

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate publication

**MULTIPLE BIRTHS CANADA APPLAUDS
MALPRACTICE DECISION AND AWARD**

WASAGA BEACH, ONTARIO – *October 23, 2006.* Multiple Births Canada (MBC) issued a statement of support today in response to a recent malpractice settlement for \$12 million to a Sault Ste. Marie family of twins with cerebral palsy.

The decision underlines one of the key messages MBC has been drawing attention to this year, that all multiple-birth pregnancies are high risk. “Most Canadians are unaware of the danger involved in carrying twins, triplets and more, however ‘high risk’ is a phrase a mother of multiples hears often during her pregnancy.” said Gail Moore, Director of Communications, MBC.

Over the past two decades the number of multiple-births has risen by 35 per cent in Canada. Available data from Europe and North America suggest that infertility treatment accounts for 30 percent of all twin births and for up to 80 percent of all higher-order multiple-births. Of these higher-order multiple-births about 50 percent are attributable to ovarian stimulation alone. Although multiples represent 1 in 34 births, they account for 1 in 5 preterm births, 1 in 4 low birth weight births, and 1 in 3.5 very low birth weight births. Pregnancy complications include gestational hypertension, preeclampsia, anemia, gestational diabetes, premature rupture of membranes and postpartum hemorrhage. Multiple-birth infants have a disproportionately high risk of perinatal death and illness, which places enormous stress on families as well as health, social and education services. “Educating Canadians, including our medical professionals, will hopefully lead to a better understanding of the challenges many of our families face, helping their patients to make better informed decisions” said Kim Weatherall, Chair, MBC.

MBC has supported multiple birth families in Canada for over 28 years. It is the only national, non-profit, non-governmental organization solely committed to improving the quality of life for multiple-birth individuals and their families in Canada. MBC’s mandate includes improving access to support, resources and informed care for multiples and their families, building stronger member chapters across Canada, and encouraging government and service providers to recognize the unique needs of multiples and their families and to provide appropriate services to them. For more information MBC, call 1-866-228-8824 or visit the website at www.multiplebirthscanada.org

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gail Moore, Vice Chair & Director of Communications
Toll Free: 1-866-228-8824
communications@multiplebirthscanada.org

