

teachers, two special-education consultants, and four social workers. He is in his second residential treatment centre. Not one of these professionals identified the foetal alcohol drug damage.”⁵⁷

The Canadian Medical Association testified that in 1989 a national conference was held at Niagara-on-the-Lake on “Preventing Alcohol Problems: the Challenge for Medical Education”. The conference was organized by two departments in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, in collaboration with the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario and the Canadian Medical Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs. Financial support for the conference was provided by Labatt Breweries of Canada. Each of Canada’s 16 medical schools was represented. The conference goal was “to ensure that Canadian physicians acquire the knowledge, attitudes and skills needed to prevent alcohol problems in clinical practice and to play leadership roles in community efforts to prevent alcohol problems”.⁵⁸ The proceedings of the conference were published in a special supplement of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* in October 1990.

The CMA witnesses testified that “. . . most of the strategies have been identified, and we’re now in the follow-up phase.”⁵⁹ It is encouraging that Canada’s faculties of medicine have recognized the problem and have taken steps to modify and enlarge medical school curricula to provide better education for medical students about the impacts of alcohol on human health. As the conference organizers noted, however, “. . . enhanced opportunities for continuing education in this area are also important and require the attention of the entire profession”.⁶⁰

The Canadian Nurses Association recommended to the Sub-Committee that “. . . information on foetal alcohol syndrome and alcohol-related birth defects be included in the curriculum of health professions and that training and upgrading include practical knowledge of the evaluation and counselling of alcohol use in pregnancy”.⁶¹

The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse observed that few medical professionals have received formal training on the effects of alcohol during pregnancy and that the federal government should fund programs aimed at the development of appropriate curriculum materials for the training of health-care professionals. The federal government should further ensure that such material is adopted by educational institutions.⁶²

RECOMMENDATION NO. 12

The Sub-Committee recommends that Health and Welfare Canada, in cooperation with professional health-care associations including, but not necessarily limited to, the Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Nurses Association, take the lead and assist in upgrading the curricula of medical schools, schools of nursing, and other relevant health-care educational institutions, with respect to the impacts of alcohol on the foetus in particular, and on human health in general.

⁵⁷ Proceedings, Issue 15, p. 15.

⁵⁸ Mary Jane Ashley, et al, “Preventing alcohol problems: the challenge for medical education”, *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, Vol. 143, 1990, p. 1041.

⁵⁹ Proceedings, Issue 13, p. 7.

⁶⁰ Ashley (1990), p. 1042.

⁶¹ Proceedings, Issue 14, p. 6.

⁶² Proceedings, Issue 9, p. 8.