



I would like to extend a special welcome to the organizers and participants of the 13th International Conference on the Maternal Child Health Handbook. You are attending this conference and holding it at the DLSPH at a critical time for public health, when we urgently need sustained energy to support and improve maternal and child health. I do not need to tell you how the global pandemic has isolated us from each other in many ways, when we know that it takes a village to support parents and raise children. It is only fitting that you have chosen the conference theme “Making Me Visible” to amplify the voices of the oft-unheard, ever-accommodating mothers who are their families’ first health practitioners and promoters, and to children whose loud cries need responses of comfort and care.

I am confident you will benefit from this opportunity to collaborate, connect and engage with each other as you continue with your practices in providing and advocating for maternal and child health.

Congratulations to the conference organizers who are bringing together practitioners to reflect on ensuring a continuum of harmonized care for mothers and children. May your work continue to empower birthing people and their families to adopt culturally appropriate supports for maternal and child health care and well-being.

I wish you success through these two days and may the reflections from this conference bring about the impact you envision together.

Adalsteinn (Steini) Brown

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### Dean of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto

*Prior to becoming Dean, Steini was the Director of the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and the Dalla Lana Chair of Public Health Policy. Other past roles include senior leadership roles in policy and strategy within the Ontario Government, founding roles in start-up companies, and extensive work on performance measurement. He received his undergraduate degree in government from Harvard University and his doctorate from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.*