

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

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Nova Scotia

Proclamation

International Day of the Midwife

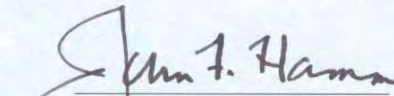
WHEREAS *May 5, 2005, has been designated as International Day of the Midwife by the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health; and*

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.*




John F. Hamm, M.D., M.L.A.
Premier of Nova Scotia

Signed at Halifax, 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

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

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

Midwifery Program Review

- ✦ 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

Indicator	<i>Ontario Midwives</i>	Ontario Family Physicians
C-section	12.7%	20.6%
Forceps/Vacuum	5.4%	14.4%
Episiotomy	7.2%	16.6%
Hospital Stay <48 hours	74.2%	34.6%
Breastfeeding at six weeks	90.7%	71.5%

For more information:
www.acewh.dal.ca/midwifery



Le Centre d'excellence de l'Atlantique
pour la santé des femmes

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