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

ONTARIO

1. LOCAL LAWYER DEMANDING WARNING LABELS ON LIQUOR BOTTLES

Doug Keshen, a lawyer in Kenora, Ontario, launched a \$1.8 billion class action lawsuit, demanding that warning labels with graphic imagery similar to cigarette packages be added to liquor bottles to warn of the dangers of drinking while pregnant (Thompson, 2009). Keshen explains: "Our position is that the government of Canada and the liquor control boards in the province have breached their duty to protect and sufficiently warn its citizens of the harms inherent in consuming alcohol during pregnancy. It is not sufficient to put warning posters in restaurants or LCBOs, it has to be on the bottle, it has to be graphic" (Thompson, 2009). Any settlement reached will be distributed to clients, many of whom have requested it be donated to FASD prevention, research, and family support programs. Groups named in the suit include Eagle Lake First Nation and the Ojibwe Nation of Saugeen with Pikangikum, Lac Seul, Grassy Narrows, Whitefish Bay, and Northwest Angle #33 playing a supportive role.

<http://www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1509894>

2. ONTARIO STEPS UP FOR CHILD CARE

(also available in French)

The Government of Ontario (2009, May 12) is investing an additional \$18 million in 2010-11 to support 8,500 child care spaces throughout the next school year and into the summer. The Federal Government provided a one-time payment of \$254 million to Ontario in 2006 after cancelling the federal-provincial child care agreements. The funding was used to sustain about 8,500 child care spaces over the last four years but the funding ends next year. This additional \$18 million in funding in 2010-11 from the Government of Ontario "will provide stability in the child care sector while the province continues to press the Federal Government to restore full funding for child care" (Government of Ontario, 2009, May 12).

English: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOE/2009/05/12/c3089.html?lmatch=&lang= e.html>

French: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOF/2009/05/12/c3091.html?lmatch=&lang= f.html>

3. ONTARIO'S NEW DRINKING AND DRIVING LAW

(also available in French)

The Government of Ontario toughened the impaired driving laws as of May 1, 2009. Individuals who are found with blood alcohol concentration from 0.05 to 0.08 while driving will: (1) have their driver's licence suspended for three days the first time they are caught; (2) have their driver's licence suspended for seven days and have to attend an alcohol education program the second time they are caught; and (3) have their driver's license suspended for 30 days, complete a remedial alcohol treatment program and have an ignition interlock condition placed on their driver's licence for six months. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) produced a new public service announcement, called *Tossing the Dice*, to help Ontarians understand the law and comply with it (see "Current Initiatives" section).

English: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOE/2009/04/30/c7167.html?lmatch=&lang= e.html>

French: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOF/2009/04/30/c7173.html?lmatch=&lang= f.html>

4. ONTARIO PASSES HISTORIC POVERTY REDUCTION ACT

(also available in French)

The Government of Ontario (2009, May 6) announced that the Poverty Reduction Act 2009 was passed on May 6, 2009 with unanimous consent from all political parties. This act will: (1) require successive governments to report annually on their initiatives to reduce poverty and on key indicators of opportunity such as income levels, education, health and housing; (2) require Ontario to develop a new strategy at least every five years; (3) mandate future governments to consult before developing these strategies, including consultation with those living in poverty; and (4) require future governments to set a specific poverty reduction target at least every five years.

English: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOE/2009/05/06/c9020.html?lmatch=&lang= e.html>

French: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GPOF/2009/05/06/c9026.html?lmatch=&lang= f.html>

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).

- Charm Bracelet: Contains lead.

- Abalone and Venetian Carnevale Necklace Craft Kits: Lobster clasps in both craft kits and the pendant contain lead.

- 3-in-1 Cribs by Dorel Distribution Canada (Expansion): Wooden crib slats can break, creating a gap that can pose entrapment and strangulation hazards.

- BabyGap Children's Coats with Toggles: Toggles may break and detach from the coats, posing a choking hazard.

- Blu Children's Sleepwear (Expansion): Do not meet the flammability requirements for children's sleepwear.

- Novelty Watch with Butterfly Charms: Charms on the watch contain lead.

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

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

6. MANY EXPECTANT MOMS IN NUNAVUT STRESSED, ABUSED: STATISTICS CANADA

This article (George, 2009, May 1) highlights some of the findings of Statistics Canada's Maternity Experiences Survey that focus on pregnant women in Nunavut. For example, more than half say they are stressed during the 12 months before giving birth, which is the highest rate in Canada. Dr. Geraldine Osborne, the assistant director of public health in Nunavut, was not surprised by the findings: "There are issues beyond our control, the social factors, the lack of employment, overcrowding, the stress and violence in homes. All these issues have a huge impact, and it's not an easy thing for health to deal with alone" (George, 2009, May 1).

http://www.nunatsiaq.com/archives/2009/905/90501/news/nunavut/90501_2129.html

Canadian Maternity Experiences Survey: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/rhs-ssg/survey-eng.php>

French: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/rhs-ssg/survey-fra.php>

7. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SUPPORTS TEACHING CANADIAN PHYSICIANS MORE ABOUT FIRST NATIONS, INUIT, AND MÉTIS HEALTH

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Federal Minister of Health, together with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and The Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada (Government of Canada, 2009, March 26) launched *Medical Educational Modules in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Health*. The four teaching modules in Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Psychiatry, and Family Medicine will be available to all faculties of medicine in postgraduate medical education programs and continuing medical education. Topics include residential schools history, social determinants of health, and an overview of the Government of Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

English: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2009/2009_51-eng.php

French: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2009/2009_51-fra.php

INTERNATIONAL

8. MATERNAL DEATHS DEEMED INEXCUSABLE, "AN OUTRAGE"

Sarah Brown, the wife of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, told the World Health Organisation's 193 member states at their annual congress that there is no excuse for the fact that pregnancy and childbirth continue to kill 529,000 women and leave 1 million children motherless worldwide every year. In a forceful speech, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, called it "an outrage" that countries have done so little to improve maternal survival rates.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/life/health/story.html?id=78514864-2aa4-44f1-898b-92de0dc56e41>

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

INTERNATIONAL

9. TARGETING NON-CONTEMPLATORS WITH PRECONCEPTION MESSAGES VIA YOU TUBE

At the 2007 National Summit on Preconception Health and Care in Oakland California, Janis Biermann presented a novel approach for promoting preconception health. March of Dimes learned from focus group testing that women who are not contemplating pregnancy do not want to talk about preconception health and health care. They are more interested in messages about their health, rather than messages framed as important for improving birth outcomes (Biermann, 2007). Most women indicated that they get health information first from their health care provider except for women 18-24 years who said they get their health information from colleagues, at college, or from the media. These women also knew less about folic acid than women older than 24 years. According to a YouTube user survey, 48% of the users are women, and the dominant age group for these women is 18-24 years. March of Dimes created four 2-minute videos on different aspects of preconception health, including folic acid consumption. The findings and implications for practice about preconception health promotion messages and the media for hard to reach were discussed.

Abstract p.126: <http://cdc.confex.com/cdc/pcs2007/techprogram/P13487.HTM>

10. EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH INTERVENTIONS COULD SAVE BILLIONS IN HEALTH COSTS LATER IN LIFE

Researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Guyer, Ma, Grason, Frick, Perry, Sharkey, & McIntosh, 2009) conducted a systematic review of early childhood interventions using multiple health databases. According to the lead author, the review found convincing evidence that "early life tobacco exposure, unintentional injury, obesity, and mental health constitute significant burdens on the health of preschool-age children and are antecedents of health problems across the life span...the estimated total lifetime societal cost could be about \$50,000 per child-which translates to \$65 to \$100 billion for the entire birth cohort of children" (ScienceDaily, 2009, May 18). The authors argue the findings justify investments in early childhood health promotion to avoid future health costs and improve overall health during the life span.

Summary: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/05/090515120747.htm>

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

11. DON'T SIT STILL TOUR

TVOKids and the Don't Sit Still Tour, presented by Eat Right Ontario with sponsorship in part by Egg Farmers of Ontario, are bringing their high-energy live stage show to cities across the province. For tour dates, see <http://www.tvokids.com/dss/>

12. TOSSING THE DICE

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has produced a new public service announcement, called *Tossing the Dice*, to help Ontarians understand Ontario's new drinking and driving law. The public television campaign message can be viewed on the MADD Canada's channel on YouTube. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnSYwxcW9_0

13. WILLIAM, WON'T YOU WASH YOUR HANDS?

At the Mary Honeywell Elementary School, Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq, the Canadian Institute of Child Health (CICH), and the Canadian Consumer Speciality Products Association (CCSPA) launched an awareness campaign that emphasizes that children must be taught how and when to wash their hands. The campaign chronicles the adventures of a rascally preschooler named William who is resistant to washing his hands. CICH developed a resource kit that provides valuable resources for early childhood educators, caregivers, and parents to teach children how and when to wash their hands. It includes: an illustrated storybook; two posters that can be hung in early learning centres (one on the steps involved in handwashing and the other reminds children when to wash their hands); two resource sheets for educators that include information on infection control; and a resource booklet that provides educators with an assortment of activities, songs, and games that all teach handwashing.

News release: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/May2009/13/c3472.html>

Resource kit: <http://www.cich.ca/PDFFiles/OrderForms/Order%20William%20English.pdf>

14. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND ONTARIO FUNDING TO RENEW RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN ONTARIO

(also available in French)

The new Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) program in Ontario and the Ontario Recreation program (Ontario REC) will provide funding for upgrades and repairs to local hockey rinks, swimming pools, and other recreational community sites throughout Ontario. Municipalities, First Nations governments, counties, community organizations, and other not-for-profit entities that have eligible projects that can be completed before March 31, 2011, are invited to submit their applications. Projects submitted before 5:00 p.m. EST on May 29, 2009, will be reviewed immediately with approved projects to be announced in June 2009. Projects that are submitted after May 29, 2009, will be assessed and those approved will be announced in a timely fashion on an ongoing basis.

English: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/708.nsf/eng/home>

French: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/708.nsf/fra/accueil>

15. HEART & STROKE SPARK TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY KIDS: SPARK COMMUNITY ADVOCACY FUND

Heart & Stroke (2009) created a Spark Community Advocacy Fund for community groups to use to promote and create sustainable physical activity and health eating opportunities in their own communities. The Fund awards up to \$25,000 with the goal of igniting and empowering change within Ontario's diverse communities.

http://www.heartandstroke.on.ca/site/c.pvI3leNWJwE/b.5109535/k.5199/Spark_Community_Advocacy_Fund.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>

ONTARIO

16. LANGUAGE AND READING COMPREHENSION FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

May 27-29, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto

<http://ocs.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/LARCIC/>

17. OUR SECTOR, OUR VISION: SHAPING A CROSS-SECTORAL STRATEGY

May 27-28, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Ontario NonProfit Network

<http://onn.eventbrite.com/>

18. INFANT MENTAL HEALTH ROUNDS: THE PARENTING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

June 2, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Sick Kids

Presentation by: Invest in Kids

<http://www.sickkids.ca/IMP/Education-and-Learning/Rounds/Upcoming%20Infant%20Mental%20Health%20Rounds/Upcoming-Infant-Mental-Health-Rounds.html>

19. AT THE INTERSECTION OF POVERTY & HEALTH: WHERE EVERY ONE MATTERS.

June 4-5, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: The Association of Ontario Health Centres

<http://www.aohc.org/conference>

20. REDUCING POVERTY IN ONTARIO: A PLACE-BASED APPROACH

June 10-12, 2009: Kitchener, ON

Hosted by: Tamarack

http://tamarackcommunity.ca/RP_index.html

21. NAVIGATING THE STORM: HARNESSING THE WINDS OF CHANGE

June 10-12, 2009: Kingston, ON

Hosted by: Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, The City of Kingston, and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

<http://www.omssa.com/evts/result.asp?track=vs&eventsess=3407>

22. SKILLS FOR HEALTH PROMOTION: INTRODUCTORY-LEVEL WORKSHOP (KINGSTON)

October 5-6, 2009: Kingston, ON

Hosted by: The Health Communication Unit

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

23. SKILLS FOR HEALTH PROMOTION: INTRODUCTORY-LEVEL WORKSHOP (LONDON)

December 2-3, 2009: London, ON

Hosted by: The Health Communication Unit

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

24. SKILLS FOR HEALTH PROMOTION: INTRODUCTORY-LEVEL WORKSHOP (CAMBRIDGE)

January 27-28, 2010: Cambridge, ON

Hosted by: The Health Communication Unit

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

CANADA

25. KNOWLEDGE FOR A CHANGE (also available in French)

July 7-9, 2009: Mont Ste-Anne, QC

Hosted by: National Collaborating Centres for Public Health

English: <http://si2009.ncchpp.ca/18/home.html>

French: <http://www.ae2009.ca/6/accueil.html>

INTERNATIONAL

26. HONORING THE CHILD, HONORING EQUITY 9: CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN RESEARCH, POLICY, AND PRACTICE

November 19-21, 2009: Australia

Hosted by: The centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood

<http://www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/ceiec/>

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

27. 4TH EDITION OF THE FUNDAMENTALS OF FETAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE – SELF LEARNING MANUAL

Bulk orders of the manual can be placed with the BC Perinatal Health Program.

<http://www.bcphp.ca/Fetal%20Health%20Surveillance.htm>

28. LISTENING TO BABY DVD (ATTACHMENT)

The Attachment Network of Manitoba (2009) developed a 14-minute video that provides an overview of attachment and emphasizes the importance of parents noticing babies' cues, interpreting them accurately, and responding sensitively. The DVD includes parents sharing their real-life experiences in connecting with their babies and a series of short vignettes to be used as a teaching tool. Each scene of the vignettes is followed by discussion questions and then re-played, but this time with a child's voice 'speaking' for the baby to give the viewer some insight into what the babies may be thinking during this interaction. The final part of the video features interviews with a doctor and a therapist who provide an introduction to attachment theory and a discussion of intervention approaches. Clips from a simulated session with a parent and toddler, using a therapeutic attachment intervention technique called Modified Interaction Guidance is also included. The DVD can be purchased for \$39.35.

Free preview or to order: <http://attachmentnetwork.ca./index.php?act=viewProd&productId=2>

29. DAY NURSERIES ACT FOR CHILD CARE SUPERVISORS OF ONTARIO

(also available in French)

This website (Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2009) is designed to support supervisors in Ontario's licensed, centre-based child care programs by helping them to better understand provincial licensing requirements. It is a tool which may be useful to supervisors, operators, early childhood educators, program staff, parents, and anyone who is interested in learning more about licensed child care. The website provides an interactive map of a child care facility. By clicking on a room on the map (e.g., kitchen, infant room, infant/toddler outdoor playground), the relevant Day Nurseries Act requirements are listed.

English: <http://childcarelearning.on.ca/>

French: <http://infogarderies.on.ca/>

30. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WELL-BEING RESOURCES

(also available in French)

The Canadian Child Care Federation is developing new resources to support partnerships between early learning and child care practitioners and parents in order to enhance young children's social development. The 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 supporting cultural identity.

English: http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/projects/practitioners-families-socialwellbeing_en.php

French: http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/projects/practitioners-families-socialwellbeing_fr.php

31. CANADIAN SUBSIDY DIRECTORY 2009 EDITION

The 2009 version of the Canadian Subsidy Directory is now available. It includes more than 3,500 direct and indirect financial subsidies, grants, and loans offered by government departments and agencies, foundations, associations, and organizations. The cost is \$69.95.

<http://www.grantscanada.org/canada-grants-news.htm>

----- VI. FEATURED BEST START RESOURCE -----

32. PRETERM LABOUR SIGNS & SYMPTOMS BROCHURE

This recently updated brochure includes critical information on how to recognize preterm labour signs and symptoms and when to seek help.

http://www.beststart.org/resources/rep_health/pdf/preterm_broch_eng_04.pdf