

More children die yearly from preventable injuries than all other causes combined

Many children in Canada are at risk because they are not receiving proper care, said The College of Family Physicians of Canada which announced a range of important initiatives to

improve child health. A CFPC report entitled *Our Strength for Tomorrow: Valuing our Children* is based on the work of a College task force. It revealed some startling facts about child health care in Canada. It

also made specific recommendations which will be implemented.

In just the first two years of life, each low birth weight infant requires health care services costing an average of \$200,000

are 10 times more likely to be admitted to hospital, yet 90 per cent of hospitals with obstetrical services have exclusive contracts with formula companies

Family physicians are in a unique position to play a leading role in child health care because they care for people throughout their lives, know their patients' family histories and

are typically the first contact when problems arise.

Specific initiatives to be undertaken include:

- More children die every year from preventable injuries than all other causes combined
- The leading causes of childhood injury are vehicle, bicycle and household accidents, drowning and fires.
- Although national statistics are unavailable, it is clear that many Canadian children suffer terrible indignities resulting from family violence, abuse and neglect
- Low birth weight is a serious issue since it accounts for about three-quarters of neonatal mortality (deaths under 28 days)
- Mothers living in poverty are at a higher risk of bearing small babies


- Aboriginal children die at twice the rate of other children and are four times more likely to die from preventable injuries
- The leading cause of death among Aboriginal children are

Babies fed formula rather than breastmilk are 10 times more likely to be admitted to hospital, yet 90 per cent of hospitals with obstetrical services have exclusive contracts with formula companies.

- distributing guide-
- lines to assist family physicians in such areas as identifying and appropriately dealing with child abuse, properly equipping their offices for paediatric emergencies and ensuring their practices are child-friendly
- promoting family physician outreach programs into schools, day-care centres and youth camps
- working with other groups and association which share common goals
- undertaking public information programs and expanding on the current patient education program of the CFPC
- enhancing undergraduate, residency and continuing education programs on child health
- encouraging family physicians to provide some counselling to patients on such subjects that could have a significant impact on the health of their children

birth defects and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

- 7.2 per cent of Canadians younger than 19 suffer some form of disability
- Babies fed formula rather than breastmilk



Markham Stouffville Hospital

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL

will be held on
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at 7:00 p.m.
in the Auditorium of
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