



Breastfeeding Committee for Canada

The National Authority for the WHO/UNICEF Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFI) in Canada

Aboriginal Nurses
Association of Canada

Association of Women's
Health, Obstetric and
Neonatal Nurses

Canada Prenatal Nutrition
Program

Canadian Confederation of
Midwives

Canadian Healthcare
Association

Canadian Institute of Child
Health

Canadian Lactation
Consultant Association

Canadian Nurses
Association

Canadian Paediatric
Society

Canadian Perinatal
Programs Partnership

Canadian Pharmacists
Association

Canadian Public Health
Association

College of Family
Physicians of Canada

Dietitians of Canada

Federal/Provincial/Territorial
Group on Nutrition

Health Canada

INFACT Canada

La Leche League Canada

Ligue La Leche

Society of Obstetricians
and Gynaecologists of
Canada

UNICEF Canada

and other independent
experts

Statements and opinions
expressed in this letter are
those of the writer and not
necessarily the opinions
of the members of the
Breastfeeding Committee
for Canada.

June 2, 2004

MEMO TO: Breastfeeding Committee for Canada Member Agency
Representatives

FROM: Susan James Senior Co-chair, BCC

**RE: Breastfeeding Definitions, Data Collection Periods and
Algorithm**

On behalf of the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada (BCC) I am pleased to announce that the BCC Board of Directors has accepted for endorsement the document on 'Breastfeeding Definitions and Data Collection Periods' completed March 2004 by the BCC Provincial & Territorial Committee.

The Provincial and Territorial Committee developed these definitions and recommended data collection times over the past year. The development of this document is to contribute to a database for describing the prevalence and duration of breastfeeding in Canada. Monitoring the intake of breastmilk is a health indicator – useful in planning, implementing and evaluating the prevalence and duration of breastfeeding and thus the health of our infant population. Most health regions/health authorities in Canada are collecting or planning to collect breastfeeding information. It is hoped that this document will facilitate data collection that is consistent and can be used to compare breastfeeding practices between regions and provinces/territories.

The document was developed from a population health perspective – with the definitions and process for data collection kept simple so that many individuals can collect relevant, accurate and consistent data. To assist in the breastfeeding definition determination an algorithm is attached.

As your organizations designate to the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada we ask that you share this document with our colleagues as soon as possible.

Please contact me at SJames@nickel.laurentian.ca or Gail Storr, BCC Junior Co-Chair at storr@unb.ca if you have questions or comments.

Thank you for assisting with the dissemination of this information.

Sincerely,

Susan James, Senior Co-Chair
Breastfeeding Committee for Canada