

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual General Meeting ~ June 24, 2006

President's Message

For the first seven weeks after my son, George, was born, I struggled with the key thing that I wanted to give and share with my child.

Becoming a mother shook my world. I didn't know that giving birth meant cracking open the earth and bringing down god (*all spiritualities included*).

And yet for those critical weeks I struggled to feed my angel and care for myself. I resisted calling the breastfeeding support line (*thin bravado*) and did so, as a last desperate measure..... the advice was solid and rational but what reinforced my fraying core was this comment from the other mother on the line: 'nothing in the world should come between you and the love of your baby.'

So before George's first birthday, I joined the Breastfeeding Support Group. It has been both a dynamic and very busy year.

The cornerstone has absolutely been moms that have volunteered in many jobs, big and small. These include: organizing the Breastfeeding Challenge & Art Show in October, coordinating the training in November, running two postnatal classes and one support meeting every month, staffing the phone help line, providing graphic design, and hosting fundraising events and completing project proposals.

Moms, Boobs & Babies, is clearing an organization about mothers for mothers. The services the group provides are many of those small but mighty examples that exist in all communities - with skill and compassion we can make the north a better place to live, Join us.
- Jodi Woollam

aFINANCIAL SUMMARY

MB&B has had a very good year financially, thanks to the hard work and commitment of our members and the support of the Department of Health and Social Services.

Here is a quick overview of how things went for fiscal year 2005/06:

Bank balance on March 31, 2005:
...\$3300.05
Bank balance on March 31, 2006:
...\$2329.47
Current funds available as of June 24,
...2006: \$2379.80

Where we got our money:

Two contribution agreements from the
...GNWT- \$7321.00
Fundraising (bingo + Co-op vouchers) -
...\$550
(In kind donations: \$2,000)

Where we spent our money:

Phone - \$449.64
Support meetings - \$673
Training course - \$2721.83
Marianne Brophy visit - \$2597.83
Administration - \$832.65
Library resources - \$157.72
Promotion and advertising: \$1116.08

Looking ahead:

To maintain its core operations, MBB requires approximately \$3,000 per year (phone line - \$500, support meetings - \$1,000, promotion & advertising - \$1,500.00). We can afford this within our current balance. Though, in order to maintain core functions, MB&B members require annual training, \$3,000. What we need to decide what else we want to do and how to fund those activities.

-Roxane Poulin

BREASTFEEDING CHALLENGE

The Breastfeeding Challenge was held on October 1, 2005 at the Legislative Assembly. We had the best turn-out ever, with 18 babies latching on to their moms at the same time. We placed 2nd overall (in category- less than 10,000 births per year), with Yukon placing first and Nunavut third.

This year's Challenge will take place on **Saturday, September 3, 2006. The Theme is "Code Watch: 25 years of protecting breastfeeding"**. We hope to increase the turn-out and challenge the Yukon to first place.

ART SHOW

The Breastfeeding Challenge also saw the kick-off to our week-long Art Show, also held at the Legislative Assembly. Some wonderfully creative and expressive art was submitted by female and male artists alike, depicting their views of breastfeeding. Unfortunately, two pieces of art were deemed to "explicit" and were censored from the Art Show by the Legislative Assembly.

- Elke Heinemann



TRAINING: A two day training course was held in November 2005. The session, run by nurses and former Support Group members, Tina Drew and Teresa Patzer, provided basic knowledge and resourcing on breastfeeding issues as well as basic counseling. Thanks to Roxane Polin for organizing.

We hope to have annual training in the autumn. If you are interested, please contact us.

HELPLINE: Following the basic training, volunteers have taken the telephone and rotated shifts on a bi-weekly basis. This provides fast access to support for mothers that call.

POST NATAL: In the summer of 2005, YK Public Health asked whether MB&B would facilitate the post natal classes twice a month. MB&B, with the dedication of Ronna Kingsley was able to do this. A service currently at risk. Thank you to Ronna.

SUPPORT MEETINGS: held, the first Wednesday of every month, 4-6pm at the Toy Library, approximately nine mothers and their children attend these informal and helpful sessions.

VOLUNTEERS 2005 – 2006

Tina Drew
Ronna Kingsley
Roxane Poulin
Elke Heinemann

Kerry Egan
Hye Berube
Michelle Martin
Kirsty Ketchum

Tracy Breton
Danica Keith
Liz Gilbert
Jennifer Sanders

Natsha McQuag
Alana Fischer
Sue Gorland
Jodi Woollam