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## **NATIONAL MULTIPLE BIRTHS AWARENESS DAY WILL EDUCATE CANADIANS ON MULTIPLE-BIRTH ISSUES**

**WASAGA BEACH** -- Multiple Births Canada/Naissances multiples Canada (MBC) is proud to announce the creation of National Multiple Births Awareness Day, to be celebrated for the first time on Saturday, May 28, 2005.

This new MBC initiative will guide Canadians to a better understanding of the unique needs and challenges faced by multiple-birth individuals and their families. Those issues include the need for supplementary medical care and monitoring, low birth-weight babies, and exceptional physical demands placed on parents. "In 2005, we'll focus on improving Canada's Employment Insurance (EI) benefits for new multiple-birth parents," says Gail Moore, Director of Communications at MBC.

At present maternity and parental benefits provided through EI are not adequate. They do not consider the extra burden that weighs on parents and their newborns before and after the multiple-birth delivery. Medical evidence indicates that the birth of one baby allows for recovery and bonding to occur much sooner than when two or more babies are born, yet the timeline for these parents to return to work is the same. This does not address the individuality of multiple-birth babies, nor meet the objectives of current EI standards.

MBC is the only national organization supporting Canada's multiple-birth community. That community, estimated at over 150,000 families with multiples under the age of 20, and while the overall Canadian birth rate is declining, the multiple-birth rate continues to grow at a rate of 2.3% annually. Membership to MBC is open to anyone who supports its mission of improving the quality of life for multiple birth individuals and their families in Canada. It is anticipated that National Multiple Births Awareness Day 2005 will initiate dialogue for change within Canada. For information on Multiple Births Canada visit [www.multiplebirthscanada.org](http://www.multiplebirthscanada.org).

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www.multiplebirthscanada.org