



Canadian Institute of Child Health
Institut canadien de la santé infantile

Milestones

2002

Played an influential role as a member of the Canadian delegation at the *World Summit on Sustainable Development* (Johannesburg, South Africa) and in other international meetings of the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (Mexico City), and the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (Ottawa). CICH was the only Canadian delegate at *Green Week*, the European Commission research meeting, ensuring the special environmental health concerns of children are addressed. The Institute was the only non-governmental organization in the government delegation to the Pan American Health Organization, which is developing a five-year maternal and child health agenda for the Americas.

Began networking through partnerships in Canada to address children's environmental health as part of the Voluntary Sector Initiative, the groundbreaking accord between the Government of Canada and the voluntary sector.

2001

Co-hosted *Children's Environmental Health II: A Global Forum for Action* (Washington, D.C.) which brought together public health specialists, medical practitioners, scientific researchers, policy makers and community-based organizations worldwide and resulted in increased global awareness of children's particular vulnerability to environmental contaminants.

Developed the *Nourish, Nurture and Neurodevelopment Resource Kit*, which synthesized recent brain development research. More than 9,500 kits have been distributed nationally to early childhood practitioners, health units and resource centres.

Co-signed the *Joint Statement on Shaken Baby Syndrome*, a major tool used throughout Canada by health care professionals and caregivers, child serving organizations, parents, law enforcement and departments of justice.

2000

Researched and published *The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile - Third Edition*, which provided a comprehensive snapshot of the state of children's health and gave direction on how to improve child health.

Contributed to policy and program initiatives in the *National Children's Agenda*, a \$2.2 billion transfer from the federal government to the provinces in support of community programming.

Created two new parental resources for parents, one teaching infant massage and a second describing activities around reading with small children.

1999

CICH became the expert Environmental Health Affiliate for the Canadian Health Network (CHN), providing credible and up-to-date information on environmental health issues for CHN's Web site.

Established *Changing Habits, Changing Climate* to improve awareness, education and understanding of climate change and its effect on the health of urban and rural children. Provided valuable information to policy makers, health practitioners and the Canadian public to take action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and make informed behaviour changes. More than 500,000 brochures were distributed across Canada, including one to every school in Canada.

Developed and distributed 3.5 million copies of *The First Years Last Forever*, which translated new research on child development into actions for parents and caregivers.

1998

Worked with the Federal Government, other NGOs and the public to ban the use of phalates in soft plastic toys sold in Canada.

1997

Organized *What on Earth?*, the first national symposium on the impact of environmental contaminants on child health. Held in Ottawa, this symposium identified the particular susceptibility of children for the first time.

1995

Established international credibility by researching the chapter on children in industrialized countries for UNICEF's Progress of Nations, participating in a Canadian mission to Cuba and by becoming a member of ChildWatch International, an international network of researchers that monitors children's health under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1994

Published *The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile - Second Edition*, which highlighted the steps Canadians have taken to improve child health, where improvement is needed, and emerging problems and issues. This edition resulted in comprehensive health policies and programs under the *Brighter Futures* initiative of the Government of Canada.

1993

Key participant in the joint statement *Reducing Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in Canada*, which recommended that healthy infants sleep on their side or back, be breastfed and be cared for in a smoke-free environment. Resulted in a 60 per cent decrease in infant deaths due to SIDS.

1989

Researched and published *The Health of Canada's Children: A CICH Profile - First Edition*, offering the first comprehensive look at the state of health care for Canadian children. The Profile demonstrated that childhood injuries were a major cause of death and hospitalization for children, and led to government prevention and surveillance programs and campaigns to reduce the likelihood of childhood injuries.

Key contributor to the development of standards for playground equipment in Canada (published by Canadian Standards Association in 1990), making playgrounds safer for children.

1988

Developed, in co-operation with other organizations, an implementation plan for a postpartum support program that placed greater emphasis on the health of the baby, mother and family before and after birth.

1987

Conducted the first *National Survey on Resuscitation of Newborns*, resulting in the creation of guidelines for resuscitation services in hospitals and training of personnel.

1986

Recommended changes in children's sleepwear standards to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada, resulting in new standards for flammability.

Developed and distributed the *Max the Safety Cat* resource kit to 6,000 child care centres to assist educators in addressing the sensitive subject of child sexual abuse with preschoolers.

1984

Key contributor to the *Canadian Coalition for Lead-Free Gasoline*, making Canada one of the first countries to legislate lead-free gasoline.

Conducted a working group to revise the *Recommended Standards for Maternity Care*, resulting in the *Canadian Guidelines for Maternity Care* and placing the family at the centre of the birth process and newborn period.

1981

Organized the *Canadian Conference on Childhood Injury Prevention*, the first national symposium to discuss the use of child restraints, bike helmets and poison control. Increased understanding resulted in legislation of car seat restraints, safety equipment such as bicycle helmets, and standards for cribs and toys.

1978

Founded the *Canadian Coalition for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities (CCPDD)*, a multi-sectoral group dedicated to improving perinatal care in Canada. The Coalition's work led to the development of standards for the role and function of nurses in reproductive care.

1977

Undertook a national survey of immunization administration in Canada and organized a national media campaign with other organizations to promote immunization, resulting in an increase in protection rates among school children across Canada.

The Canadian Institute of Child Health was established as an independent corporation by The Hospital for Sick Children and the Canadian Council on Children & Youth.