



### ***Mission Statement***

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for multiple-birth individuals and their families in Canada.

We provide support, education, research and advocacy nationally, as well as internationally, to all individuals, families, chapters and organizations with a personal or professional interest in multiple-birth issues.

### ***MBC's goal: Healthy Public Policy and Programs***

- Creation of healthy public policies must recognize the need for and benefits of additional supports for multiple-birth families in the short term, and in the long run
- Programming must address barriers to supports and services for multiple-birth families, including lack of services, lack of flexibility in social and employment programs, and the need for service coordination

### ***International Perspective***

- Other countries have special provisions for incidences of multiple-births imbedded in their maternity/parental leave programs. For example:
  - In Sweden, an extra six months leave per child is in effect
  - In Iceland, the arrival of multiples can afford families an extra three months leave
  - In Italy, a total of twenty months of leave is accorded to incidences of multiple-births

### ***If you consider...***

- The extended physical and emotional demands placed on all multiple-birth families when compared to families with singletons
- Need to consider multiple-birth children as individuals in their own right, not as a unit – therefore would recommend changes to programs and policies that perpetuate stereotypes, assume common needs for multiple-birth children, resulting in programming that is misdirected and ineffective
- Multiple-birth children themselves may face certain challenges: coping with loss of co-multiple, living with special needs, and increased likelihood of identifying and dealing with developmental delays

### ***You might agree that...***

- Neither the amount of coverage nor the length of coverage can be considered acceptable for multiple-birth families.