



Midwifery Council of New Brunswick

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

2020-2021 Annual Report

April 21st, 2021

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 fifth 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, 2020 – March 31st, 2021.

The primary activities of the MCNB were;

- Governance – development of policies, development of an orientation for new member and installation of new members.
- Registration and renewal of registration of midwives.
- Continued involvement with the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC) with the Registrar as a Director as well as the Chair of the Registration Affairs Committee.
- Meeting with the Minister of Health regarding engagement of the discussion paper “Striving for Dependable Health Care”.

Council Meetings & Membership

The Midwifery Council met 8 times this year, including the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June 2020, with an average meeting length of 80 minutes.

Council Members

Dr. Deborah Harding - Registered Midwife (outgoing Chair) until her departure in October 2020.

Virginia Gillmore – Public representative (incoming Chair as of June 2020)

Melissa Langlais - Registered Midwife

Jem Deguire – Registered Midwife newly appointed member began February 2021.

Dr. Erica Frecker – College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick, until her departure in February 2021.

Dr. Shannon Laity – College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick newly appointed member began February 2021.

Paul Bowman – New Brunswick College of Pharmacists

Heather Burse - Department of Health

Dr. Tina Emond – Nurses Association of New Brunswick

Kelly Ebbett – Registrar/Executive Director

Honorary Membership bestowed upon registered midwife Dr. Deborah Harding at the AGM on June 17th 2020.

Activities of the Council

Local/Provincial:

- Governance work – including transitioning a new Chair, development of policies, preparing for several Government appointments and developing an orientation for new members and installation of two new members.
- Development of MCNB committee roster.
- COVID-19 Pandemic – Registrar participation with the CMRC and the NBHPRN with regular information updates from March 2020-June 2020.
- Performance Review of the Registrar/Executive Director in September 2020.
- Regulatory information session for midwives in November 2020.
- Engagement with Perinatal NB seeking midwifery related statistics and inclusion of midwifery in their upcoming biannual report.
- Meeting with Health Minister in conjunction with the New Brunswick Health Profession Regulators Network (NBHPRN) in March 2021.

National:

- CMRC membership.
- MCNB Registrar participation as Director on the CMRC Board.
- Membership in CMRC Committees and working groups. MCNB Registrar continues as Chair of the Registration Affairs Committee for a second term.

- CMRC's approval of the revised entry-level Midwifery Competencies.
- Registrar and selected Council members attended 3 virtual conferences which included; Canadian Network for Agencies of Regulation (CNAR), Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) and the "Climate Emergency: Diagnosis and Management" conference hosted by the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE).

Number of Registered Midwives in New Brunswick as of March 31st, 2021

Total of 5 registered midwives with MCNB

Active practice = 4

Non-Active practice = 1

Future Directions

The Midwifery Council has identified the following solutions to advance midwifery practice in the province by:

- Adding more midwifery positions across the province thereby increasing access to primary health care. Since 2017, a total of 369 families from across the province have sought out midwifery care, yet unable to access it.¹
- Investing in midwifery university program seats to help new graduates return home to practice in New Brunswick. Allowing midwifery students to undertake their clinical placements in New Brunswick under the supervision of registered midwives encourages recruitment and retention.
- Implementing the second attendant program.
- Expanding the midwifery scope of practice to include reproductive health care for women of all ages including; pap tests, STI testing, contraceptive care, breast exams and IUD insertion.
- Aligning and supporting other Government programs including the Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFI), Food for All NB and the Wellness Movement which directly impacts those of priority populations.

¹ Fredericton Midwifery Center, February 2021

- Allowing for Indigenous Midwifery and returning birth practices to Indigenous communities thereby working towards Reconciliation.²
- Enabling Act amendments to allow self-regulation and address gaps noted above.

In March 2021, the Midwifery Council presented these points above to the Minister of Health in response to the discussion paper “Striving for Dependable Health Care” and attended a virtual meeting with the Minister in conjunction with the NBHPRN.

The Fredericton Midwifery Program is presently being evaluated by Government, which is anticipated to take a year. Upon completion, MCNB anticipates further direction for midwifery in New Brunswick.

As the foundational work of the Midwifery Council has been established, plans to engage in governance training in the upcoming year as we integrate new members and further our learning as a Council.

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: Paul Bowman (Pharmacist) - Chair

Ashley Kaye RM

Jem Deguire RM (appointed member February 22nd, 2021)

Dr. Erica Frecker (OB/GYN) (outgoing member)

² National Aboriginal Council of Midwives <https://indigenoumidwifery.ca/reconciliation-regulation-risk/>

Dr. Shannon Laity (OB/GYN) (appointed member February 22nd, 2021)

Dr. Louise Plant MD (Family Practice)

Kelly Ebbett (Registrar) as secretary

Committee met once on December 9th, 2020 as per By-laws. Schedules for Ordering reviewed and feedback received following 3 years of practice.

Registration Appeal Committee:

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

Members: Melissa Langlais RM

Virginia Gillmore – public representative

Dr. Deborah Harding RM (outgoing member)

Dr. Tina Emond (appointed member October 21st, 2020)

- 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.

By-law Amendments

April 15th, 2020 – By-law 6.2.0 amended to include the public member to serve in the role as Chair.

June 20th, 2020 – By-law 8.1.2 amended to add new policies to the By-laws and remove the approved dates, as not required in this document.

Policies and Guidelines

- ✓ Guidelines: Chairperson – Role and Responsibilities **Adopted** April 15th, 2020
- ✓ Policy: Conflict of Interest **Adopted** June 17th, 2020
- ✓ Policy: Honorarium **Revised** August 26th, 2020
- ✓ Policy: Categories of Registration **Revised** August 26th, 2020
- ✓ Terms of Reference: Registration Appeal Committee **Adopted** October 21st, 2020
- ✓ Terms of Reference: Complaints Committee **Adopted** October 21st, 2020
- ✓ Terms of Reference: Discipline Committee **Adopted** October 21st, 2020

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, 2021

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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, 2021 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
April 8, 2021

Nicholson & Beaumont
Chartered Professional Accountants



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, 2021

| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Grants | \$ 83,810 | \$ 75,000 |
| Registration and application fees | 3,638 | 1,934 |
| Interest income | <u>165</u> | <u>362</u> |
| | <u>87,613</u> | <u>77,296</u> |
| Expenses | | |
| Amortization | 104 | 148 |
| Conferences | 1,836 | 1,207 |
| Dues and fees | 1,770 | 1,725 |
| Honoraria | 3,725 | 3,595 |
| Insurance | 3,736 | 3,554 |
| Interest and bank charges | 138 | 100 |
| Meals and entertainment | - | 574 |
| Office expenses | 5,522 | 4,908 |
| Professional fees | 26,449 | 11,859 |
| Salaries and wages | 48,194 | 47,217 |
| Travel | <u>-</u> | <u>4,449</u> |
| | <u>91,474</u> | <u>79,336</u> |
| Excess of expenses over revenues | (3,861) | (2,040) |
| Surplus - Beginning of year | <u>22,956</u> | <u>24,996</u> |
| Surplus - End of year | <u>\$ 19,095</u> | <u>\$ 22,956</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, 2021

| | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current | | |
| Cash | \$ 18,403 | \$ 22,572 |
| Investments | 3,000 | 1,000 |
| Prepays | <u>2,922</u> | <u>2,762</u> |
| | 24,325 | 26,334 |
| Property and equipment - Note 2 | <u>241</u> | <u>345</u> |
| Total assets | <u>\$ 24,566</u> | <u>\$ 26,679</u> |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current | | |
| Accounts payable and accruals | \$ 5,471 | \$ 3,723 |
| Net Assets | | |
| Surplus | <u>19,095</u> | <u>22,956</u> |
| Total liabilities and net assets | <u>\$ 24,566</u> | <u>\$ 26,679</u> |

Director

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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, 2021

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>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> |
| Computer hardware | \$ <u>1,184</u> | \$ <u>943</u> | \$ <u>241</u> | \$ <u>345</u> |