PRESS RELEASE

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On February 3, 2011, the Cowichan Communities Health Network hosted the latest in a series of public engagement meetings. This Health Network meeting focused on the *Early Years for Children (0-6yr of age)*.

The meeting saw ten community groups provide information on what is available in our communities to support children and their families in these vibrant but vulnerable years. A panel spoke on the health status of young children in the Cowichan Communities, issues needing attention, and what is currently available, allowing Health Network participants to engage in a conversation of how to better our communities for children 0-6 and their families.

Information about the new Primary Care Maternity clinic was presented by Dr. Maggie Watt, Chief of Family Practice, Obstetrics, for the Cowichan Communities. The maternity clinic site is at the Cowichan District Hospital and is one of the new initiatives being developed by the Cowichan Division of Family Practice.

The majority, in attendance, were not new or young parents, however most stated that they learned something new and valuable regarding early childhood development, and the majority felt that this issue should be a priority for the Health Network in the future.

The Cowichan Communities Health Network is about involving people in decision-making to enhance the health and wellbeing of Cowichan citizens. This community based group welcomes everyone in our Cowichan communities to join in the discussion on health. The Network is committed to fostering a learning environment focused on factors affecting health and well-being and facilitating positive change. It really makes a difference when individuals participate; you have something to offer, and this is your opportunity!

The next Cowichan Communities Health Network Meeting is scheduled for March 31st, and the topic will be Seniors. For more information on the Health Network, please call 250.701.2153 or go to the website [www.cchn.ca](http://www.cchn.ca).

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