



## Quarterly Message from the Chair

Thursday, January 29, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year!

The Steering Committee held our first quarterly meeting in Toronto on Wednesday, January 14, 2015. Updates and highlights of our discussion are below.

### Governance Transition

As agreed at the November 2014 AGM, and based on consultation with DFATD and legal advice, we believe the best way forward to stabilize the Canadian Network, and ensure its sustainability, transparent governance structures and sound human resources is to incorporate as a Not-for-Profit Organization. The legal process is underway and will be completed this spring. Upon incorporation as a Not-For-Profit, the Steering Committee will transition to an interim Board of Directors. Bylaws will be ratified and an election of the first official Board will be held during the next AGM on **November 4, 2015**.

### External Evaluation of the Muskoka Initiative Project

An external agency will be undertaking an evaluation of DFATD's Muskoka Initiative for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health over the next 60 days. CAN-MNCH has been approached by the external consultants to participate and host a workshop which we have agreed to do. More information can be found [here](#).

### International Development Week (Feb. 1-7) – Let's Engage Canadians

Throughout the 25th annual International Development Week, we invite you to engage Canadians in our maternal, newborn and child health efforts. The Canadian Network will be providing communications materials to all Partners, so that we can speak with one voice about why 2015 matters for moms, babies and children globally. Details were provided to all communications contacts during the week of January 19, 2015. For more information, please contact [irene@can-mnch.ca](mailto:irene@can-mnch.ca)

### Strategic Planning

The key focus of the first Steering Committee meeting was to plan strategically for the next five years. Notes are below.

- What is the unique value contribution a network like this can make beyond simply being called a network?
- DFATD has invited the Canadian Network to submit a proposal for funding from 2015-2020 and this will represent a significant part of our work in the coming months.
- The Canadian Network will continue to focus on its core pillars of Measuring Results, Sharing Knowledge, and Stakeholder Engagement.
- A key focus of this year's activities will be accountability to continue to advance Canadian Partner's capacity to track common indicators and to measure results, in

alignment with global efforts. We will expand our capacity to track outcome measures by our members and provide comparability.

- The Secretariat will expand to accommodate our mission, while remaining committed to a lean structure with high levels of engagement from Canadian Network Partners.
- The Steering Committee is exploring Network membership criteria including a fee based model as well as qualitative contributions, in order to ensure that organizations involved in the Network are participating optimally.
- As part of our transition to stronger governance and management oversight, we are putting in place a performance system and other HR processes.

### **Monthly Newsletter**

Be sure to review our monthly newsletter sent on the third week of each month for regular updates and opportunities.

This year promises to be a time of renewed dedication to our collective vision of a world where every world where every woman, every newborn and every child survives and thrives. On behalf of the Steering Committee, I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,



Rosemary McCarney  
Chair, Canadian Network for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

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### **CAN-MNCH Steering Committee**

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Jennifer Blake, *Society of Obstetricians & Gynecologists of Canada*

Patricia Erb, *Save the Children*

Rosemary McCarney, *Plan Canada International*

David Morley, *UNICEF Canada*

Khalil Sharif, *Aga Khan Foundation*

Dorothy Shaw, *BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre*

Peter Singer, *Grand Challenges Canada*

Joel Spicer, *Micronutrient Initiative*

Dave Toycen, *World Vision*

Stanley Zlotkin, *The Hospital for Sick Children*

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For more information about Steering Committee Members, please visit [www.can-mnch.ca/about-us/steering-committee](http://www.can-mnch.ca/about-us/steering-committee)