



Midwifery Council of New Brunswick

**Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes
du Nouveau-Brunswick**

2019-2020 Annual Report

June 17th, 2020

Vision:

The people of New Brunswick have access to comprehensive, high quality midwifery care provided by regulated midwives.

Mission:

To serve the public interest by regulating and advancing safe, professional midwifery care throughout the province of New Brunswick

Mandate:

As per the *Midwifery Act* includes;

- a) to regulate the practice of midwifery,
- b) to establish, maintain and promote standards of the practice of midwifery,
- c) to establish, maintain, develop and promote standards of professional ethics in the practice of midwifery.

Executive Summary

This is the fourth annual report for the Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick (MCNB) and captures the work and activities of the Council between April 1st, 2019 – March 31st, 2020.

The primary activities of the MCNB were;

- Governance
- Registration and renewal of registration of midwives
- Continued membership in the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC) with the Registrar as a Director
- Website continued development

Council Meetings & Membership

The Midwifery Council met 9 times this year, including its first AGM in July 2019, with an average meeting length of 60 minutes. As of December 2019, Council then met every 2 months.

Members of Council

Dr. Deborah Harding - Registered Midwife (Chair)

Paul Bowman – New Brunswick College of Pharmacists

Heather Burse - Department of Health

Tina Emond – Nurses Association of New Brunswick

Dr. Erica Frecker – College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick

Virginia Gillmore – Public representative

Melissa Langlais - Registered Midwife

Kelly Ebbett – Registrar/Executive Director

Activities of the Council

Local/Provincial:

- Clarification of the Registrar’s position acknowledging the dual role of Registrar and Executive Director. Given the ongoing demands of this dual position, Council agreed to;
 - increase the Registrar’s hours to 3 days per week for this 2019-2020 year.
- Governance work – including completion of succession planning for Chair of Council, other policy development policies.
- Complaints process manual developed.
- Legal opinion re: student midwives and their inability to practise in NB under the current *Midwifery Act* – amendment required.
- Second attendant processes finalized in preparation for implementation via Horizon Health Network (HHN).
- Registrar participation and attendance of meetings of Horizon Health Network’s Clinical Care Committee.
- Participation in the evaluation of the implementation of the midwifery program as requested by Horizon Health Network.
- Registrar membership and participation at meetings of the NB Health Professions Regulatory Network.
- Website continued development www.midwiferycnb.ca
- Registrar attendance at opening of the Legislature and Throne Speech on November 19th, 2019.
- COVID-19 Pandemic – Registrar participation with the CMRC and the NB Health Profession Regulators regarding regular information updates and processes from the commencement of the NB Mandatory Emergency Order in March 2020.

National:

- CMRC membership renewal.
- MCNB Registrar participation as Director on the CMRC Board.
- Membership in CMRC Committees – Registration Affairs Committee, MCNB Registrar continues as Chair.
- Registrar and MCNB Chair attended the Canadian Network for Agencies of Regulation (CNAR) in Quebec City, Quebec October 2019.
- Policy work related to the changes in offerings of CPR providers and certification expiration dates (see Policy section).
- Policy work related to provincial transfers as requested from Quebec.
- Exploring Truth and Reconciliation for engagement with all midwifery regulators.
- Participation in discussing an Atlantic Midwifery Education Program.

Number of Registered Midwives in New Brunswick as of March 31st, 2020

Total of 6 registered midwives with MCNB

Active practice = 3

Non-Active practice = 3

Future Directions

Act amendments required for self-regulation

As governance work continues for the MCNB, the necessity of a re-structuring of the *Midwifery Act* has become more evident. There are amendments that are presently needed to support delivery of regulated midwifery care within the province.

As like other health professions in New Brunswick and across Canada, MCNB should be self-regulating in order to best serve the public.

To date, we have identified;

- the need for a private Act,
- the ability to provide preceptorships for midwifery students in the province,
- the need for more public members on Council,
- aligning midwifery practice to reflect the national competencies currently being reviewed by the CMRC, including additional competencies.

Unless the structure changes, we will continue to require amendments of regulations, as was the case this year. The difficulty being, by the time one amendment is in process or being completed, another will be required.

Develop a process for recognizing Advanced Competencies* in conjunction with CMRC

Registrar/Executive Director is contributing to the review of Additional Competencies (*formerly known as Advanced Competencies as per *Midwifery Regulations*), to enable regulatory bodies to develop and approve additional competencies as reflected in contemporary midwifery practice.

Second Attendant implementation

Council awaits in readiness for the implementation of second attendants in conjunction with Horizon Health Network. Council has approved the policy, guidelines and orientation course for those seeking to become second attendants. The application process is developed and approved.

Horizon Health Network - Report on the Implementation of the Fredericton Midwifery Program (July 2019)

The report demonstrates the successful implementation of midwifery at the first practice site in Fredericton.

The report highlighted the work of MCNB including this statement:

“The work of the Midwifery Council over the years prior to the program launch was substantial. This included developing practice guidelines and policies and also creating committees to oversee therapeutics, registrations, complaints, and discipline. A Registrar of the Midwifery Council of New Brunswick was hired in May of 2016. These foundational pieces allowed the Fredericton Midwifery Program to proceed.” Page 14

The final observations of the report concluded:

“HHN was able to quickly and effectively implement a midwifery program. While the regulatory parameters were in place for many years, the time between the political approval of the program and the actual start of deliveries was a matter of months. This is no small accomplishment.

Healthcare professionals in the Fredericton Area have been key partners in this success. The community support for the program remains strong. There are expectations that the program will continue to mature and the community will demand expansion into other areas of the province. The implementation experience in Fredericton should serve as a guiding model.” Page 16

Committees of the Midwifery Council

Therapeutics Committee:

Mandate: The therapeutics committee makes recommendations on the following subjects:

- (a) the classification of drugs a midwife may prescribe and administer; and
- (b) the screening and diagnostic tests a midwife may order and interpret.

Members: Dr. Deborah Harding RM – acting Chair

Ashley Kaye RM

Dr. Erica Frecker MD (OB/GYN)

Dr. Louise Plant MD (Family Practice)

Paul Bowman (Pharmacist)

Kelly Ebbett (Registrar) as secretary

Committee met once on June 6th, 2019 as per By-laws and participated in providing feedback for the Prescription Monitoring Program to the Minister of Health.

Registration Appeal Committee:

Mandate: To receive appeals from those applicants denied registration and make the final decision.

Members: Melissa Langlais RM

Dr. Deborah Harding RM

Virginia Gillmore – public representative

- No requests were received. The committee did not need to convene this year.

Complaints Committee:

A roster of persons willing to serve on this committee and approved by Council, will be kept by the Registrar in order to ensure procedural fairness.

Mandate: A person may make a complaint in writing to the Registrar of a registered midwife. The Registrar shall refer the complaint to the Complaints Committee, if the conduct or actions complained of may constitute professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity. *Section 39(3) Midwifery Act.*

- No complaints received. The Complaints committee did not need to convene this year.

Discipline Committee:

A roster of persons willing to serve on this committee and approved by Council, will be kept by the Registrar in order to ensure procedural fairness.

The Discipline Committee may receive allegations from the Complaints committee. A hearing may be held. Direction would then be provided to the Registrar regarding the registered midwife's registration.

- No complaints received, and the Discipline committee did not need to convene this year.

Midwifery Act Amendments

2019-06-14 Royal Assent of Bill 17

1 Subsection 2(2) of the Midwifery Act, chapter M-11.5 of the Acts of New Brunswick, 2008, is amended

(a) in paragraph (a) by striking out “the standards of practice established by the regulations” and substituting “the standards of practice established by the Council”;

(b) in paragraph (d) by striking out “the standards of practice established by the regulations” and substituting “the standards of practice established by the Council”.

2 Subsection 16(3) of the Act is amended by striking out “if it is in session or, if not, at the next ensuing session” and substituting “if it is then sitting, and if not, the Minister shall file the annual report with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly”.

3 Paragraph 99(l) of the Act is repealed.

Adoption and Revisions of Policies and Guidelines

- ✓ Policy: Continuing Competency and Professional Development **Revised** October 9th, 2019
- ✓ Interprovincial Emergency Transfers **Adopted** September 11, 2019
- ✓ Fee Schedule: **Revised** September 11, 2019. This document replaces the former - Policy: Membership Fees.
- ✓ Policy: Confidentiality **Adopted** December 11th, 2019
- ✓ Policy: Position Descriptions **Adopted** December 11th, 2019
- ✓ Policy: Initial Registration: **Revised** December 11th, 2019. This document replaces the former - Policy: Clinical Midwifery Experience Requirements for Initial Registration.

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Financial Statements

(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

As at March 31, 2020

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NICHOLSON & BEAUMONT
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

NOTICE TO READER

To the Board of Directors
Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du
Nouveau-Brunswick.

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the statement of financial position of Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick as at March 31, 2020 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended. We have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect of these financial statements and, accordingly, we express no assurance thereon. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Fredericton, NB
May 19, 2020

Nicholson & Beaumont
Chartered Professional Accountants

Independent member of Porter Hétu International, Professional Services Group.

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Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Revenue		
Grants	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Registration and application fees	1,934	2,011
Interest income	<u>362</u>	<u>122</u>
	<u>77,296</u>	<u>77,133</u>
Expenses		
Amortization	148	211
Conferences	1,207	2,048
Consulting	-	500
Dues and fees	1,725	1,870
Honoraria	3,595	4,100
Insurance	3,554	3,431
Interest and bank charges	100	99
Meals and entertainment	574	645
Office expenses	4,908	4,431
Professional fees	11,859	18,535
Salaries and wages	47,217	42,490
Travel	<u>4,449</u>	<u>4,219</u>
	<u>79,336</u>	<u>82,579</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)	(2,040)	(5,446)
Surplus - Beginning of year	<u>24,996</u>	<u>30,442</u>
Surplus - End of year	<u>\$ 22,956</u>	<u>\$ 24,996</u>

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Statement of Financial Position

(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

As at March 31, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 22,572	\$ 25,654
Investments	1,000	1,000
Accounts receivable	-	407
Prepays	<u>2,762</u>	<u>2,633</u>
	26,334	29,694
Property and equipment - Note 2	<u>345</u>	<u>493</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 26,679</u>	<u>\$ 30,187</u>
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accruals	\$ 3,723	\$ 5,191
Net Assets		
Surplus	<u>22,956</u>	<u>24,996</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 26,679</u>	<u>\$ 30,187</u>

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Notes to Financial Statements

(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)
For the Year Ended March 31, 2020

1. Purpose of the organization

The Midwifery Council was established as per the Midwifery Act. Its purpose is to regulate the practice of Registered Midwives in the province of New Brunswick. The organization is registered as a not-for-profit organization under the Income Tax Act, and as such, is exempt from income taxes.

2. Property, plant and equipment

	<u>Original cost</u>	<u>Accumulated amortization</u>	<u>Net book value</u>	
			<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Computer hardware	\$ <u>1,184</u>	\$ <u>839</u>	\$ <u>345</u>	\$ <u>493</u>