

Dear Partner,

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (ministry) and the Association of Ontario Midwives (AOM) are working together to expand options for low-risk pregnancy and reproductive care to better serve the needs of expectant families. At this time, we are inviting applications for two exciting new programs that have been introduced with a special focus on access, choice, and addressing health inequities:

- 1) **Indigenous Midwifery Programs** are designed to enhance culturally safe midwifery care and traditional services for expectant families in Indigenous communities. The ministry recognizes the important role that Indigenous midwives (Aboriginal Midwives who work under the Exception Clause in the *Midwifery Act* and Registered Midwives who identify as Indigenous, First Nation, Aboriginal, Inuit, Métis, or by their territory or nation) contribute and are integral in the healing, health and well-being of Indigenous peoples in their communities.

The Indigenous Midwifery Program is aligned with the following government initiatives:

- The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples' commitment to improve health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples by closing gaps and removing barriers to culturally appropriate care; and
- Ontario's First Nations Health Action Plan's objectives to improve culturally safe primary care for Indigenous communities.

There are two streams of funding for consideration, and partners are encouraged to submit an application for either:

- Indigenous Midwifery Program implementation to increase access to culturally safe midwifery care, and a range of programs and services; or
- Development Funding to allow communities to explore future opportunities to apply for an Indigenous Midwifery Program, through needs assessment and capacity building.

- 2) **Expanded Midwifery Care Models (EMCM)** are intended to enable community based midwifery services to be delivered in a variety of settings where the existing midwifery practice group (MPG) model and funding arrangements, based on a fee per completed course of midwifery care, are not appropriate. These settings could include, but are not limited to, interprofessional primary care teams, hospitals, small communities, and others.

The EMCM initiative will make funding available for new models of care that allow midwives to expand the provision of services outside of, or in conjunction with, the current MPG model. New models will improve choice, access, and the sustainability of midwifery care. Initiatives are intended to be client and quality focused, optimise the role and scope of midwives, support interprofessional collaboration and coordination as needed, as well as integration of midwifery services into the broader health care system.

These two initiatives provide an opportunity for healthcare providers and communities to work together to design a program that provides or enhances pregnancy and newborn care. Interested parties can contact the ministry at midwifery@ontario.ca to request the application and supporting guidance documents. For those unable to apply this year, there will be an annual application process.

Should you have any questions, the ministry and AOM are available to provide support and guidance to midwives, communities, primary care teams and healthcare agencies on either of these significant and exciting opportunities.

If you would like assistance from the AOM, please contact:

- **Indigenous Midwifery Programs:**

Ellen Blais

Director, Indigenous Midwifery

Ellen.Blais@aom.on.ca

416-425-9974 ext. 2270 or 1-866-418-3773 ext. 2270 (Cell 416-846-0826)

- **Expanded Midwifery Care Models:**

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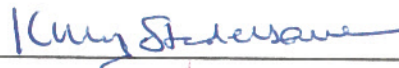
For assistance from the ministry, please direct questions to midwifery@ontario.ca.

Applications will be available for distribution this fall. Interested parties can contact the ministry at midwifery@ontario.ca to request the application and supporting guidance documents, and they will be forwarded to you electronically when available.

Kind regards,



Phil Graham
Director Primary Health Care
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care



Kelly Stadelbauer
Executive Director
Association of Ontario Midwives