



News & Information from Multiple Births Canada



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MULTIPLE MOMENTS - Quarterly Issue 2, 2010



Your print copy of the second issue of 2010 should arrive at your door step sometime this week! Those of you with an electronic subscription were sent your email notification to pick-up your copy on July 2nd. If you did not receive that notification, please contact the Business Office at office@multiplebirthscanada.org. The theme is **Multiples on the Go**—covering travel related topics as well as ideas on how to keep the kids busy during the summer months—perfect to help you plan enjoyable family activities!

The June 2010 issue of the **Report From National** is posted on the Multiple Births Canada website. It features updates on MBC Year End Financial Results 2009-2010, meetings with Assisted Human Reproduction Canada (AHRC), discussions from the Board of Directors, Spring Interim Meeting, national fundraisers, and a request for hosts for the 2011 and 2012 National Conferences! Past Report From National issues can also be found on the **MBC website**.

The editorial focus of the next issue of Multiple Moments will be **Bonds and Individuality**. It will feature stories about the special bonds multiples share but at the same time address the issue of multiples as growing individuals. Topics being considered are personal experiences with the secret “twin/triplet/quadruplet language”, fascinating bonding facts, strategies on ensuring your children are able to develop as unique beings while being so close to a sibling, how you teach the sibling of a special needs child to deal with his “different” sibling, and how do you explain the multiple-concept to your children.

Please remember to submit photos with your stories if you can! Photos need to be in high-resolution (300 dpi)—which means your .jpg would probably be around 600 kb to 1.5 MB or larger. Please keep season and editorial focus in mind as much as possible when submitting a photo.

The deadline for submitting articles and pictures is July 30th. Send your submissions to Sabine at mmeditor@multiplebirthscanada.org.

COUPLES EXPECTING MULTIPLES NEEDED New Canadian Television Series Seeks Interested Couples

Marble Media is producing a new 13 part half-hour series for the History Channel to be broadcast across Canada in 2011. It focuses on names across Canada and the history behind them. In each show they will delve into a variety of subjects, from sports teams to streets, beer, rivers, rock bands, and ships to hear the fascinating stories behind their names. More than historical, **You Name It** will also follow along while something or someone is being named. One of the episodes will be about how people get their names and the challenges parents have naming their children—for this reason, Marble Media has asked MBC to help them find parents expecting multiples—particularly those comfortable with sharing the journey of finding the perfect names for their children.

Are you pregnant with multiples... twins/triplets or more? Do you live in Canada—preferably in the Vancouver, Toronto or Halifax? Couples living in other areas of the country with a good and interesting story will also be considered. Specifically, the producers are looking for Canadians expecting multiples sometime between September and December 2010. As part of the story, the production team will bring in a variety of experts to help you choose the perfect names for your babies.

For more information or to indicate your interest, please contact Donna Gall at donna@marblemedia.com.

NATIONAL MULTIPLE BIRTHS AWARENESS DAY Uniting Canadians Across Canada



This year's theme: **"Canada's El Parental Leave must reflect the needs of multiple-birth infants"** was proudly supported by many Chapters, groups and individuals across Canada. From custom-made t-shirts, banners and signs to online, print and broadcast media stories before, during and after the event—Canada's multiple-birth community has shown that together we can be quite successful in drawing attention to issues that affect our multiple-birth families. On the national scene, as organizers of the Ottawa Rally on Parliament Hill, the MBC Board sent personal invitations and information packages outlining the relevance in this year's awareness efforts to over 300 Members of Parliament. A big THANK YOU goes to everyone who got involved as an organizer or participant and to those who continue to create awareness of this important topic! The list of this year's family and advocacy activities is posted on the **MBC Awareness** page.

Organizers are reminded to **send your pictures and media clippings** to communications@multiplebirthscanada.org. Thoughts or comments on your event and/or on national initiatives can be shared through **an online survey**. In addition, there is a section at the end of the survey to indicate issues and challenges you would like to see addressed with future National Multiple Births Awareness Day themes. The MBC Board of Directors values your input and encourages you to complete this survey as soon as possible.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TWIN STUDIES Highlights from Seoul, South Korea – June 4-7, 2010

Gail Moore and Kim Weatherall, MBC Chair and Past Chair, represented Canada's multiple-birth community at the International Congress on Twin Studies held in Seoul, South Korea last month. Gail provided international delegates with an overview of the 2010 National Multiple Births Awareness Day activities in Canada and presented an outline for the first International Multiple Births Awareness Week which will be held November 1-7, 2010. Kim coordinated programming for delegates of the Council of Multiple Birth Organizations (COMBO) sessions, presided over the COMBO Business Meeting and attended the International Society for Twin Studies (ISTS) Business Meeting.

During the COMBO meeting, Gail presented the updated version of the **Declaration of Rights and Statement of Needs of Twins and Higher Order Multiples** for membership approval, thanking Donna Launslager, MBC Health and Education Chair for leading the effort on this modification. The update features many new and relevant rights and statements; these have now been officially approved and added to the document that was originally produced in 1995. The final element of this project—updating the references—will be completed by August 2010. The Declaration will be the focus of International Multiple Births Awareness Week later this year.

Other notables:

- COMBO delegates in attendance (representing national multiple-birth support organizations) came from the following countries: Australia, Finland, Japan, Switzerland, Germany and Canada. Other countries such as the United States, Portugal, China and Malaysia were also represented by researchers and other multiple-birth organizations working with multiples with an interest in COMBO, two of which were interested in starting national parent organizations in their countries.
- COMBO will now be identified as the International Council of Multiple Birth Organizations or ICOMBO to allow for immediate recognition as a global association.
- International Multiple Births Awareness Week will be held during the first week of November on the years when a congress takes place.
- The ISTS is moving to a two year cycle for meetings and will announce the 2012 location for the next Congress this fall.
- Beginning in January 2011 ICOMBO members will register and pay their fees directly with ICOMBO; ICOMBO will then pay to become affiliated with the ISTS. This will provide ICOMBO with financial resources to produce a website, cover administrative costs and better coordinate communications between countries.
- Kim Weatherall will continue as the Chair of ICOMBO and will continue her role on the ISTS Board of Directors. The other members of the ICOMBO Board are Terri Gillis – Vice Chair (United States), Past Chair – Mary Adcock (United States), Editorial Director – Mari Kaihovaara (Finland), Membership Directors – Monica Rankin (Australia) and Christine Disselkamp (Germany). The position of Research Director remains vacant at this time.
- Jane Denton and Dr. Jon Barrett, two MBC Advisory Board members, were both elected to the new ISTS Board starting in January 2011. Other members of the incoming ISTS Board include: President – Tim Spector, Vice-President – Nils Lambalk, Past President – Matt McGue, Secretary General – Gonneke Willemsen and Board Members Meike Bartels, Kaare Christensen, Catherine Derom, Nancy L. Segal and Kimberley Weatherall.

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

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