

The Alberta Breastfeeding Committee Annual Report – June 20, 2005

1 The ABC Board Meetings

The Board has met in Oct, 2004, Feb 28, & April 8, 2005, May 13, 2005:

- **Terms of Reference** finalized February 2005
- **Strategic Plan** overview completed and being implemented; specific outcome objectives for initiation and duration rates for breastfeeding established for ten years.
- Discussion of and input submitted for Health Canada's draft **Position Papers** on Exclusive Breastfeeding and Vitamin D
- **Expanding membership:**
 - Recruited stakeholder representation from all health regions across the province
 - Establishing a collaborative partnership with the Alberta Perinatal Health Program
 - Regional Young Family Wellness Initiatives project leads breastfeeding discussion group merging with the ABC
 - Shared interests/priorities re :
 - Data collection
 - Policy
 - Education
 - Social marketing
- Provided input for the Young Family Wellness **provincial survey** on breastfeeding data collection
- Continued exchange of national and international information via the **Alberta Breastfeeding Network listserv**; the national BF Canada listserv provides valuable and timely information which is forwarded to the Alberta Network.
- **ABC Website** currently being developed
- Collaboration with the Alberta Perinatal Health Program to update the **Alberta Directory for Breastfeeding Services**.
- Collection of and **Bibliography** for breastfeeding friendly children's books (Dianne Nikiforuk)

The first **AGM** for the ABC to be held June 20, 2005 in Calgary in conjunction with a major breastfeeding conference sponsored by CLCA, the University of Calgary Faculty of Nursing and the Calgary Breastfeeding Matters Group.

2 Partnership with Alberta Health & Wellness

- Ongoing partnership with Alberta Health & Wellness - Irene Mazurenko, Alberta Health & Wellness Liaison
 - Priority issue is breastfeeding data collection
 - the Province has determined that breastfeeding is important when discussing child health indicators
- The Alberta Minister of Health accepted an ABC proposal and granted funding to support a workshop and secretariat for the ABC.
 - This project supports a part time **secretariat** for 8 months; Maureen Fjeld has accepted this position.
 - **Workshop:**
 - Provincial full day Workshop was held on May 13, 2005 in Red Deer Alberta to introduce the Canadian Breastfeeding Definitions and the implications around implementing these into existing and new infant feeding data collection systems regionally. Thirty-eight participants attended; all nine health regions were represented (one to six participants from each health region) as well as the ABC Board and 8 other ABC members at large.
 - Follow up work continues around the development of a document for "Frequently Asked Questions" around the definitions and educational strategies for implementation of the definitions into existing and/or new data collection systems.
 - Collaboration and communication will continue with the various stakeholders at the regional levels, with Young Family Wellness representatives and with the Alberta Perinatal Health Program.

3 Provincial/Territorial Committee of the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada:

- Marilyn Young has represented the ABC on the P/T Committee and has participated in conference calls on a regular basis. Issues covered in the last 2 years include:
 - Development of the role and TOR of the Provincial \Territorial Committee
 - Development of the indicators for Baby Friendly community health settings
 - Review of the Diabetes project evaluation
 - Participation of the evaluation of the Breastfeeding Committee of Canada
 - Sharing breastfeeding promotion issues & strategies from across the country
 - Discussion with BFI designated hospitals in Canada
 - Development of the national definitions for breastfeeding data collection
 - Development of the survey re BFI implementation

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Chair, Alberta Breastfeeding Committee Board