

**Elisabeth Sterken, BSc, MSc, Dt.**

***Elisabeth Sterken is a professional nutritionist specializing in infant and young child feeding. She has been actively working on the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding in her home country, Canada and internationally for over 25 years.***

- ***The current director of INFACT (Infant Feeding Action Coalition) Canada and IBFAN (International Baby Food Action Network) North America;***
- ***A founding member of the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada, and past member of its Nutrition Committee;***
- ***Current co-chair of the IBFAN Global Council governing the IBFAN global network;***
- ***Current member of the UNICEF Breastfeeding Advocacy Initiative;***
- ***Current member of the ILCA Code Expert Panel***
- ***The Past Chairperson and Co-Chair of the Non Governmental Organization/Civil Society Organizations group of the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition;***
- ***Is a Core Partner for IBFAN on the steering committee of WABA and a member of the joint Core Advisory Group on the governance and implementation of the global Breastfeeding Initiative for Child Survival;***
- ***The Chairperson of the IBFAN Codex Working Group for the protection of breastfeeding in the development of Codex Alimentarius standards for foods for infants and young children.***

**Awards**

- ***Recipient of the Right Livelihood Award, known as the Alternative Nobel Peace Prize - awarded in Sweden, 1998.***

**Academic Qualifications**

- **BSc. University of Toronto**
- **MSc. University of Waterloo**
- **Dietetic Internship, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto**

## Professional involvements

- Works with UN agencies and member states on breastfeeding protection policies and implementation measures for the adoption of the WHO Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, WHA Resolutions on Infant and Young Child Nutrition and participates in the WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius Committees (CCFL, CCFNSDU, CCFH, CAC) on the standard setting process for infant formula and complementary food products for infants and young children;
- Is a frequent presenter at international professional breastfeeding conferences;
- Has organized and chaired an international meeting in Asia on breastfeeding and complementary feeding to develop global policy; assist governments and UN agencies and develop guidelines for the marketing of complementary food products for older infants and young children;
- Develops and organizes training for the implementation of the UNICEF/WHO 20-hour breastfeeding courses for health professional and community support workers across Canada;
- Researches barriers to breastfeeding for Canadian mothers/parents, i.e. the impact of nutrition and health claims on infant feeding decisions;
- Organized and chaired the annual national breastfeeding conference for Canadian health care providers together with the City of Toronto Public Health and Sunnybrook Health Sciences for over 20 years;
- Is a frequent media commentator on infant and young child nutrition;
- Spearheaded the World Breastfeeding Week theme and action across Canada on the annual theme as set by the WABA and developed theme related action kits for the health care sector for over 20 years;
- Produced and distributed award-winning breastfeeding promotion tools;
- Has published several articles on infant and young child nutrition in peer reviewed journals;
- Works with professional associations to develop infant and young child breastfeeding policies.

