



News & Information from Multiple Births Canada



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NATIONAL MULTIPLE BIRTHS AWARENESS WEEK Register your participation online now

With just three weeks to go until National Multiple Births Awareness Day, excitement grows as MBC Chapters and non-member groups prepare to participate in what will be the most public statement Canada's multiple-birth community has made regarding a unique challenge faced by multiple-birth families—the overwhelming demands of multiple newborns.

Awareness Day organizers encourage you and your Chapter or non-member group to get involved! Resources have been posted [online](#) for a variety of activities including:

- A rally on the lawn of Parliament Hill in Ottawa on May 28th
- Local rallies in front of MP's offices across Canada also on May 28th
- A call for all supporters to send a letter to the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada and to Members of Parliament requesting a review of EI Parental Leave.

Chapters and non-member groups are also planning fun activities for their local multiple-birth community such as picnics and visits to amusement parks.

What will you and/or your group be doing? Choose one or more activities to organize or participate in... then, visit this link www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q6FLWKB to register your intentions. This information will be used to database the support being given to this year's theme.

A big thank you to Edmonton Twin & Triplet Club, Kitchener-Waterloo Parents of Multiple Births Association (POMBA) and Saskatoon Parents of Twins & Triplets Organization for registering early. It is important that other participating Chapters and non-member groups register as soon as possible to ensure a timely delivery of future communication materials.

Questions? Concerns? Contact Gail Moore, MBC Chair, at communications@multiplebirthscanada.org.

ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION CANADA MBC asked to participate in the Multiple Births – Patient Education Project

On Thursday, April 22nd MBC Chair and Past Chair, Gail Moore and Kimberley Weatherall, were invited to a Patient Groups meeting hosted by Assisted Human Reproduction Canada (AHRC) in Ottawa. MBC was one of the stakeholder groups invited to the Multiple Births—Patient Education Project Meeting to discuss the AHRC's collaborative effort to address concerns about assisted human reproduction and multiple births. The intent of the gathering was to determine if MBC would be interested in being part of a three-pillar approach to delivering educational components to assist fertility patients to make informed decisions about their fertility treatment.

The group, which included members from AHRC, the Infertility Network and the LGBTQ Parenting Network, was given a brief overview of MBC's history and programme delivery. While indicating that MBC would take an active role in the Patient Education Project, Gail Moore affirmed MBC's support of all multiple-birth families, quoting MBC Policy 7-2 - *The Use of Reproductive Technologies Resulting in Multiple Births Issue Statement: Multiple Births Canada's position is not to offer comment on how babies are conceived but to work toward the goal of improving and promoting the health and well-being of expectant and multiple-birth families. We are doing this through increasing awareness of the special needs of the multiple-birth family to health care professionals.*

The next step is a teleconference with members of the Tripartite Committee on May 28th which includes AHRC, Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) and Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC).

MBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS – SPRING INTERIM MEETING April 22-25, 2010

With the aid of technology, teleconferencing and Skype, the MBC Board of Directors met in Ottawa April 22-25 for their Spring Interim Meeting. Two themes were prevalent throughout the four days—visioning for MBC's future, and finding ways to streamline MBC operations to ensure excellent membership support, while being conscious of an ever-increasing need to be fiscally responsible.

Topics discussed included:

- **Multiple Moments:** Under the superb direction of Editor Sabine Ehgoetz, the quarterly publication has developed into a quality full-colour magazine that should be reaching all MBC members, could easily be increased to provide more content and should be distributed to health care professionals across Canada. The Board discussed strategies to accomplish these objectives. Details will be shared once they are finalized.
- **MBC Membership Renewals:** With Canadians becoming more environmentally conscious and the Internet becoming more a way of life, the Board analyzed the cost and continued relevance in printing and mailing annual membership renewal welcome letters and membership cards. Effective immediately, Chapter membership confirmation information will be distributed to members in a more efficient manner allowing for better use of MBC's human and financial resources. A chart and instructions will be sent shortly to Chapters to explain the new distribution process.
- **Membership Drive and Membership Retention:** Discussions centred around outreach strategies and value-added perks for members. Multiple Moments took the spotlight, but other resources were considered including printing and distributing the new MBC brochure and poster, redesigning the MBC website, and developing stronger stakeholder relationships with Assisted Human Reproduction Canada (AHRC), Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) and Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC). Details will be shared once they are finalized.
- **Support Networks:** As these groups become more active, it is evident that MBC needs to expand the outreach to include new groups such as a Dad's Support, Non-Traditional Families Support, and others. MBC is limited in how far it can expand by how many new volunteers will step forward to take on roles as Chairs of these groups—however, strategies were discussed on how to move toward these objectives. Any member wanting to suggest a new support group should contact volunteers@multiplebirthscanada.org.
- **2009-2012 Strategic Plan:** In reviewing the 2009-2012 Strategic Plan, the Board noted some of the key components will need additional volunteers and/or funding to move them forward. To further these goals, an application for funding was completed and forwarded to Manulife Financial. MBC members who are employed by Manulife are encouraged to contact MBC at mbcchair@multiplebirthscanada.org as employee involvement in the organization is considered by Manulife when analyzing funding requests.

If you have questions, comments or concerns about any of these topics, you are encouraged to contact MBC by email at mbcboard@multiplebirthscanada.org.

CHANGES TO THE MBC BOARD Heather Scher

Prior to the Interim Board Meeting, the Board received notice and sadly accepted the resignation of Director **Heather Scher**. Heather joined the Board after the 2008 Conference where she was instrumental in setting up the Vendor Showcase. Since that time she has continued to coordinate the Summer Discount Program, searching out and signing up new attractions for MBC Members, expanding beyond Ontario to several other Canadian provinces. Heather assures the Board she will continue to develop new relationships with similar activities and other family destinations to ensure the Summer Discounts Program will continue. Heather's presence on the Board will be missed—the Board thanks her for all of her past and future assistance in helping MBC and its members.

Supporting Canada's Multiple-Birth Community for over 30 Years!

www.multiplebirthscanada.org

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