



The following is a news update from the Board of Directors of the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada

### **Canada's 2<sup>nd</sup> Baby-Friendly™ Hospital**

As previously announced, St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton, has been designated as the second Baby-Friendly™ Hospital in Canada, following external assessment in March. Word is generally out about this second designation and the official announcement and presentation of the BFHI plaque will take place in September. The newly developed **draft** Canadian Outcome Indicators for Baby-Friendly™ Hospitals in Canada were tested at this assessment and the hospital reports having found them most valuable.

### **Baby-Friendly™ Update - Other Activities and News**

#### BFI Provincial and Territorial Meeting

Representatives of all provinces and two territories met with members of the BCC Board in Toronto the last weekend of May. The three-day meeting included:

- a presentation on the costs of not breastfeeding and the Canadian BFI Outcome Indicators by Marianne Brophy, Chair, BFI Assessment Committee
- a presentation by three staff members of St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton about the journey to BFHI designation
- a discussion with Gerry Kaplan, the evaluator of the current Baby-Friendly™ Initiative in Community Health Services Implementation and Evaluation project which funded the meeting.

Participants developed a draft document on "Breastfeeding Definitions and Data Collection Periods" which is currently being reviewed by the BCC Board and the P/T contacts. The meeting also discussed strategies for tracking BFI implementation in Canada and future resource needs including the development of an inventory of breastfeeding and BFI information already available in Canada.

#### BFI Outcome Indicators

The Canadian Outcome Indicators for the Baby-Friendly™ Initiative in Community Health Services is in its final draft. Thanks to the hard work of Marianne Brophy, and others on both the BFI Community Committee and the BFI Assessment Committee for this accomplishment. The outcome indicators for both hospital and community health will be posted on the BCC website shortly.

#### BFI in Community Health Services Document

A reminder that the document *Baby-Friendly™ Initiative in Community Health Services: A Canadian Implementation Guide* is available **IN BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH** in hard copy from the BCC office for \$15 plus 15% postage and handling (total \$17.25/copy). Both **English and French** versions of the document are also available in pdf format on the BCC website.

### Breastfeeding, Healthy Eating and Active Living: Natural Tools for Diabetes Prevention Project

Women's programmes were started in both project sites (Miramichi NB and Thompson MB) in spring 2003. Miramichi women's programmes, called "Mummies and Tummies Walking Club", are going well in two sites (Chatham and Newcastle). Regrettably, Thompson was unable to attract women to the programme and the site was closed at the end of May. Gerry Kaplan, who is also evaluator for this project, will be visiting Thompson to investigate possible reasons. Programmes of the project end at the end of December, 2003 and project will be complete by March 31, 2004.

### **BCC Information Update**

#### Healthy Living Symposium

Joanne Gilmore represented the BCC at this national meeting held June 16 and 17 (postponed from April) in Toronto as part of a new federal/provincial/territorial initiative initially focusing on healthy eating and active living. Gisèle McCaie-Burke attended representing the Province of New Brunswick. Elsie De Roose, P/T representative to the BCC also attended representing Northwest Territories. Further information is available on the website at [www.healthyliving-viesaine.ca](http://www.healthyliving-viesaine.ca)

#### Nutrition for Healthy Term Infants – Revision

Discussions have been ongoing for some time regarding revisions to this document, originally published in 1998, especially since the WHO directive relative to exclusive breastfeeding to 6 months issued in May 2001. Rosemary Sloan, Health Canada representative to the BCC, has advised that because it published the document Health Canada plans to assume sole responsibility for revisions, working with an expert advisory committee and later requesting organizations to review and endorse it. The lead will be taken by the Office of Nutrition and Policy Promotion at Health Canada and the advisory committee will be composed of experts recommended by Health Canada, Dietitians of Canada, Canadian Paediatric Society and the BCC. Health Canada has contracted with Judy Sheeshka at the University of Guelph to look at the strength of the evidence for exclusive breastfeeding to 6 vs 4 months for infants and mothers in Canada, and develop a paper as background information for the expert review committee. The paper will be based on Kramer's systematic review and any other new research that has since emerged, and will look at other factors such as what recommendations other industrialized countries have in place.

#### BCC Board

The Board has met by conference call four times since the AGM in March. Committee chairs are currently developing/revising terms of reference and seeking members, including the re-established Education Committee (chaired by Wendy Stefiuk) and the new Infant Nutrition Committee (chaired by Johanna Bergerman). Other current issues include the updating and enhancement of the BCC's web site [www.breastfeedingcanada.ca](http://www.breastfeedingcanada.ca) and planning for the second education session for BFI assessors to be held October 3 and 4 in Toronto. Participants will be selected by the BCC in consultation with the provincial/territorial reps to the BCC.

#### Membership in BCC

Thank you to all Members for your continuing support through membership. Please renew by sending your cheque or money order in the amount of \$10 to the BCC office. Receipts can be issued on request.

### Breastfeeding Statement of the BCC

The breastfeeding position statement issued by the BCC in 1996 has now been reviewed and the references updated. The statement is available on the BCC website at <http://www.breastfeedingcanada.ca/pdf/webdoc5.pdf>

### Letters from Federal Minister of Health

In February, the BCC received a letter from Federal Health Minister Anne McLellan, recognizing the work being done by the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada. For a copy of the letter contact the BCC office. INFACT Canada received a letter from Anne McLellan on 28 January 2003 in which the BCC receives praise for work done with regard to BFI in community health services. Call INFACT at 416-595-9819 or [info@infactcanada.ca](mailto:info@infactcanada.ca)

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