

SOGC calls on all provinces and territories for full funding of IVF treatments

March 22, 2010 — For over 20 years, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) has advocated at the federal, provincial and territorial levels for full funding for the prevention and treatment of infertility in Canada. The SOGC has actively advocated on this issue and has called on all levels of government to consider infertility as a medical disease to be covered under the Canada Health Act. Unfortunately, during these last few years, very few governments have incorporated infertility prevention, diagnosis and treatment as an insured program under provincial and territorial health plans.

The SOGC congratulates the Quebec government for taking the first step to incorporate infertility treatment as an insured benefit under the Canada Health Act.

The SOGC and its 3,500 members from across the country call on other provincial and territorial governments to quickly enact similar programs. With the increasing number of infertile couples seeking medical attention, the SOGC would like to engage the federal, provincial and territorial governments in a Canada-wide campaign for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infertility.

The SOGC has worked very closely with its colleagues at the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society, and has produced the *Joint SOGC-CFAS Guideline for Elective Single Embryo Transfer Following In Vitro Fertilization* to be published in the April edition of the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada* (currently in press and under embargo until 6 April 2010).

The SOGC seeks to have infertility prevention, diagnosis and treatment covered as insured benefits under the Canada Health Act in every Canadian province and territory. This would have a significant impact on all infertile couples in Canada who wish to participate in the greatest miracle of their life: the birth of a child.