

28 June 2010

Canada's obstetricians and gynaecologists commend the G8 on their commitment to maternal, newborn and child health

Ottawa – The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) commends Prime Minister Harper and the Canadian government for Canada's \$1.1 billion commitment over five years to support maternal, newborn and child health. The SOGC also praises the Prime Minister's efforts, leadership and success in obtaining \$7.3 billion in financial support from G8 countries, non-G8 countries and private foundations to help achieve maternal and child health around the world.

"We are delighted that the Prime Minister has recognized that complications during labour and birth are the main reason mothers are dying and that aide efforts should be focused on pregnancy and childbirth" said Dr. Ahmed Ezzat, President of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.

The main causes of maternal mortality are well known: postpartum hemorrhage, eclampsia, dystocia and sepsis. There is solid evidence-based research on how to treat these complications with low-cost, life-saving interventions for women and children.

The SOGC looks forward to an opportunity to work with the Canadian government to translate this verbal commitment into tangible actions that will promote better health for women and newborns worldwide.

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About the SOGC

The SOGC is one of Canada's oldest national specialty organizations. Established in 1944, the Society's mission is to promote excellence in the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology and to advance the health of women through leadership, advocacy, collaboration, outreach and education. The SOGC represents obstetricians/gynaecologists, family physicians, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals working in the field of sexual reproductive health. For more information, visit www.sogc.org.