



College of Midwives of Newfoundland and Labrador

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

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# ANNUAL REPORT

## Introduction

The Newfoundland and Labrador Council of Health Professionals (NLCHP) regulates the practice of Acupuncturists, Audiologists, Dental Hygienists, Medical Laboratory Technologists, Midwives, Respiratory Therapists and Speech-Language Pathologists. These health professionals are required to be registered with the NLCHP to practice in Newfoundland and Labrador. The role of the NLCHP and its authority and powers are set out in the Health Professions Act (the *Act*). As per the *Act*, a separate College is established for each health profession designated under the *Act*. Each health profession's College remains focused on establishing education and registration requirements, and articulating entry to practice requirements, scope of practice, code of ethics and standards of practice for their profession. Together, the NLCHP and the Colleges, ensure that there are competent health professionals providing quality care to the public.



On behalf of the College of Midwives of Newfoundland and Labrador, I am pleased to share this year's 2021 annual report. It was a busy year with the lingering impact of COVID and fluctuating obstetrical access for our Gander Midwives. There remains a concern regarding the stalled expansion, implementation, and integration of Registered Midwives into the Newfoundland and Labrador healthcare system.

We believe Midwifery services in Canada should be universally accessible to all people wherever they live, and that adequate supports must be in place to ensure that the model of midwifery care can succeed. This must include sustainability and accessibility with growth of Indigenous Midwifery for all Canadian Indigenous communities. In Newfoundland and Labrador, a Canadian Midwifery Model that is supported and well-integrated within the existing Regional Health Authorities is essential to improving reproductive and newborn health across the province.

Currently, the midwifery model in Newfoundland and Labrador only allows for publicly funded positions and is limited to four full time Registered Midwife positions in Central Health, three of which are vacant or temporarily filled. This lack of staffing coupled with ongoing diversions

makes midwifery-attended births difficult to impossible. Unfortunately, due to the unpredictability of the situation in the area, there have been no applications for the current positions. There was no further expansion of midwifery services in the province since 2019. Our Provincial Midwife Chief position is hopefully resuming soon.

From a regulatory perspective, this causes challenges as it is difficult for the College of Midwives of Newfoundland and Labrador to be sustainable with such small registration numbers. We are concerned that the model of midwifery in Newfoundland and Labrador may collapse without further support and initiative from the government. We are already seeing the effects of this in Gander where Registered Midwives do not have the hospital access or extra midwives needed to provide home births. There are Registered Midwives ready and waiting to fill positions across Newfoundland and Labrador, and there is community demand. This previous year, citizens from across the province contacted the CMNL in search of midwifery services. They were disappointed and frustrated when they were told they could not access a Registered Midwife in their community.

We ask that the government start actively participating in expanding midwifery across the province by actively integrating funded Midwife positions in every Regional Health Authority.

Sincerely,



Cara Begg-Reid  
Chair-College of Midwives of Newfoundland and Labrador

### **College Executive**

Cara Begg-Reid	Chair in 2021
Sarah Harnum	Newly Elected Chair March 31, 2022
Edie Posca	Vice Chair
Brianna Thompson	Secretary