

**A Panel Presentation
and Public Forum on
Parental Leave**



October 20, 2009
7-9 p.m.

Holiday Inn
Salon F
180 Portugal Cove Road
St. John's, NL

Panelists include:
**Lana Payne, President
Newfoundland and Labrador
Federation of Labour**

**Linda Ross, CEO
Newfoundland Provincial Advisory
Council on Status of Women**

**Melba Rabinowitz, Msc. RSW
Consultant, Children and Family
Services**

Moderated by
**Marie White
Consultant Manager,
Goss Gilroy Inc.**

Hosted by
**GEMMA: A Society for
the Promotion of
Infant Mental Health**

For more information, please contact
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Are current Canadian Parental Leave Provisions adequate?

The first years of life have a unique and critical impact on a child's development, relationships and functioning throughout life. The parent/child relationship is the most powerful influence on children's early development particularly in the first three years. Join us for a discussion of how parental leave policies affect the parent child relationship during this period and the impact on the mental health of our children.

Panelists will provide a number of differing perspectives on current policies. The forum will provide an opportunity to explore and debate such questions as: How well do babies and families thrive under the present policies? What is the difference in policy for birth parents and adoptive parents, and why? Are current policies sufficient to adequately support families/parents? Is there support for an enriched parental leave policy and if so what is this vision?

Join us at this FREE public event to engage in this discussion and share your thoughts, experiences and opinions on this very important issue.

This public forum is hosted by GEMMA, as part of our ongoing commitment to promoting awareness of the emotional needs of infants and toddlers and to exploring how the needs of infants and toddlers can be best met by public policy.

The purpose of this event is to provide a public space for parents and interested members of the general public to learn more about this issue and to share different views and perspectives. Immediately following the public forum, GEMMA will be holding its AGM. All are invited to attend.

GEMMA

A Society for the Promotion of Infant Mental Health