The Final Push?
Making Midwives Part of the Nova Scotia Health System

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Proclamation

International Day of the Midwife

WHEREAS May 5, 2005, has been designated as International Day of the Midwife by the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women’s Health; and

WHEREAS midwives have been providing care to birthing women in every corner of the globe for at least a century; and

WHEREAS this is an opportunity to pay tribute to the dedicated and compassionate work of midwives, as well as the many Nova Scotians who are recipients of their care;

THEREFORE be it resolved that I, John F. Hamm, Premier of Nova Scotia, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2005, as International Day of the Midwife and acknowledge their role in providing quality health care to Nova Scotians.

Signed at Halifax, Nova Scotia

John F. Hamm, M.D., M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia
What is a Midwife?

- Registered health professional providing primary care to women and babies
- Pregnancy, birth and 6 weeks after birth
- Highly trained – Four Year Undergraduate Degree
- Integrated into the health care system
Midwifery as Part of the Health Care System

- Healthy pregnant women have a choice
- Fully funded by the government (no fee)
- Regulated by a council/college
## Midwifery in Canada: A Snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province / Territory</th>
<th>Education Programme</th>
<th>Method of Remuneration</th>
<th>Liability Insurance</th>
<th>Number of Midwives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>4 yr undergrad; UBC</td>
<td>Course of Care</td>
<td>Government subsidy (time limited)</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Government subsidy (time limited, project based funding)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saskatchewan</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoba</td>
<td>Funded PHC Transition; Aboriginal Midwifery Education Programme</td>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>100% coverage for employees of RHAs</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>4 yr undergrad Laurentian McMaster Ryerson (Consortium) Aboriginal Midwifery Training Programme (Six months)</td>
<td>Course of Care</td>
<td>100% coverage by provincial government</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quebec</td>
<td>3 yr apprenticeship model for Inuit Midwives in Inukjuak and Poveurnituk; 4 yr undergrad Université de Quebec (Trois Rivières)</td>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>100% Coverage by provincial government</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWT &amp; Nunavut</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>11 in Nunavut</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why ACEWH supports midwifery

Women’s rights and women’s choices and women’s health

- Rights: to care that is available elsewhere in Canada—question of equity
- Choices: about *how* to give birth and with *whom* in attendance.
- Midwifery Philosophy and Model of Care and Evidence of Outcomes is excellence in women’s health
Regulated Midwifery in Ontario

- Currently over 300 Registered Midwives
- In 2004, midwives attended 9,000 births, about 7% of Ontario total and an increase of 78% in 5 years
- Midwifery is the only maternity care provider group in Ontario that is growing
- Midwives cannot meet demand in most communities – only 57% of women who requested midwifery were able to be taken in to care
In 2003, the Ontario Government undertook a comprehensive review of midwifery.

Program review was an opportunity to assess and compare midwifery outcomes and cost-effectiveness.

Key findings were that midwifery creates significant savings, has good clinical outcomes, and very high rates of client satisfaction.
Program Review Findings

- Midwife assisted hospital birth saves system $800
- Midwife assisted home birth saves $1800

Savings are due to:
- Lower rate of obstetrical interventions
- Lower ER/hospital readmission rate
- Shorter hospital stays

Government survey found client satisfaction rate was 98.7%
# MOHLTC Evaluation Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Ontario Midwives</th>
<th>Ontario Family Physicians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C-section</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forceps/Vacuum</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episiotomy</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Stay &lt;48 hours</td>
<td>74.2%</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breastfeeding at six weeks</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
<td>71.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For more information:
www.acewh.dal.ca/midwifery