

**Report for BCC Annual General Meeting
Submitted by Infant Nutrition Committee
February 2009**

Background: The Infant Nutrition Committee of the BCC was struck as an ad hoc committee in 2004 to address issues related to infant and maternal nutrition.

The Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding (2003) and the WHO/UNICEF revisions to the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) framework released in 2006 call for the integration of breastfeeding into all areas of infant and early childhood policies, programs and practices.

This committee set out to develop a document that focuses on supporting, protecting and promoting continued breastfeeding from 6 months to two years and beyond as a determinate of normal maternal/child health and as a population health goal. This work will assist decision-makers by providing a template for developing healthy public policy and by providing health practitioners with tools to support mothers' decision to continue breastfeeding. The document "*Sustained Breastfeeding with the Integration of Complementary Feeding*" is nearing completion.

Activities in the past year include:

1. Expansion of each of *The Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding* to include the policy framework to support the transition from exclusive breastfeeding to sustained breastfeeding with the addition of locally available healthy family foods.
2. Identifying the rationale for the development of best practices for each expanded step.
3. Development of a clinical protocol to assist health care practitioners to assess and support maternal breastfeeding practices from 6 to 24 months and beyond.
4. Presentation on the complementary feeding framework at the conference "Breastfeeding the Smart Choice: Stepping up to Baby Friendly" held in Vancouver February 2009 which celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the launch of the Baby-Friendly initiative in Canada

Meetings:

The committee met monthly by telephone conference call. Committee members also held a face-to-face meeting in Toronto August 2008. This meeting was hosted by INFACT Canada and sponsored by the BCC.

Membership: Donna Nolan; Maureen Fjeld; Kelly Coker ; Elisabeth Sterken; Genevieve Courant; Johanna Bergerman.

Respectfully submitted by
Johanna Bergerman Chair

