medical Unit, 2008, February 17) explores extreme childhood phobias, some which induce sickness and possibly death. It provides expert advice on how to recognize phobias and help the children facing them.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/AnxietyDisorders/story?id=6887215&page=1>

13. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SUPPORTS PROJECT TO IMPROVE LITERACY AND ESSENTIAL SKILLS OF NEWCOMERS TO CANADA

(also available in French)

Seven New Brunswick communities will be receiving literacy and essential skills training for different cultural groups.

English: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?m=%2Findex&nid=434249>

French: <http://nouvelles.gc.ca/web/article-fra.do?m=%2Findex&nid=434249>

14. VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

A report (2008, September) from the Ministry of Children and Family Development in British Columbia states the ministry is in a crisis situation and its budget is at a breaking point.

News items:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALegM5h5zyQtTd8xdyl2_b4VwgmhDIVfPw

<http://www.canada.com/Report+shows+child+welfare+system+crisis/1327158/story.html>

<http://www2.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/comment/story.html?id=36d76957-2964-4d59-b71b-51fea8b36d32>

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

CANADA

15. TRANS FAT MONITORING PROGRAM

(also available in French)

Health Canada has released (2009, February) its third set of data from the Trans Fat Monitoring Program. English:

Trans Fat main page:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/gras-trans-fats/index-eng.php>

Trans Fat Monitoring Program main page:

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/gras-trans-fats/tfa-age_tc-tm-eng.php

French:

Les gras trans :

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/gras-trans-fats/index-fra.php>

Programme de surveillance des gras trans :

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/gras-trans-fats/tfa-age_tc-tm-fra.php

INTERNATIONAL

16. EARLY C-SECTION LINKED TO COMPLICATIONS

New research indicates that nearly half of the problems experienced by babies delivered at 37 weeks could have been prevented by waiting (New England Journal of Medicine, January 8, 2009).

Abstract: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/360/2/111>

17. RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV) OFTEN MISDIAGNOSED IN CHILDREN LESS THAN AGE FIVE

A study (2009, February 5) in the New England Journal of Medicine reports that Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) can be misdiagnosed in young children.

Abstract: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/abstract/360/6/588>

News item: <http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/02/05/rsv-children.html>

18. NEONATAL DYSPHAGIA – INFANTS WITH SWALLOWING PROBLEMS CAN LEARN TO FEED ON THEIR OWN

This study (Sudarshan et al., 2009), published in the Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, presents a strategy on how infants with difficulty swallowing can learn to feed on their own.

<http://jpgn.org/pt/re/jpgn/abstract.00005176-200902000-00009.htm;jsessionid=JkBTGD8Zby1VbnFncyBQlfn2hKfGjvd8p9vhnJqQkzQSnPBXN7c0!-1429555639!181195629!8091!-1?index=1&database=ppvovft&results=1&count=10&searchid=2&nav=search>

19. TRACKING CERTAIN HORMONE LEVELS MAY HELP WITH POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

Researchers at the University of California, Irvine (Yim et al., 2009) studied 100 women and found that 12 of 16 participants with postpartum depression also had high levels of corticotrophin-releasing hormone, or CRH.

Abstract : <http://archpsyc.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/short/66/2/162>

News item: <http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/02/02/postpartum-depression-predict.html>

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

20. HEALTH COUNCIL OF CANADA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE (also available in French)

The Health Council of Canada (2009) has launched a website asking Canadians for their input on getting more value from the publicly-funded health care system. Upgrades to the site are underway, including a link on every page to allow people to switch between the French and English sites.

English: <http://www.canadavalueshealth.ca/>

French: <http://www.valeurdelasantecanada.ca/>

----- 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

21. FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE: CONNECTING THE DOTS ON SOUTH ASIANS AND STROKE

March 4, 2009: Mississauga, ON

Hosted by: Health Nexus and West GTA Stroke Network

<http://www.healthnexus.ca/events/stroke/index.html>

22. CREATING A WOMEN'S REVOLUTION: EVE ENSLER

March 5, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Women's College Hospital

Tickets: www.uoftix.ca

23. SUPPORTING SECURITY: FOSTERING ADAPTIVE ATTACHMENT RELATIONSHIPS FOR YOUNG BABIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

March 23, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Infant Mental Health Promotion

There is a fee associated with this workshop.

Information and registration: Donna Hill, imp.mail@sickkids.ca

24. FATHER INVOLVEMENT INITIATIVE-ONTARIO REGIONAL FATHER INVOLVEMENT WORKSHOP

March 23, 2009: Clinton, ON

Hosted by: Rural Response for Healthy Children

Information: Dorothy Beuermann, 519-482-8777, dbeuermann@rrhc.on.ca

25. ADVANCED MATERNAL AGE: PREGNANCY AFTER AGE 35

March 30, 2009: Ottawa, ON

Hosted by: Best Start Resource Centre

There is a fee associated with this workshop.

http://www.beststart.org/events/detail/ama_2009/maternalage.html

26. MARGINALIZED YOUTH AND CONTEMPORARY EDUCATIONAL CONTEXTS

May 13, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Community Health Systems Resource Group, Hospital for Sick Children

There is a fee associated with this workshop.

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?i=d8cf00e4-2c25-42c0-8cb9-50aa22b3bc89>

CANADA

27. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH AND FAIR

March 7, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Women's Healthy Environments Network

<http://www.womenshealthyenvironments.ca/node/281>

28. CANADIAN SYMPOSIUM FOR PARENTAL ALIENATION SYNDROME

March 27-29, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Canadian Symposium for Parental Alienation Syndrome

<http://www.cspas.ca/programs.shtml>

29. NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (CANNEXUS)

(also available in French)
April 6-8, 2009: Toronto, ON
Hosted by: The Counselling Foundation of Canada
English: <http://www.cannexus.ca/CX/?q=en>
French: <http://www.cannexus.ca/CX/?q=fr>

30. ATLANTIC SUMMER INSTITUTE ON HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

(also available in French)
June 3-5, 2009: Charlottetown, PEI
Hosted by: University of Prince Edward Island
English: <http://www.upei.ca/si/si2009/en/whats-new>
French: <http://www.upei.ca/si/si2009/fr/quoi-de-neuf-0>

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

31. MOVING AND GROWING

(also available in French)

Moving and Growing (Canadian Child Care Federation, 2009) is a series designed to help parents and caregivers and their children develop lifelong habits of physical activity. Each illustrated booklet outlines the benefits of physical activity, how to choose appropriate activities, how to encourage physical activity and children's development skills by age group. They are \$10 each or \$35 for a set of four. Price increases April 1, 2009.

https://ppg2.paypag.com/mastercard/Cart/product_details.php?mid=855019341071081038&product_id=448728191084454516

32. BREAKING THE CYCLE: ONTARIO'S POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

(also available in French)

This strategy presents a long-term poverty reduction plan that will focus first on giving children and their families the support they need to achieve their full potential (Government of Ontario, 2009). It presents strategies for healthy children and families, healthy communities and the role of the federal and provincial governments.

English: http://www.growingstronger.ca/english/pdf/Ontario%27s_Poverty_Report_EN.pdf
French: http://www.growingstronger.ca/french/pdf/Ontario%27s_Poverty_Report_FR.pdf

33. ALCOHOL USE DURING PREGNANCY: A DANGEROUS "COCKTAIL"

(also available in French)

The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development (CEECD, 2009) has produced a new information sheet to help parents and practitioners gain a better understanding of the effects of alcohol use during pregnancy.

English: http://www.child-encyclopedia.com/pages/PDF/FASD_ANGmcP.pdf
French: http://www.enfant-encyclopedie.com/pages/PDF/Alcoolisation_foetaleFRmcP.pdf

34. WOMEN AND WAIT TIMES

The Canadian Women's Health Network is offering free bulk copies of their new booklet "Women and Wait Times" (2009).

View online: <http://www.womenandhealthcarereform.ca/publications/WaitTimesEng.pdf>
Order copies: cwhn@cwhn.ca

35. THE LEARNING LINK

(also available in French)

The latest newsletter (2009, February 19) from the Canadian Council on Learning highlights Post-secondary education in Canada: "Why boys don't like to read; and gender differences".

English: <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/LearningLink/LearningLink20090218.htm?Language=EN>

French: <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Newsroom/LearningLink/LearningLink20090218.htm?Language=FR>

36. FASD DATABASES

(also available in French)

The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse provides this database of organizations, resources, trainers and training programs on FASD.

English: <http://www.ccsa.ca/eng/knowledgecentre/ourdatabases/fasd/pages/default.aspx>

French: <http://www.ccsa.ca/fra/knowledgecentre/ourdatabases/fasd/pages/default.aspx>

37. GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL FACILITATION

(also available in French)

Written specifically for the early learning and child care sector, this bilingual guide provides the tools needed to facilitate any workshop – with confidence (Canadian Child Care Federation), 2009). The guides are \$15 each. Price increases April 1, 2009.

https://ppq2.paypag.com/mastercard/Cart/product_details.php?mid=855019341071081038&product_id=584669561149788558

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

38. DRINKING ALCOHOL WHILE BREASTFEEDING – PHYSICIAN'S DESK REFERENCE

(also available in French)

Tool for health care providers to assess and inform pregnant patients about the risk of alcohol use in pregnancy and includes a table that illustrates the time clearance of alcohol from breast milk of women, according to mother's weight, amount of alcohol consumed and hours since consumption.

English: http://www.beststart.org/resources/alc_reduction/pdf/brstfd_alc_deskref_eng.pdf

French: http://www.meilleurdepart.org/resources/alcool/pdf/desk_reference_fre.pdf

39. ALCOHOL AND PREGNANCY WARNING SIGN

(also available in French)

Full colour poster, depicting a pregnant woman's torso embraced by a male from behind. The poster says "Warning: Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause birth defects and brain damage to your baby".

English: http://www.beststart.org/resources/alc_reduction/pdf/warnsign.eng.clr.pdf

French: <http://www.meilleurdepart.org/resources/alcool/pdf/avertissement.pdf>

Bilingual: <http://www.meilleurdepart.org/resources/alcool/pdf/static.pdf>