



The Alberta Breastfeeding Committee is delighted to congratulate High River Hospital on being the first facility in Alberta to achieve the Baby-Friendly Initiative designation. The Baby-Friendly (Hospital) Initiative is the World Health Organization/UNICEF minimum standard of care for maternal-child health. The Baby-Friendly Initiative uses evidenced based best practices and includes measurable outcomes and ongoing quality improvement. The Breastfeeding Committee for Canada awards the designation based on meeting the standards for the Baby-Friendly Initiative set out in the "Integrated 10 Steps Practice Outcome Indicators for Hospitals and Community Health Services" (Breastfeeding Committee for Canada).

High River Hospital delivers about 400 infants each year. Many surrounding communities access High River Hospital for low-risk births. Southern communities include Cayley, Nanton, Stavely, and Claresholm, to the east, Blackie, Vulcan, Brant, and Mossleigh. Northern communities include Aldersyde, Okotoks, De Winton, Calgary, Airdrie, and Cochrane, and finally the western communities include Black Diamond, Turner Valley, Millarville, and Eden Valley. A dedicated multidisciplinary breastfeeding committee has been actively leading the pursuit of the Baby-Friendly Initiative designation for the last 2 years. The committee is comprised of, International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (active and retired), management, Registered Nurses, Public Health Nurses, an Obstetrician, community members, a Nurse Educator and low-risk clinic family Physicians.

For more information about the Baby-Friendly Initiative see the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada website. <http://www.breastfeedingcanada.ca/>

Sincerely,

Maxine Scringer-Wilkes,

Chair of Alberta Breastfeeding Committee