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

ONTARIO

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO GETS A "D" ON CHILD CARE REPORT CARD

At a news conference at Queen's Park on June 13, the Canadian Labour Congress gave the Government of Ontario a "D" on their "Child Care Report Card" in several categories: Affordability (reducing parent fees), Quality (raising staff wages), and Accessibility (adding public spaces). According to the news release of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care (2008, June 16), (1) Parents' fees cost \$35 to \$60 a day, which can amount to more than \$10,000 a year for child care; (2) Many new Early Childhood Education graduates are choosing not to enter the child care field in Ontario because of low wages, which are among the lowest in Canada; and (3) Over 50,000 children are on waiting lists for a subsidized child care space.

News release: <http://www.thestar.com/article/443438>

Report card: <http://canadianlabour.ca/updir/ontarioEn.pdf>

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO PASSES BAN ON SMOKING IN CARS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 16

Ontario is the latest province to ban adults from smoking in cars where children are present (Canadian Press, 2008, June 16). The bill was passed in the legislature with the support of all parties. Drivers and passengers who smoke in vehicles carrying children will be fined for each offence and police will be expected to enforce the law once it takes effect.

<http://www.thestar.com/News/Ontario/article/444120>

CANADA

LATEST PRODUCT RECALLS

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

- Leather Baby Slippers: Piece of leather can become detach, posing a choking hazard
- Camouflage Pyjama Sets: Screen print on the shirt contains lead
- Children's Animal Tracking Explorer Kit: White powder poses a risk of skin and eye irritation
- Mini Chef Complete Toy Kitchen: Pegs supporting the shelves can pull out, posing a choking hazard
- Wendy Bellissimo Hidden Hills Collection Cribs: Can pose an entrapment hazard
- Simmons Kids Crib Mattresses: Can pose an entrapment hazard
- 1-2-3 Count'n Fun Bath Toy: Small glued parts on the figures can detach, posing a choking hazard
- Shade-O-Matic 2-inch (approximately 5 cm) printed faux wood blinds (select styles): May pose a strangulation hazard
- Create N Adventure Wooden Play Sets: Hangers holding the chains for the gliders can break causing a child to fall and suffer severe injuries

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

PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER APOLOGIES FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

On June 11, Prime Minister Stephen Harper officially apologized to former students of residential schools. There were mixed reactions to the government's apology. Some felt that it came too late for former students who have died, while others said they hope the gesture will promote healing by encouraging those who have hidden their suffering for years to open up (cbc.ca, 2008, June 12). The website "Truth and Reconciliation: Stolen Children" (cbc.ca, 2008) provides information about residential schools including: an analysis, background, history, frequently asked questions about the Aboriginal Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the full text of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's address to parliament, and a timeline of Aboriginal education in Canada. The website also provides links to: reactions to the apology, "Healing Songs" Manitoba Residential School concert, "First Peoples" facts and figures, a primer on Canada's indigenous peoples, an interview with Justice LaForme, the Aboriginal Canadians Commissioners, feature videos and audio, and a Residential school survivor hotline (1-866-925-4419).

News release: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2008/06/12/north-reax.html>

Truth and Reconciliation: Stolen Children website: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/truth-reconciliation/>

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR THE CANADIAN PAEDIATRIC SURGICAL WAIT TIMES PROJECT – STAGE II

The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, announced (2008, June 12) an investment of \$9.8 million in a Canada-wide project aimed at ensuring more children requiring surgery will receive timely access to care. This project is based on the progress and partnerships established under the “National Paediatric Surgical Wait Times pilot project”. It will be coordinated by the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, with the support of the Paediatric Surgical Chiefs of Canada, and in partnership with the 16 Paediatric Academic Health Science Centres who participated in the original pilot. Stage II will enhance and expand the collection, analysis, and application of key wait times data, covering 10 surgical areas. A guideline will be implemented to ensure children who wait too long for cancer treatment have access to alternative care and this approach will be applied to one additional clinical area. The project aims to generate the kinds of knowledge and information that patients, their families, health care providers, and governments need to make informed decisions, with the goal of leading to improved access and reduced paediatric surgical wait times.

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2008/2008_91-eng.php

SCALES TIPPING IN FAVOUR OF NEW WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) GROWTH CHARTS

This article (Pearce, 2008, June 17) summarizes the experience of a parent who was devastated and embarrassed at a medical appointment when her son’s measurements did not match up with the majority of children according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) growth charts. Her son turned out to be a healthy and normal boy, a case example of the growing scrutiny of the CDC growth charts that are used for monitoring child development. This article reports that a number of Canadian public health organizations representing doctors, nurses, and dieticians are prepared to adopt the 2006 World Health Organization (WHO) international growth charts in place of the U.S.-based growth charts created by the CDC. The WHO charts recognize the normal growth patterns of breastfed babies, whose growth normally slows for a few months at around 6 months of age. According to paediatrician Ted Prince, “the new charts will also help to normalize the lean child and single out the overweight or obese child a little more”. The Canadian Paediatric Society nutrition and gastroenterology committee is one of the groups looking at updating measurement policy and the committee is expected to release the new policy by the end of the year. The lead of the committee, Valérie Marchand, a paediatric gastroenterologist at St. Justine's Hospital in Montreal, notes that “the WHO charts are excellent because they are based on how a child in the best condition should grow. Now that we are promoting breastfeeding, we really want to have a growth chart to reflect that to avoid misconceptions about growth and breastfed infants.”

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080617.wlgrowth17/BNStory/lifeMain/?page=rss&id=RTGAM.20080617.wlgrowth17>

INTERNATIONAL

MOST PARENTS/CAREGIVERS UNAWARE OF TOXICITY OF HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS

This article reports on the findings of a study presented at the 2008 Society for Academic Emergency Medicine’s annual meeting. The research team, led by Rika N. O’Malley, M.D. of the Albert Einstein Medical Centre, screened primary caregivers of children under the age of 6 who visited emergency departments, and asked participants to identify toxic items from a list of common household products. The results show that less than one-third of primary caregivers of young children could correctly estimate the toxicity of household poisons. The study also identified a number of factors that increased the likelihood of knowledge of household poisons, including: more education, responsibility for fewer children, and age greater than 23 years. The authors suggest that the research provides practical information

about poison prevention. O'Malley (2008) explains that "parental education needs to be focused more on younger caretakers with more children."

<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2008/05/30/caregiver-study.html?ref=rss>

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

ONTARIO

FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES REPORT

Ontario's French Language Services Commissioner, François Boileau, released (2008, June 17) his first annual report. The report made 3 recommendations to help the government build on their commitment to improve French-language services in Ontario, including: (1) Ensuring the definition of Francophones in Ontario reflects the diversity of this population; (2) Reviewing the role of the government's French-language services coordinators to ensure they are able to assist in the implementation of French-language services; and (3) Examining how to improve the delivery of French-language services provided by the government's transfer payment agencies.

<http://www.flsc.gov.on.ca/en/node>

ABORIGINAL APPROACHES: FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)

This report, prepared by the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendships Centres, was revised in January 2008. It provides information and inspiration about parenting children and youth with FASD in schools, community-based programming, prevention work, and alternative justice for alcohol affected offenders. Stories of birth and adoptive parents and a young man with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome are presented. A theme that highlighted throughout the report is that Aboriginal cultures and practices help with the development and day to day lives of community members living with FASD. This article demonstrates the unique way in which Aboriginal people promote wellness for everyone in the community. This report accompanies the tool kit "FASD Tool Kit for Aboriginal Families" (see resources section).

http://www.ofifc.org/ofifchome/page/Document/UP_FILE/2008041510570USV.pdf

RIGHT TO LEARN: ACCESS TO PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR NON-STATUS IMMIGRANTS

The Community Social Planning Council of Toronto (2008, June 11) released "The Right to Learn, the first Canadian study to document the barriers that non-status immigrant families face in accessing public education for their children. A total of 15 non-status parents and 2 non-status youth who tried to enrol their children or themselves in both the Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board were interviewed for the study. The findings indicate that participants identified several barriers to accessing Toronto schools: (1) enrolment denied on basis of immigration status, (2) documentation requirements, (3) lack of information regarding the right to education, and (4) fear of being reported to immigration officials by school administrators or being reported if their child was not enrolled in school. The Community Social Planning Council of Toronto (2008) provides recommendations directed at the provincial government, school boards, teachers' unions, and community organizations in order to eliminate enrolment barriers and create a safe, inclusive environment for non-status families in all Ontario schools.

<http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org/CSPC-T%20Reports/RightToLearn2.pdf>

CANADA

THE ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION ACT (AHRA) AND LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER (LGBTQ) COMMUNITIES

This report (Epstein, 2008) was submitted by the AHRA/LGBTQ Working Group, which is composed of Toronto-based service providers (physicians, nurses, fertility counsellors, midwives, community development workers, lawyers), researchers (university, institutional, community-based), and consumers

of reproductive technologies who are collectively connected to thousands of LGBTQ people who are planning families. Some fertility clinics estimate that as much as 30% or more of their clients are members of LGBTQ communities (Toronto-based fertility clinics, 2007). As a result, this group has followed with keen interest the development of the AHRA and see themselves, their clients, and the communities of which they are a part as key stakeholders in the implementation and enforcement of the Act. This report is a compilation of the Working Group's key concerns and recommendations in relation to the Act, including their input on the two areas for which regulations are currently being written.

<http://www.sherbourne.on.ca/PDFs/AHRA-LGBTQ-Paper.pdf>

NATIONAL CHILD BENEFIT (NCB) PROGRESS REPORT

Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers responsible for social services released the 8th report on the progress of the NCB (Government of Canada, 2008, June 13). The "National Child Benefit Progress Report: 2006" contains an analysis that compares the actual child benefits structure in 2004 to what it would have been without the NCB. The report shows that the NCB prevented 59,000 families with 125,000 children from living in low income in 2004, a 12.1% decrease in low-income families. The report also provides information on general socio-economic trends affecting families and children.

http://www.nationalchildbenefit.ca/ncb/Progress_Reports/2006/pdf/ncb_pamphlet_2006.pdf

STATISTICS CANADA'S GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY (GSS): 20TH ANNIVERSARY

To mark the 20th anniversary of Statistics Canada's GSS survey, which collects information on the social conditions of Canadians, a series of analytical fact sheets "Matter of Fact" will be produced to highlight important developments in Canadian society. Statistics Canada released (2008, June 12) the first fact sheet "Violent victimization in Canada", reporting on the extent and nature of self-reported criminal victimization, the impact and consequences of crime to the victim, the extent that victimization is reported to police, and the use of informal and formal victim services. The report compares the data from 2004 to data from 1999 and suggests that: (1) Violent victimization rates, (i.e., sexual assault, robbery and physical assault) remained stable; (2) Certain groups experience higher rates of violent victimization such as those that are young, single, going to school, unemployed, earning a low income, living in an urban area, and engaging in 30 or more evening activities a month. Men's rates of physical assault and robbery were higher than women's rates, while women's rates of sexual assault were higher than men's. Rates of victimization were higher among various sub-groups. For example, Aboriginal people experienced rates of violent victimization that were 3 times higher than the non-Aboriginal population and the odds of experiencing a violent victimization were nearly 2 times greater for gays and lesbians and 4.5 times greater for bisexuals; (3) Most violent incidents did not involve a weapon; (4) Police reporting rates remained stable; (5) Violent incidents were often linked to the offender's alcohol or drug use; and (6) Victims of violent incidents were most likely to turn to friends or neighbours for support. Future issues of "Matter of Fact" will provide information on health, time use, personal risk, education and work, social networks, family, social support, aging and retirement, and use of technology.

Press release: <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/080612/d080612f.htm>

Violent victimization in Canada report: <http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/89-630-XIE/89-630-XIE2008001.pdf>

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

[WWW.MYLANGUAGE.CA](http://www.mylanguage.ca)

This website is an initiative of the School of Early Childhood Education, Faculty of Community Services, at Ryerson University. The website provides research-based information to help parents, teachers, childcare workers, and service providers understand the personal, social, linguistic, and academic reasons for maintaining and protecting the many minority languages spoken in homes across Canada.

<http://www.mylanguage.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

ST.-JEAN BAPTISTE 2008

June 21, 2008: Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Hosted by: Centre Francophone - Sault Ste. Marie

<http://www.centrefrancophone.net/index.html>

COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF TORONTO'S MONTHLY RESEARCH AND POLICY FORUM - FEATURES REPORT AUTHORS OF "LOST IN THE SHUFFLE: THE IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS ON CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IN TORONTO" AND "THE RIGHT TO LEARN: ACCESS TO PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR NON-STATUS IMMIGRANTS"

June 23, 2008: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Community Social Planning Council of Toronto

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

FAMILY PRIDE TORONTO 2008

June 28-29, 2008: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: the Family Pride Committee, in collaboration with community partners, such as the LGBTQ Parenting Network (Sherbourne Health Centre, and the 519's Queer Parenting Programmes).

http://www.pridetoronto.com/Family_Pride.php

CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR THE STUDY OF INFANT DEATHS (CFSID) CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

August 11, 2008: Niagara Falls

Hosted by: CFSID

<http://www.sidscanada.org/>

READING BETWEEN THE LINES: HEALTH, SAFETY, AND LITERACY

August 19-22, 2008: Charlottetown, PEI

Hosted by: University of Prince Edward Island Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities

<http://www.upei.ca/si/si2008/en/2008-asihsc>

15th CANADIAN CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HEALTH - CHECKING IN: HEALTH FOR ALL OR HEALTH FOR SOME?

October 26-29, 2008: Ottawa, ON

<http://www.csih.org/en/ccih/index.asp>

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

FASD TOOL KIT FOR ABORIGINAL FAMILIES

This toolkit, prepared by the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, was revised in January 2008. The toolkit is a "user-friendly" resource designed to help front line workers working with children, youth, adults, and families affected by FASD. This toolkit accompanies the report "Aboriginal Approaches: FASD" (see recent reports and research studies section).

http://www.ofic.org/ofic/home/page/Document/UP_FILE/20080415105432ABM.pdf

YOUTH INFONET 46: YOUTH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV PREVENTION

The Interagency Youth Work Group released the "Youth InfoNet 46" newsletter, which focuses on youth reproductive health and HIV prevention. This issue features 12 program resources with web links and 9 journal article summaries on research from Brazil, Costa Rica, India, Libya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

<http://www.fhi.org/en/Youth/YouthNet/Publications/YouthInfoNet/46.htm>

TOOLS TO HELP PARENTS AND PRACTITIONERS WORK TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WELL-BEING

The Canadian Child Care Federation (CCCF) is developing a series of new resources to support partnerships between early learning and child care practitioners and parents in order to enhance young children's social development. These user-friendly accessible tools will address key elements of social development, including learning positive behaviour, building self-esteem, enhancing problem-solving skills, strengthening communication skills, and cultural identity. The CCCF has launched 3 new resources to date including: (1) "Building Partnerships with Families", which outlines ways that child care practitioners can strengthen their partnerships with families with the aim of supporting children's well-being; (2) "Families Building Partnerships with Practitioners", which describes ways that parents and other family members can strengthen their partnerships with child care practitioners in order to enhance their children's social well-being; and (3) "Supporting Children's Positive Behaviour: Practitioners and Families Together", which finds ways for practitioners and families to work together to support children in developing positive social behaviours, particularly when the behaviours are challenging. Four other resources will be released in the fall: "Building Partnerships to Support Language and Early Literacy Skills", "Partnerships to Support Cultural Identity", "Building Self-Esteem", and "Enhancing Problem-Solving (Resiliency) Skills". These resources are available in English and in French.

http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/home_en.html

THE MODERN MOM'S GUIDE TO DADS: TEN SECRETS YOUR HUSBAND WON'T TELL YOU

This book (Hilling & Rutherford, 2007) won the "All Ages Gold" award by the National Parenting Publications Awards for Parenting Resources (NAPPA). NAPPA showcases the best in books, CDs, baby gear, and innovative products that help make parenting easier and more fun. "The Modern Mom's Guide to Dads" draws on what the author Hogan Hilling has learned from working with fathers and mothers for more than 15 years. He explains to modern mothers what their husbands are really thinking about pregnancy, parenting, and marriage, and he teaches them how to get their husbands more involved with the children and get some relaxation for themselves while keeping peace in their marriages.

<http://www.cumberlandhouse.com/books/The-Modern-Mom-s-Guide-to-Dads-Ten-Secrets-Your-Husband-Won-t-Tell-You.html>

DVD TO HELP MIDWIVES SUPPORT MOTHERS WITH BREASTFEEDING, UK

Best Beginnings, the UK child health charity, the Department of Health, NHS Health Scotland, Welsh Assembly Government, and the health promotion agencies in Northern Ireland launched a new breastfeeding DVD at the Royal College of Midwives Annual Conference. The DVD, "From Bump to Breastfeeding", follows real mothers' stories and is designed to help midwives and health visitors support mothers to breastfeed. It gives positive breastfeeding information to women who are unsure about the decision to breastfeed and encourages those who are, to continue for longer. A panel of healthcare professionals and breastfeeding experts have advised on the content, which meets UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Standards. It has also been tested during development with focus groups of mothers, including teenage mothers and women from disadvantaged groups. The DVD has uniquely been funded by all four health departments across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, demonstrating the support for breastfeeding from health authorities nationwide, with additional support from the Tedworth Charitable Trust. All pregnant women across the UK will have access to the DVD and it will be the responsibility of individual NHS Trusts and Health Boards to distribute the DVDs in their area. It will be launched to the public in July 2008.

http://showhowfilm.org/dev/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=904&Itemid=37

FAMILY HEALTH INTERNATIONAL (FHI) CHART: COMPARING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FAMILY PLANNING METHODS

In order to make informed contraceptive choices, clients require an accurate understanding of pregnancy risks. As a result of an earlier USAID-supported study by FHI showing that a simplified counselling chart can improve women's understanding of contraceptive effectiveness better than more complex tools can, a panel composed of the World Health Organization, USAID, the INFO Project at JHU/CCP, EngenderHealth, FHI, and other experts drafted this simplified chart, which presents contraceptive methods on a continuum of effectiveness. The contraceptive effectiveness chart is available on the FHI website in English, French, and Spanish and also appears on the back of "The Global Handbook for Family Planning Providers", published in 2007 by the WHO, USAID and the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, and was used in the 19th edition of "Contraceptive Technology".

<http://www.fhi.org/en/RH/Pubs/servdelivery/index.htm>

PRIMER TO ACTION ON THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Health Nexus released an updated "Primer to Action: Social Determinants of Health". This resource is designed to help health and community workers, activists, and local residents understand how the social determinants of health impact chronic disease—and what can be done about it. This resource is set in an electronic, easy-to-read format, with hundreds of links and resources. Primer to Action provides a point of entry to understand and take action on 6 health determinants: Income, Employment, Housing, Food Security, Education, and Inclusion. It offers concrete suggestions for change in the community, the workplace, and the broader society.

<http://www.healthnexus.ca/projects/primer.pdf>