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

ONTARIO

1. NURSING YOUR BABY: NOT COOL IN THE POOL?

This article (Pearce, 2008, November 13) reports on an uproar in Newmarket over a woman who was asked to stop breastfeeding her baby in an indoor pool. The owner says she was concerned for the baby's health and the health of other swimmers. The mother who was breastfeeding is asking the Ontario Human Rights Commission to investigate whether her right to breastfeed was violated. Dr. Allison McGeer, director of infection control at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital, notes that there is no cause for concern for the breastfed child or the swimmers: "Breastfeeding in a pool doesn't increase children's exposure to bacteria, since they've presumably already been submerged in the water. You are counting on the chlorination of our public pools, there's no doubt about it. That's important...A little bit of breast milk getting into the pool is not an issue...I can see us not wanting to see it - it's not infectious. It has little bacterial growth in it". According to this article, experts are saying this case highlights a lingering difficulty with public breastfeeding.

<http://ago.mobile.globeandmail.com/generated/archive/RTGAM/html/20081113/wlbreastfeed13.html>

2. BETTER DENTAL CARE PROMISED FOR KIDS NEXT YEAR

Health Minister David Caplan (Talaga, 2008, November 19) said that Ontario's underprivileged children should receive better access to dental care in 2009. The Ontario Dental Association (ODA) has been pressing the government to improve the "Children in Need of Treatment" program for 10 years, which they say only addresses catastrophic dental needs for children when the damage is already done. Caplan told reporters that the government is aware of the program's limitations: "Although I haven't read the report (from the ODA) ... I do understand they make the case it is not just treatment but prevention that does need to be taken into account and we certainly agree. We do want to extend treatment and support for prevention". This article reports that the Liberal government's anti-poverty strategy, to be released in December, will include a \$135 million dental package. See #9 of the "Recent Reports and Research Studies" section of this bulletin for information about the ODA (2008) report.

<http://www.parentcentral.ca/parent/article/539477>

3. GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO ASKS ONTARIANS TO COMMENT ON PESTICIDE BAN DETAILS (also available in French)

The Government of Ontario (2008, November 7) is requesting that Ontarians comment on the specifics of the cosmetic pesticides ban including: (1) the proposed lists of pesticides (products and ingredients) banned for use and banned or restricted for sale, (2) the rules for pesticide use on golf courses, and (3) the exceptions to the ban for public health or safety reasons. This news release also provides links to the draft regulation. Comments must be submitted by December 22, 2008.

<http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GONE/2008/11/07/c6554.html?lmatch=&lang=e.html>

French: <http://ogov.newswire.ca/ontario/GONF/2008/11/07/c6544.html?lmatch=&lang=f.html>

4. GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON ISSUES FACING TORONTO'S FIRST NATIONS, INUIT, AND MÉTIS COMMUNITY (also available in French)

The Government of Ontario is funding the Toronto Aboriginal Social Service Association (TASSA) to research the diverse issues and needs of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis community in Toronto. The research topics to be explored include: demographic trends, identity and culture, health services social services, women's issues, and children, youth, and homelessness. The final report will provide recommendations on policies, programs, and services

http://www.aboriginalaffairs.osaa.gov.on.ca/english/news/2008/nov13nr_08.html

French: http://www.aboriginalaffairs.osaa.gov.on.ca/francais/news/2008/nov13nr_08.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).

- Best Friends Yin Yang Necklace Sets: Contain lead.
- Northern Gifts RCMP Uniform Plush Toys: Brown plastic belts contain lead.
- Metal Flashing Necklace: Contains lead.
- Wooden Toys: Small parts can detach and break from the toys, posing a choking hazard.

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

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

6. CALL FOR BAN ON CHEMICALS IN COSMETICS AND CLEANERS

This article (Parentcentral.ca, 2008, November 8) reports that environmental and health groups are claiming that toxic chemicals used in cosmetics and household cleaners put children at serious risk and should be banned by the federal government. A total of 12 health and environmental organizations are calling on Health Canada to speed up the process of dealing with toxins under the Chemical Management Plan and promote safer alternative products. Three of the chemicals targeted by the environmental groups are: (1) Pigment Red 3 (2-Naphthalenol), which is found in nail polish, soap bars, plastic colorants, and industrial painting inks; (2) DEGME (2-Methoxyethoxy), which is a solvent found in household paints, pesticides, floor care products, window washer fluids, skin creams, cleansers, hairspray, and perfumes; and (3) 2-MEA (2-Methoxyethanol acetate), which is found in nail polish, dry cleaning treatments, and glues.

<http://www.parentcentral.ca/parent/article/533204>

7. SPEECH FROM THE THRONE (also available in French)

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, delivered the Government's Speech from the Throne to open Canada's 40th Parliament. The Governor General outlined a broad agenda the Government of Canada will follow that includes a five-pronged plan to protect Canada's economic security: reforming global finance, ensuring sound budgeting, securing jobs for families and communities, expanding investment and trade, and managing government more effectively. Other government priorities identified were: (1) securing the future of energy; (2) tackling climate change and preserving Canada's environment; (3) helping all Canadians participate by improving the Universal Child Care Benefit and taking steps to increase access to maternity and parental benefits under Employment Insurance, helping families caring for loved ones with disabilities, and assisting Canadians buying their first home; and (4) keeping Canadians safe by following through with legislation providing better oversight of food, drug, and consumer products, holding an independent investigation of the listeria outbreak, and working with provinces to improve the administration of justice contributing to global security; and (5) building stronger institutions. The full speech is available on the Government of Canada website.

<http://www.sft-ddt.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=1383>

French: <http://www.sft-ddt.gc.ca/fra/media.asp?id=1383>

INTERNATIONAL

8. PREGNANT RURAL WOMEN MORE AT RISK OF PREGNANCY-RELATED BLOOD PRESSURE DISORDERS

This study, presented at the American Society of Nephrology's recent annual meeting, found that living in a rural area may increase a woman's chance of developing preeclampsia (high blood pressure and the presence of protein in the urine) and other pregnancy-related blood pressure disorders (Preeclampsia Foundation, 2008; American Society of Nephrology, 2008, November 8). Known risks factors for

preeclampsia and pregnancy-induced hypertension are older age, giving birth to multiple babies, and excessive weight gain. One researcher explained that the link with rural living is a new risk factor and it may be associated with maternal poverty and social deprivation.

<http://www.omhrc.gov/templates/news.aspx?ID=621138>

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

ONTARIO

9. TOOTH DECAY IN ONTARIO'S CHILDREN: AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION – A POUND OF CURE

The Ontario Dental Association (ODA) claims that complications from tooth decay are one of the leading causes of school absences and Ontario is failing to provide access to proper dental care for the province's underprivileged children (Talaga, 2008, November 18). This Special Report from the ODA resulted from the International Association of Dental Research conference held in 2008, which focused on best practices aimed at the prevention of tooth decay, especially for children at high-risk. The report provides information about childhood caries, the links between dental caries and disease, treating the problem, the benefits of prevention versus treatment, and what should be done about childhood caries. The ODA is making five recommendations to government: (1) improving access to publicly funded programs and services, (2) application of fluoride varnish, (3) community water fluoridation, (4) a sensitive, reliable screening tool, and (5) the Ministry of Health Promotion promoting oral health awareness.

Report: <http://www.youroralhealth.ca/index.php/Special-Reports/Tooth-Decay-in-Ontario/Tooth-Decay-in-Ontario-s-Children-Special-Report.html>

News release: <http://www.healthzone.ca/health/article/538699>

10. FEWER CHILDREN DIED AFTER ONTARIO ADOPTED BIKE HELMET LAW

The authors of this report (Wesson et al., 2008) examined bicycle-related mortality rates in Ontario from 1991 to 2002 among bicyclists 1 to 15 years of age and 16 years of age through adulthood to determine the effect of legislation. Under a provincial statute passed in October 1995, parents of children under 16 years of age can be fined \$80 if their child is not wearing a bike helmet, and youth 16 or 17 years of age who fail to wear a helmet can be fined directly. There were 362 bicycle-related deaths in Ontario from 1991 to 2002 and 107 of them involved children under 15 years of age. The findings indicate that the number of deaths per year decreased 52% among bicyclists under 16 years of age after the law came into force. According to the authors, "these findings support promotion of helmet use, enforcement of the existing law, and extension of the law to adult bicyclists". The researchers also found that children were nine times more likely to be wearing a helmet when cycling with adults who wore their helmets. Study author Dr. Patricia Parkin explains: "The finding was expected, since adults are important role models for keeping kids healthy, active, and safe".

Abstract: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/122/3/605>

News article: <http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2008/08/29/bike-law.html?ref=rss>

11. ROOTS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE

(also available in French)

Premier Dalton McGuinty announced that former Chief Justice Roy McMurtry and former Speaker of the Legislature Alvin Curling were appointed to conduct a review of the Roots of Youth Violence. This report, released November 14, 2008, describes how poverty, racism, the lack of decent housing, culturally insensitive education systems, and limited job prospects combine to create hopelessness, alienation, and low self-esteem among youth, which often leads to violence. Several disturbing trends are highlighted such as increasing concentrations of disadvantage, the escalation of serious violence among youth, and the fact that such violence is more frequently occurring in public places. The report recommends addressing these issues through (1) measures to improve social conditions, address poverty and racism, generate employment opportunities, establish a comprehensive youth policy framework, and better

coordinate the efforts of different government ministries and agencies; (2) building strong communities through a “place based” approach similar to the United Kingdom’s, and the use of an Index of Relative Disadvantage to determine objectively which communities are most in need of extra assistance; and (3) a series of structural changes. The review Co-Chair Roy McMurtry explains that “Ontario is at a crossroads in dealing with the roots of violence involving youth... Our report presents the government with a comprehensive framework to address the serious trends we have identified, and that will have serious consequences if allowed to continue unchecked”.

<http://www.rootsofyouthviolence.on.ca/english/index.asp>

French: <http://www.rootsofyouthviolence.on.ca/french/index.asp>

CANADA

12. BUILDING A STRONG AND EQUAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CHILDCARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN CANADA

This article (Friendly, 2008) provides an overview of Ontario’s “full-day early learning” for all 4- and 5-year-olds including key challenges in the initial phase such as: (1) merging the public kindergarten system with market-driven childcare; (2) financing the new program; (3) maintaining stability in user-pay childcare as 4- and 5-year-olds move to the new program; (4) determining staffing models, bridging differences between kindergarten and childcare staff; and (5) managing the phase-in. The author suggests that how Ontario meets these challenges will have major implications for the future of early childhood education and childcare programs across Canada.

<http://www.kicce.re.kr/english/data/04%5B1%5D.friendly.pdf>

13. BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS

(also available in French)

This article (Statistics Canada, 2008), based on the results of the 2004 Canadian Community Health Survey – Nutrition, provides an overview of beverage consumption by Canadian children and teenagers from 1 to 18 years of age including: the quantity and type of beverages consumed, differences by age and gender, and beverages’ contribution to calorie and nutrient intake. A substantial proportion of Canadian children’s daily calories come from what they drink, with beverages making up almost 20% of the calories consumed by children and teenagers from 4 to 18 years of age and 30% of calories consumed by children 1 to 3 years of age. More than 85% of all the beverages consumed by children and teens fall into 5 categories: water, milk, fruit juice, fruit drinks, and regular soft drinks. Water is the beverage consumed by the highest percentage of people and in the greatest quantities at all ages (including adults) (The Daily, 2008, November 19). Among children 1 to 3 years of age, water, milk, and fruit juice were the top three beverages consumed. However, as boys and girls get older they drink less milk and fruit juice, and more soft drinks and fruit-flavoured drinks containing less than 100% juice.

Report: <http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=82-003-X200800410715>

French: <http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/francais/bsolc?catno=82-003-X200800410715>

News release: <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/081119/d081119c.htm>

French: <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/Francais/081119/q081119c.htm>

14. DIVORCES IN CANADA

(also available in French)

Statistics Canada (2008, November 18) released data on divorces for Canada, the provinces, and the territories. The number of divorces is presented by age at marriage and at divorce, sex, marital status of the bride and groom at the moment preceding the marriage, reason for marital breakdown, and year of marriage. In 2005, there were 71,269 divorces (220.7 per 100,000 population) in Canada. There were 28,805 divorces (229.4 per 100,000 population) in Ontario.

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/84F0213XIE/84F0213XIE2005000.htm>

French: <http://www.statcan.ca/francais/freepub/84F0213XIF/84F0213XIF2005000.htm>

INTERNATIONAL

15. CHILDCARE AND CHILD POVERTY

This report (Hirsch, 2008, November 10) provides an assessment of the critical role of childcare policies in ending child poverty by 2020 in the UK. The report addresses: (1) the childcare strategy and its impact to date; (2) how many children might be moved out of poverty through further childcare reforms; and (3) what further reforms to childcare policy are most needed to attain the child poverty goal.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2267-poverty-children-childcare.pdf>

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

16. CANADA'S DRUG AWARENESS WEEK: NOVEMBER 16-23 (also available in French)

The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse website provides information about Canada's Drug Awareness Week 2008 activities across Canada. Links to provincial activities and resources are provided. <http://www.ccsa.ca/Eng/NewsAndEvents/Events/NAAWDAW/Pages/NAAWDAWactivitiesacrossCanada08.aspx>

French:

<http://www.ccsa.ca/fra/newsandevents/events/naawdaw/pages/naawdawactivitiesacrosscanada08.aspx>

17. NATIONAL CHILD DAY: NOVEMBER 20 (also available in French)

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) announced that the theme for National Child Day 2008 is "The Right to Protection from Sexual Exploitation". The PHAC website includes activities for children, parents/caregivers, and educators, a downloadable poster, and links of interest. The Canadian Child Care Federation offers National Child day resources such as: National Child Day stickers; a one-page resource that gives background on the origins of National Child Day and provides ideas on how to celebrate it with children; and other resources that provide information about children's rights and activities to promote understanding of children's rights.

Public Health Agency of Canada: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncd-jne/index-eng.php>

French: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncd-jne/index-fra.php>

Canadian Child Care Federation: http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/nationalchildday/ncdnov20_en.htm

French: http://www.cccf-fcsge.ca/nationalchildday/ncdnov20_fr.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

18. AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION FORUM

February 10-12, 2009: Toronto, ON

<http://www.agrifoodforum.com/>

19. III WORLD CONGRESS ON DISORDERS OF SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT

November 12-14, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Sick Kids

<http://www.sickkids.ca/learninginstitute/section.asp?s=Conferences&slD=24027>

CANADA

20. PUBLIC HEALTH IN CANADA: STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS

June 7-10, 2009: Winnipeg, MB

<http://www.cpha.ca/en/conferences/conf2009.aspx>

French: <http://www.cpha.ca/fr/conferences/conf2009.aspx>

INTERNATIONAL

21. 5TH BIENNIAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY CONFERENCE

June 9-12, 2009: Los Angeles, CA, USA

<http://www.cce.csus.edu/conferences/childobesity/09/>

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

22. FROM BUMP TO BREASTFEEDING DVD

A UK-wide public health partnership supported the child health charity Best Beginnings in the production of a DVD entitled 'From Bump to Breastfeeding: Following Real Mothers'. This resource aims to assist health professionals to provide all pregnant women with information about the benefits and management of breastfeeding in order to support hospitals to implement Step Three of the Baby Friendly Initiative standards.

<http://www.bestbeginnings.info/from-bump-to-breastfeeding-dvd>

23. MOTHERS IN MOTION WEBSITE

(also available in French)

The Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS) highlights that women in low-socioeconomic circumstances are more likely to report that there is not enough information provided about local opportunities for physical activity and/or they lack awareness on how to build physical activity in their life. They also experience financial, social, language, and cultural barriers that have an impact on their physical activity and healthy eating habits. CAAWS created the "Mothers in Motion" web site to support Canadian women and their families in their pursuit of healthy, active lifestyles. Web-based tools and resources encourage active living, physical activity and sport as well as healthy eating habits for both mothers and their children, from infancy to adolescence.

http://www.caaws.ca/mothersinmotion/home_e.html

French: http://www.caaws.ca/mothersinmotion/home_f.html

24. WHAT WORKS FOR WHOM? PROMISING PRACTICES IN PARENTING EDUCATION

The Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs (FRP Canada, 2008) released a new resource that focuses on promising practices when offering parenting education. It includes findings from an extensive literature review conducted by Betsy Mann in 2006 and has been supplemented by comments from family support practitioners and recent references. The resource focuses especially on practices that have been found to be effective with parents who are living in challenging circumstances and includes the following topics: (1) reasons for offering parenting education, (2) theories behind parenting education, (3) populations served, (4) timing of program delivery, and (5) implementation practices, such as getting participants to come and keep coming; helping participants to engage, learn, and apply what they have learned; and help participants to sustain their learning. A discussion of the pros and cons of different research methods, an annotated bibliography, and a reference list are included.

<http://www.frp.ca/data/global/images/resources/WhatWorksforWhomFINAL.pdf>

25. THE ENVIRONMENT, CANCER, AND YOU ONLINE HANDBOOK

(also available in French)

This resource, produced by the Canadian Cancer Society (2008) provides information about some cancer-causing substances of concern to Canadians. This resource will be helpful for taking action to reduce the risk of cancers associated with these environmental contaminants and understanding how governments, manufacturers, individuals, and organizations like the Canadian Cancer Society all have a role to play in protecting Canadians from environmental contaminants that cause cancer. Information is also provided about environmental risk factors, cancer and children, and how cancer-causing substances are identified and classified.

http://www.cancer.ca/Canada-wide/Prevention/Cancer%20and%20the%20environment.aspx?sc_lang=en
French: http://www.cancer.ca/Canada-wide/Prevention/Cancer%20and%20the%20environment.aspx?sc_lang=fr-CA

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

This week's bulletin highlights an article about breastfeeding in public and a DVD "From Bump to Breastfeeding" that aims to assist health professionals to provide all pregnant women with information about the benefits and management of breastfeeding. The following resources may also be helpful for promoting breastfeeding.

26. BREASTFEEDING: GUIDELINES FOR CONSULTANT'S – PHYSICIANS DESK REFERENCE (also available in French)

This newly revised reference (2007) is desk size and laminated. One side is a duplication of the poster while the other side offers more in depth information about the assessment of effective breastfeeding for those working with breastfeeding mothers as well as World Health Organization (WHO) approved guidelines on supplementation.

English: <http://www.beststart.org/resources/breastfeeding/index.html>

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

27. BREASTFEEDING YOUR BABY POSTER (also available in French)

This 61cm by 44cm colour poster has just been revised (2007) to provide the latest evidence-based guidelines visual assessment of effective breastfeeding in the first 6 months using graphics, photographs, and text. Infant tummy size, intake, output, weight, and growth spurts can be seen at a glance. Information on exclusive breastfeeding is also provided.

English: <http://www.beststart.org/resources/breastfeeding/index.html>

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

28. GUIDELINES FOR NURSING MOTHERS – MAGNET (also available in French)

This 13 cm by 18 cm magnet (2007) is a version of the "Breastfeeding Your Baby" poster. Colourful graphics and photographs provide an at-a-glance look at how much breast milk a baby needs by age group and through illustrating the size of babies' tummy, amount of soiled diapers to expect, and other information on why breastfeeding is best for baby.

English: <http://www.beststart.org/resources/breastfeeding/index.html>

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