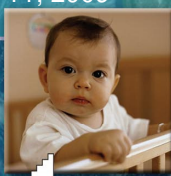


# MNCHP Network Bulletin



*best start  
meilleur départ*

by/par health **nexus** santé

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## I. NEWS & VIEWS

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### ONTARIO

#### 1. GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO LAUNCHES EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION STRATEGY

(also available in French)

The Government of Ontario (2009, April 6) announced an “Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy” to help schools better address barriers related to sexism, racism, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination. The strategy will: (1) build equity and inclusive education principles into the curriculum; (2) guide boards in the development, implementation, and monitoring of equity and inclusive education policies, with a focus on addressing gaps in student achievement; and (3) help boards to actively engage students, staff, parents, and their broader communities in updating or establishing equity and inclusive education policies.

English: <http://www.news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2009/04/helping-more-students-succeed-1.html>

French: <http://www.news.ontario.ca/edu/fr/2009/04/aider-un-plus-grand-nombre-deleves-a-reussir.html>

#### 2. FULL-DAY LEARNING IS NOT FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

In a press release, the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario (AECEO) (2009, August 20) note that the Early Learning Advisor’s Report on full-day of learning for four and five-year-olds is an innovative and progressive concept that fights the status quo. Eduarda Sousa, Executive Director of the AECEO explains: “Dr. Charles Pascal was not talking about kindergarten in his report but rather a new full-day program for four and five-year-olds that incorporates the very best that two professions - early childhood educators and certified teachers - have to offer our young people...a fundamental shift in early education from what we now know as kindergarten to a comprehensive, integrated child and family service system”. She notes that early childhood educators are uniquely trained and experienced in early childhood development and have complementary skills and experience when paired with certified teachers.

<http://www.cnw.ca/en/releases/archive/August2009/20/c6470.html>

### CANADA

#### 3. 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).

- Imagination Shape Sorting Cube: Surface paint on the toy contains barium.
- Foam Blocks Puzzles with Numbers or Letters: Puzzle sets can break into small parts, posing a choking hazard.
- Eebee’s “Have a Ball” Adventures Cloth Book: String attaching the ball to the book can become entangled in the basketball hoop element on the book, posing a strangulation hazard.
- Wooden Alphabet Puzzles by Day to Day Products: Surface coating on the puzzle with upper case alphabet letters contains lead.
- Blob Frog Squeeze Em! Yo-Yo Type Ball: Yo-yo type balls and similar products are banned in Canada because they present a hidden risk of strangulation.
- Weight Watchers Hungry Figures and Hungry Magnets Plush Toys: Sewing needles have been found in the stuffing of the Hungry Figures, posing a puncture hazard.
- Girls’ Mini Boots and Baby Boots Fooler Shirts: Snaps on the shirts can become detached, posing a choking hazard.

- Plush Baby Bottle Holder: Products that position infant feeding bottles and enable infants to feed themselves without supervision are prohibited by law in Canada. Such products can result in infants choking on or aspirating the feeding liquid.
- 8 Piece Link Toy by Dollarama: Link toy rattle can pose a choking hazard.
- Toy Workshop Sets and Trucks by Little Tikes: Oversized plastic toy nails can pose a choking hazard.
- Clubhouse Swing Set by Little Tikes: Directions for consumer assembly of the swing seat portion of the product may not have been included in all products with blue swing seats. Failure to perform assembly could result in injury during use.
- 2009 Burley d'Lite ST and Solo ST Bicycle Child Trailer: Wheel can become separated from the trailer axle, causing one side of the trailer to drop to the ground, posing a risk of injury.
- Inflatable Baby Floats by Aqua-Leisure Industries: The leg straps in the seat of the float can tear, causing children to unexpectedly fall into or under the water, posing a risk of drowning.
- Expansion on Safety 1<sup>st</sup> SmartLight Stair Gate: Hinges mounting the gate to the wall can break, posing a potential fall hazard to children.
- My Pal Scout Electronic Plush Toy Dog by LeapFrog: The decals on the paws of the plush toy can be removed and ingested by a child, posing a choking hazard.
- Babysitter Balance Bouncer Seats: Small metal pieces found in the padded area of both the Babysitter Balance and Babysitter Balance Air's fabric seat, which could potentially pose a risk of injury.
- Fun Ice Chewy Teether by Munchkin: Gel filling of the teether may be contaminated with the bacteria *Bacillus cereus*.

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)

#### 4. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ANNOUNCES ACTIVELY ENGAGED: A POLICY ON SPORT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

(also available in French)

The Government of Canada (2009, August 29) announced a new "Policy on Sport for Women and Girls" that highlights a renewed and strengthened commitment to further improve sport experiences for women and girls in their roles as athletes, coaches, officials, and leaders. The new policy places an emphasis on the active participation of women and girls and on improving their access to quality sport experiences and equitable support. An action plan has been developed to guide the first three years of activity.

News release: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?m=/index&nid=477939>

French: <http://nouvelles.gc.ca/web/article-fra.do?m=/index&nid=477939>

Policy: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/sc/pol/fewom/101-eng.cfm>

French: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/sc/pol/fewom/101-fra.cfm>

Action Plan: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/sc/pol/fewom/index-eng.cfm>

French: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/sc/pol/fewom/index-fra.cfm>

#### 5. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IS INVESTING IN FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT HEALTH

(also available in French)

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, announced (2009, September 1) that the Government of Canada is investing \$135 million for new construction and the renovation of health services infrastructure in First Nations communities across Canada. She explains that "this critical investment means new and refurbished health centres and nurses' residences for many of the remote and isolated First Nations communities served by Health Canada, and will provide immediate economic benefit by creating employment opportunities in those areas". Canada's Economic Action Plan also commits an additional \$305 million over two years to strengthen current First Nations and Inuit health programs and improve health outcomes including (1) \$240 million to ensure that eligible First Nations people and Inuit

continue to receive their critically important Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), such as dental and vision care, medical transportation, and access to a specified range of drugs not covered by other insurance or programs; and (2) \$65 million to ensure 24/7 availability of nursing services in the remote and isolated First Nations communities served by Health Canada.

English: [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2009/2009\\_143-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2009/2009_143-eng.php)

French: [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2009/2009\\_143-fra.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ahc-asc/media/nr-cp/2009/2009_143-fra.php)

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## II. RECENT REPORTS AND RESEARCH RESULTS

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### ONTARIO

#### 6. WOMEN'S POVERTY AND THE RECESSION

A new study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) (2009) highlights that Canada still has high rates of women's poverty and the recession seems to have sidelined anti-poverty policies. According to the study: (1) women raising children on their own are almost five times more likely to be poor than two-parent families with children; (2) the poverty rate of older women on their own is almost 13 times higher than seniors living in families; (3) women who work full-time, year round earn only 71 cents for every dollar earned by men; (4) about 40% of employed women work in precarious jobs that are generally poorly paid with little or no job security and no benefits such as pensions; (5) only 39% of unemployed women compared with 45% of unemployed men are receiving employment insurance (EI) benefits; and (6) women account for 60% of minimum wage workers, but minimum wages in all provinces are less than \$10 an hour.

[http://www.policyalternatives.ca/~ASSETS/DOCUMENT/National\\_Office\\_Pubs/2009/Womens\\_Poverty\\_in\\_the\\_Recession.pdf](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/~ASSETS/DOCUMENT/National_Office_Pubs/2009/Womens_Poverty_in_the_Recession.pdf)

### CANADA

#### 7. CLEARING THE SMOKE ON CANNABIS: MATERNAL CANNABIS USE DURING PREGNANCY

(also available in French)

The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) (2009) released a series of reports that reviews the effects of cannabis use on various aspects of human functioning and development. This report focuses on the effects of maternal cannabis use during pregnancy on offspring. According to the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health in the United States (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSA], 2006), cannabis is the most frequently used illicit drug that is ingested during pregnancy with 2.8% of the pregnant women reporting the use of cannabis in the last month. Effects on birth outcomes, neurocognitive functioning, behaviour, and mental health are reviewed. The mechanisms responsible for the effects of prenatal cannabis exposure are not well understood. Evidence does suggest that prenatal exposure to cannabis, particularly heavy exposure, has subtle adverse effects that begin at approximately three years of age, on subsequent cognitive function, behaviour, substance use, and mental health in offspring (CCSA, 2009). The author suggests that "prevention efforts directed towards reducing maternal cannabis use during pregnancy could have significant effects in reducing such cognitive impairment... it is prudent to advise pregnant women, and women thinking of becoming pregnant, of the risks associated with cannabis use during pregnancy" (CCSA, 2009, p.3).

English: [http://www.ccsa.ca/2009%20CCSA%20Documents/ccsa0117832009\\_e.pdf](http://www.ccsa.ca/2009%20CCSA%20Documents/ccsa0117832009_e.pdf)

French: [http://www.ccsa.ca/2009%20CCSA%20Documents/ccsa0117842009\\_f.pdf](http://www.ccsa.ca/2009%20CCSA%20Documents/ccsa0117842009_f.pdf)

#### 8. OBESITY IN CANADA – SNAPSHOT

(also available in French)

This report provides a snapshot of obesity in Canada using data analyzed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (2009). The snapshot report includes trends over time, provincial variation in obesity, factors that influence the prevalence of obesity, Aboriginal people in Canada, and the economic cost of obesity. PHAC highlights that children are at risk: “Childhood obesity is of concern because it not only increases the risk of obesity in adulthood, but can contribute to the early development of serious health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure”. Prevalence rates for girls and boys are provided using data from the Canadian Community Health Survey (Statistics Canada). A more detailed report is being developed in collaboration with the Canadian Population Health Initiative of the Canadian Institute for Health Information. It will provide the latest information about how obesity is distributed in the Canadian population to healthcare providers, health promotion specialists, and decision makers, with the goal of building the understanding required for a population health approach to obesity.

English: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/2009/oc/index-eng.php>

French: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/2009/oc/index-fra.php>

## 9. MAPPING THE FIELD OF FAMILY LITERACY IN CANADA

This paper (Movement for Canadian Literacy, 2008) provides snapshots of family literacy “activity” in each province and territory. Snapshots were created through a series of interviews with provincial and territorial literacy coalition staff, key informants working in the field of family literacy, and staff from some provincial and territorial governments. Website and document reviews were also conducted. Two main over-arching themes were identified: (1) how family literacy is funded, and (2) who provides family literacy programming.

<http://www.literacy.ca/themes/mcl/projects/mapfamlt/cover.htm>

## INTERNATIONAL

### 10. DOING BETTER FOR CHILDREN

The Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) urges the U.S. and other countries to shift more of public spending to their youngest children (CBC News, 2009, September 1). The OECD report addresses questions like: What is the actual state of child well-being today? How much are governments spending on children and are they spending it at the right times? What social and family policies have the most impact during children’s earliest years? Is growing up in a single-parent household detrimental to children? Is inequality that persists across generations a threat to child well-being? Child well-being is compared across OECD countries using a child well-being framework and a comparison of outcome indicators for children across six dimensions (material well-being, housing and environment, education, health, risk behaviours, and quality of school life). Policy recommendations for improving child well-being are provided. Although Canada received some reasonable marks (e.g., educational outcomes), the report highlights that “there are areas which may need policy attention to improve the lives of Canadian children, including reducing child poverty and youth risk-taking, and ensuring timely immunizations” (OECD, 2009).

[http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34819\\_43545036\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37419,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3343,en_2649_34819_43545036_1_1_1_37419,00.html)

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## III. CURRENT INITIATIVES

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### 11. “3 CHEERS FOR THE EARLY YEARS” ANNOUNCES HEALTHY PARENTING eHEALTH MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Alberta Health Services – Calgary, “3 Cheers for the Early Years” project (2009) is seeking support from partners and other organizations to promote an innovative Healthy Parenting eHealth Marketing

Campaign. Service providers can support the campaign by: (1) sending free Healthy Parenting eCards to colleagues, employees, clients, family, and friends; (2) listening to the new Healthy Parenting Audio Tips; (3) spreading the word about 3 Cheers for the Early Years Healthy Parenting by placing on or more of their buttons on your website, blog, or MySpace page; (4) visiting 3 Cheers on MySpace; and (4) accessing all Healthy Parenting eHealth campaign products.

Send free Healthy Parenting eCards:

[http://www.3cheerscards.ca/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Email+Blast&utm\\_content=576275099&utm\\_campaign=eHealth+Introduction+ +dhzlt&utm\\_term=Click+Here](http://www.3cheerscards.ca/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Email+Blast&utm_content=576275099&utm_campaign=eHealth+Introduction+ +dhzlt&utm_term=Click+Here)

Listen to Healthy Parenting Audio Tips:

[http://www.3cheerscards.ca/audio.php?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Email+Blast&utm\\_content=576275099&utm\\_campaign=eHealth+Introduction+ +dhzlt&utm\\_term=Healthy+Parenting+Audio+Tips](http://www.3cheerscards.ca/audio.php?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Email+Blast&utm_content=576275099&utm_campaign=eHealth+Introduction+ +dhzlt&utm_term=Healthy+Parenting+Audio+Tips)

Add buttons to your website, blog, or MySpace page:

[http://www.3cheerscards.ca/buttons.php?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Email+Blast&utm\\_content=576275099&utm\\_campaign=eHealth+Introduction+ +dhzlt&utm\\_term=Click+Here](http://www.3cheerscards.ca/buttons.php?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Email+Blast&utm_content=576275099&utm_campaign=eHealth+Introduction+ +dhzlt&utm_term=Click+Here)

Visit 3 Cheers on MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/3cheersearlyyears>

Access all Healthy Parenting eHealth campaign products:

[http://www.3cheerscards.ca/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Email+Blast&utm\\_content=576275099&utm\\_campaign=eHealth+Introduction+ +dhzlt&utm\\_term=Click+Here](http://www.3cheerscards.ca/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Email+Blast&utm_content=576275099&utm_campaign=eHealth+Introduction+ +dhzlt&utm_term=Click+Here)

## 12. EVERY DOOR IS THE RIGHT DOOR: TOWARDS A 10-YEAR MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTIONS STRATEGY, A DISCUSSION PAPER

(also available in French)

The discussion paper “Every Door is the Right Door” aims to contribute to the development of a 10-year mental health and addictions strategy. It was released at the “Open Minds. Healthy Minds Summit” co-hosted by Minister David Caplan and his Advisory Group on Mental Health and Addictions (Government of Ontario, 2009, July 14). The discussion paper outlines the current strategy and the Minister is asking that people continue the process by providing feedback on the discussion paper. The seven directions identified in the discussion paper are: (1) act early, (2) meet people on their terms, (3) transform the system, (4) strengthen the mental health and addictions workforce, (5) stop stigma, (6) create healthy communities, and (7) build community resilience.

<http://www.mohltc.ca/Assets/discussionpaper.pdf>

Discussion paper feedback questions: [http://www.mohltc.ca/mhasummit/feedback\\_discussionpaper.htm](http://www.mohltc.ca/mhasummit/feedback_discussionpaper.htm)

## 13. SELF-HELP AWARENESS WEEK: SEPTEMBER 21-26, 2009

“Mutual Aid and Employment” is the theme for this year’s Self-Help Awareness Week. Information about events is provided on the Self-Help Resource Centre website.

<http://www.selfhelp.on.ca/archives/00000135.html>

## 14. HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER EDUCATION: “LET’S TAKE A STAND AGAINST...COLORECTAL CANCER!”

The Aboriginal Cancer and Prevention Team at Cancer Care Ontario announced (2009, September 2) the launch of the Health Service Provider Education component of the “*Let’s take a stand against...Colorectal Cancer!*” program. Regional train-the-trainer colorectal cancer education sessions will be held across Ontario for health service providers who work with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis populations. An application form will soon be available online for individuals who are interested in participating in a training session in their region.

<http://www.cancercare.on.ca/about/programs/aborstrategy/ltsacc/ltsacctk>

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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>

### ONTARIO

#### 15. CHANGING THE COURSE OF AUTISM IN CANADA CONFERENCE

October 31-November 1, 2009: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Autism Canada and Autismone

<http://www.autismcanada.org/calendar.htm>

#### 16. RAINBOW HEALTH ONTARIO 2010 CONFERENCE

March 31-April 2, 2010: Toronto, ON

Hosted by: Rainbow Health Ontario

<http://www.rainbowhealthontario.ca/conference/welcome.cfm>

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## V. RESOURCES

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#### 17. THE LAST STRAW! A BOARD GAME ON THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: A SPANISH/ENGLISH VERSION NOW AVAILABLE

(also available in French and Spanish)

"The Last Straw!" is a fun and exciting teaching tool on the social determinants of health. The game has three objectives: (1) to promote discussion about the social determinants of health; (2) to help players build empathy with marginalized people and gain an awareness of players' own social location; and (3) to encourage learning in a fun and supportive environment. In keeping with current research on the social determinants of health, socioeconomic status is a primary determinant of health in this game, as are race, gender, sexual orientation, and other factors. Feedback consistently demonstrates that players gain a better understanding of the social determinants of health and the interplay between forces at individual and community levels. Both players and facilitators ("Game Masters") report having a great time playing the game. A training manual and video have also been developed.

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

French: <http://www.thelaststraw.ca/page6.html>

Spanish: <http://www.thelaststraw.ca/page5.html>

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## VI. FEATURED BEST START RESOURCES

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The following resources may be helpful to service providers during Self-Help Awareness Week.

#### 18. SELF-HELP/PEER SUPPORT STRATEGIES IN MATERNAL, NEWBORN, AND CHILD HEALTH: EXAMPLES FROM THE PROVINCIAL LANDSCAPE

This tool, created in collaboration with the Self Help Resource Centre (2005), provides links for those currently involved with or who would like to become involved in peer support and self-help programs in the context of maternal, newborn and family health.

[http://www.beststart.org/resources/howto/pdf/best\\_start\\_book.pdf](http://www.beststart.org/resources/howto/pdf/best_start_book.pdf)

## 19. SELF-HELP/PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMS: MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND FAMILY HEALTH CONTACT LIST

This updated resource, prepared by the Best Start Resource Centre and the Self Help Resource Centre (2009), is a contact list to help service locate programs in Ontario that use self-help and peer support strategies to promote maternal, infant, and family health.

[http://www.selfhelp.on.ca/resource/maternal\\_child\\_contact\\_list.pdf](http://www.selfhelp.on.ca/resource/maternal_child_contact_list.pdf)

*The Best Start Resource Centre thanks you for your interest in, and support of, our work. Best Start permits others to copy, distribute or reference the work for non-commercial purposes on condition that full credit is given. Because our MNCHP bulletins are designed to support local health promotion initiatives, we would appreciate knowing how this resource has supported, or been integrated into, your work ([mnchp@healthnexus.ca](mailto:mnchp@healthnexus.ca)).*

### 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/>