



## Quarterly Message from the Chair

July 13, 2015

Dear colleagues,

The CAN-MNCH Steering Committee met for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting on June 9, by teleconference.

The focus of this meeting was *transition*. This year is one that is marked by a host of transitions – within our Network, nationally in Canada, and globally.

### **Governance**

CAN-MNCH is undergoing tremendous change this year.

- The Steering Committee is making steady progress towards our goal of being a not-for-profit by the annual meeting on November 4, 2015
- By-laws, policies and procedures to govern the organization have been adopted and will be presented for review in advance of the November 4 AGM, at which time they will be voted on by the membership at large
- The CAN-MNCH Nominating Committee is activating processes to fill vacancies and develop a strong inaugural Board of Directors to lead the Network

### **Funding Approval**

CAN-MNCH was recently awarded funding for 2015-2020, to further increase our collective impact and to increase accountability within the sector. This will include the creation of a Scientific Advisory Group, the development of a landscape analysis tool, a roster of health experts, data collection and a data repository. The three pillars of knowledge exchange, metrics evaluation and stakeholder engagement will continue to be our focus post-2015.

### **New Staff**

We are pleased to [welcome our new team members](#). Ginette Gautreau is Program Officer, and Wendy Therrien is our Director of External Relations.

### **Election 2015**

In this election year for the Canadian Government, we continue to be non-partisan. Through our Stakeholder Engagement Working Group and under the expert guidance of our new Director of External Relations, Wendy Therrien, we are meeting with the three primary political parties to provide recommendations regarding maternal, newborn and child health policy.

### **Mom-mentum and Through Her Eyes**

Our recent successful Mom-mentum Mother's Day Tea on Parliament Hill on May 5, 2015 was an opportunity to share the successes of our Partners with a diverse cross-section of Parliamentarians.. Thank you to Partners for contributing to the [Through Her Eyes](#) campaign, which showcased stories of moms from Canada and around the world.

### **Global Conversations**



Globally, we are taking a hard look at the results and gaps of the Millennium Development Goals as we shape the Sustainable Development Goals to be as effective as possible. CAN-MNCH is working to increase our connections with international bodies like Every Woman Every Child, Women Deliver and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, so as to inform the plans which are occurring on a global scale. Recently, [Canadian leaders participated in the Greentree Leaders' Retreat](#) in New York, [CAN-MNCH responded to the G7 Summit Leaders' Declaration](#), and we participated in the [Women Deliver Symposium](#) in Ottawa. We have collectively drafted and submitted letters to the Global Strategy 2.0 and Global Financing Facility discussions, to have our voice heard in these important global conversations.

### **Chair of the Board Transition**

I am honoured to have been recently appointed as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and Canadian Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament. While I am thrilled to be taking on this important responsibility, I am saddened to be leaving my post as Chair of the Canadian Network for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. Vice-Chair David Morley has assumed the position of Chair in the interim leading up to the annual meeting in Montréal on November 4, 2015, at which point a new Board will be elected to lead us into a new era of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served this important organization, in our collective efforts to reach *every* woman and child.

Sincerely,

Rosemary McCarney

Chair, Canadian Network for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

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

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 Toycon, *World Vision*

Stanley Zlotkin, *The Hospital for Sick Children*

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).