

Diaper Needs Awareness Week September 26- October 2



Canadian Association of Perinatal and
Women's Health Nurses
Association canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers
en périnatalité et en santé des femmes

CAPWHN is asking for your help to address diaper need in

Canada. CAPWHN, for the first time, is initiating a project to address diaper need. We hope to make this an annual event so that we contribute to helping families in need on an ongoing basis.

What is Diaper Need? The lack of a sufficient supply of diapers to keep an infant or toddler clean, dry and healthy.

Background: Diaper need impacts the physical, mental and economic well-being of children and parents. Lack of diapers means families or caregivers do not change diapers regularly, increasing diaper dermatitis, infections and overall discomfort. These babies cry more often. The Diaper Bank of Toronto (TDB) reports that babies may be kept in wet dirty diapers for extended periods, even for as long as a full day, in families experiencing diaper need. Many parents cannot make use of daycare or early childhood programs in order to go to school or work if they cannot provide diapers to the centre. Infants require about 12 diapers a day at a cost of \$35 to 50 dollars per week as per DNAW.

The creation and maintenance of a National Diaper Bank throughout the United States started with awareness of diaper need. American statistics identify that 1 in 3 families struggle with diaper need. Diaper Banks are supported by AWHONN through donations at diaper drives held at AWHONN national and regional meeting, diaper drives in communities and donations by various organizations. For example, Huggies has donated over 200 million diapers and wipes.

CAPWHN project for Canada: Canada has **diaper banks** in Toronto, Vancouver, and Ottawa and possibly others. In order reach out across Canada, CAPWHN is also collaborating with **Food Banks Canada** as a diaper donation site. Erin Filey-Wronecki, Manager, Corporate Partnerships for Food Banks Canada indicated that diapers are their greatest need. They would welcome a project to increase diapers in food banks and increase community awareness of the need for diaper donations. Every month about 50,000 children under age 2 receive support from food banks in Canada. The TDB reports that 1 in 5 Canadian mothers have experienced diaper need.

What can you do?

START NOW!!! We would like CAPWHN members and colleagues to create a diaper drive at work or among friends or your community. Talk to the leadership team at your facility to build their support. Create a sign and large donation box in your work area. We have great faith in the creativity of nurses to make this happen – signs in your work area, challenges to other units or educational programs, linking with local businesses are the tip of the iceberg of what you might consider.

Making an individual or a group donation to your local food bank or your local diaper bank if available would be a great start. Students, staff, faculty and other community members can all be part of the process. Tell your friends on social media and use the hashtag **#DiaperNeedCanada** so that the effort can reach all corners of Canada. Tag **@CAPWHN** and **@FoodBanksCanada**. CAPWHN would love to see pictures of your efforts – post and also send to admin@capwhn.ca so we can share at Halifax conference October 12-14 2017.

To donate to diaper banks see link for locations (Toronto, Ottawa, BC) and agencies used to distribute diapers.

<http://www.thediaperbank.ca/tdb/Donate.html>

<http://www.barebottomsottawa.com/diaper-drive-2016.html>

<http://www.babygoround.ca/fundraiser/diaper-need-awareness-week-september-26-october-2-2016/>

What can be donated

Disposable diapers for various ages, and diaper wipes can be donated. It can be a partial or full bag. Older age children are often a huge need, While there may be environmental concerns with disposable diapers, Public Health nurses, the Toronto Diaper Bank and Food Banks Canada **recommend donation of disposable diapers** due challenges with costs and availability of laundry facilities. Many public laundry facilities do not allow cloth diapers to be washed in their machines for sanitary reasons per TDB. Additionally day care facilities do not accept cloth diapers. Please check with your local diaper bank and if they accept **cloth diapers** you might wish to include pins and detergent.

What to do with your donation?

- Take a picture of your donation and your group or a sign telling us who has done this great work
- Take the diapers to your local food bank or diaper bank (another picture opportunity)
- Post your pictures on social media, tag CAPWHN

We are very excited about this project and hope you are too. It has the potential to build momentum and become an example of CAPWHN's leadership in giving back to families. **Looking forward to your pictures!**

Cheers



Sharon Dore
President CAPWHN