



SCM Transitional Council Update Ray Joubert, BSP, Chairperson

NEWSLETTER

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The SCM Transitional Council has met three times since our last Newsletter.

The Continuing Competence Ad Hoc Committee has been established with their first meeting having occurred in November, 2011. Members were appointed by the Transitional Council at their September, 2011 meeting and include three Saskatchewan Registered Midwives, one Registered Nurse (Nurse Practitioner), one Registered Nurse and a Registered Midwife from Ontario who has expertise in continuing competence. Meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee have been scheduled for January, February and March of 2012, with the intention of presenting a first draft of continuing competence requirements to the Transitional Council at their April, 2012 meeting.

The Transitional Council received a request related to the recognition of a midwifery education program that is located outside of Canada. According to *The Midwifery Regulatory Bylaws, 8(1) For the purposes of section 20 of the Act, the council may recognize midwifery education programs from Canadian universities that lead to a baccalaureate level degree in midwifery, or an equivalent program.* In other words, the Council has to be convinced that the program it is being asked to recognize is equivalent to a Canadian degree program. The Transitional Council can recognize no other program. Following extensive research, discussion and debate, the Transitional Council determined that they did not recognize the program that was submitted, as equivalent to a Canadian midwifery education degree program, for the purpose of membership and licensure with the Saskatchewan College of Midwives. Development of policy with respect to the recognition/approval process of midwifery education programs is underway.

A Strategic Planning Session will be held in September, 2012 to review and evaluate the plan that was developed in 2009 and to identify key priorities of the College going forward.

Since September, 2011, the Council has assessed and approved two applications for membership and licensure with the College.

Wishing you a productive and prosperous New Year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Joubert".

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Saskatchewan College of Midwives Cheryl Olson, Executive Director/Registrar

The holiday season is over and we look forward with anticipation as a new year begins. 2012 promises to be a busy and productive year.

Since our last issue of the SCM Newsletter, follow-up on matters presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting has been completed. A review of the SCM policy on "Second Attendants" determined that the current policy addresses the requirements and necessary qualifications for second attendants to the satisfaction of the Transitional Council. The need for amendments to various sections of *The Midwifery Act*, *The Regulatory Bylaws* and *The Midwifery Regulations* have been identified. The request for additions to *The Midwifery Regulations* brought forward by the Midwives Association of Saskatchewan may be considered by the Transitional Council following further member and stakeholder consultation.

We have seen a slight increase in inquiries related to membership and licensure in Saskatchewan. As of January 1, 2012, there were nine registered midwives licensed to practice midwifery in the province and we expect that this number will increase to 11 very shortly. Our work continues on policy development and operational matters.

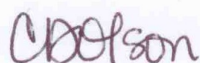
The Multi-jurisdictional Midwifery Bridging Project (MMBP) has not yet secured funding to sustain the program in order for it to host a 2012 offering of the core midwifery phase of the program. MMBP staff members are currently working toward obtaining some interim funding for the 2012 year in order that they may offer an accelerated option for those who have completed their applications and are eligible for an accelerated track. MMBP is applying for non-profit status and it is anticipated that the status will become effective by April 1, 2012. I will represent the SCM on the new "founding" board of the MMBP, that will be responsible for such matters as approving bylaws and other related materials, working out HR plans and details such as job descriptions, salaries/benefits as well as organizing the financial systems. The first meeting of the board will take place in January, 2012.

Arrangements are being made to accommodate students enrolled in the International Midwifery Pre-registration Program (IMPP), the bridging program offered by Ryerson University in Ontario, to complete their clinical clerkships with midwifery programs in Saskatchewan. Although these placements have not yet been confirmed, the arrangement has the potential to assist applicants as they work towards becoming licensed as registered midwives in our province.

Members of the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Consortium (CMRC) met in Niagara Falls in November of 2011. Priorities of the organization were identified, including development of a communication plan, continued work with national and provincial governments and stakeholders, and development of a nationally-based midwifery education program assessment/approval process, to name a few. There will be three offerings of the Canadian Midwifery Registration Examination (CMRE) in 2012 to accommodate students (both Canadian direct-entry and bridging) who complete their program too late to write the regularly scheduled May exam.

The CMRC adopted the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Global Standards for Midwifery Regulation – Kris Robinson, Chair of CMRC, was the Canadian representative on this ICM project. If you are interested in viewing the standards, the link is: <http://www.internationalmidwives.org/Portals/5/2011/Global%20Standards/GLOBAL%20STANDARDS%20FOR%20MIDWIFERY%20REGULATION%20ENG.pdf>

Until next time...



"High expectations are the key to everything."
- SAM WALTON -

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Debbie Mpofu, RM - Vice-Chairperson, SCM Transitional Council



What attracted you to the profession of midwifery?

The desire to connect with women, families and entire communities has and will always be a great attraction to me with regard to the profession of midwifery. Midwifery provides an opportunity to learn as well as pass on life lessons from woman to woman. As a midwife, one assists women to trust their bodies, absolutely trust themselves, and work with their partners and caregivers as a team. Birth combines art, science and faith like no other phenomena and it is an honour to be part of that experience. It is amazing to think that as long as man and woman have been around there has been birth and yet we learn new things every single day. The miracle of life, with all its twists and turns will always be a major attraction for me.

What is your educational background and how long have you been practising midwifery?

I received my degree in nursing and midwifery in the UK in 1984, and practiced as a midwife in Manchester for many years. I proceeded to undertake public health education and training and combined midwifery and health visiting for several years. I then obtained a master's degree in medical education, simultaneously working in clinical and education settings. I met my husband, while working in the UK. The family then moved to the United Arab Emirates, during which time I completed a PhD under the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands. When my family moved to Canada, I initially worked at the University of Saskatchewan between Community Health and Epidemiology and the then Department of Agricultural Medicine. I moved to the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute to work as Perinatal and Infant Health Program Coordinator, before returning to midwifery in 2007. As a British educated and trained midwife I had to undertake the International Midwifery Pre-registration Program (IMPP) out of Ryerson University in Ontario before getting licensed as the first Saskatchewan registered midwife in March of 2008. I have therefore worked in clinical settings, research and education in varying degrees and continue to enjoy stretching my capabilities and accepting new challenges. More and more, my midwifery clinical commitments are a priority in 2012.

What do you enjoy most about being a registered midwife?

I love being given an opportunity to be who I really am. To be able to combine career aspirations with life desires and spiritual self is a tremendous gift. I look forward to daily developments in midwifery. Every day is "a new dawn" for midwives and their families. Combining community and hospital based practice is greatly satisfying. Midwifery as a profession offers opportunity to undertake a great part of one's work as an autonomous practitioner and combine this with team-work. There are numerous opportunities for collaboration with physicians, nurses, pharmacists, lab and ultrasound personnel, complimentary therapists, birth attendants, and other community professionals, in quite an amazing mix. Midwifery brings out those basic human relationship skills, as well as clinical, business, education, research and management skills in various combinations. No two days are ever the same in the life of a midwife. For some this is a challenge, for me it's a bonus.

When you think about your term as a member on the Transitional Council, what have you learned about professional self-regulation that you weren't aware of prior to your appointment?

I obtained my midwifery education in the United Kingdom. Midwifery there is mainstream. The United Kingdom Central Council (UKCC) is the nursing and midwifery regulator for England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Islands.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT— Continued....**Debbie Mpofu, RM - Vice-Chairperson, SCM Transitional Council**

The UKCC exists to:

- a) Safeguard the health and well-being of the public.
- b) Set standards of education, training, conduct and performance so that midwives can deliver high quality healthcare consistently throughout their careers.
- c) Ensure that midwives keep their skills and knowledge up to date and uphold professional standards.
- d) Demonstrate clear and transparent processes to investigate midwives who fall short of our standards.

Coming from the above background I was a little challenged realizing that in Canada each province has had to develop its own midwifery self-regulation mechanisms. The major issues I questioned were around acceptable standards of education and training from province to province, labour mobility, similarities and differences in practice models, remuneration practices and scope of practice. As a member on the Transitional Council for the Saskatchewan College of Midwives (SCM), what I am learning is that the SCM is a developing phenomenon. The areas I saw as major questions are dealt with using a national lens. It is the everyday mechanisms to protect the public, while working within the Saskatchewan Midwifery Act and Bylaws that is key provincially. No previous education and training prepared me for SCM demands. This is a steep learning curve for me and am therefore in awe at the expertise brought to the table by various professionals in assisting midwifery grow one step at a time.

Unauthorized Practice of Midwifery in Saskatchewan

It has come to the attention of the Saskatchewan College of Midwives that certain individuals may be holding themselves out as midwives and/or performing authorized practices reserved by law to midwives and physicians. Because the rumours persist, the College is providing this information to all persons who may have knowledge of these activities to inform them about the relevant laws of Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan College of Midwives (SCM) is the regulatory body for the profession of midwifery in the province of Saskatchewan. The duties and responsibilities of the College are to:

- * Serve and protect the public;
- * Exercise its powers and discharge its responsibilities in the public interest;
- * Regulate the practice of the profession and to govern the members in accordance with the Act and the bylaws;
- * Assure the public of the knowledge, skill, proficiency and competency of members in the practice of midwifery.

Section 23 of *The Midwifery Act* prohibits persons who are not registered midwives or physicians from performing any of the following authorized practices:

- * assessing and monitoring women during normal pregnancy, labour and the post-partum period;
- * conducting the spontaneous normal vaginal delivery of a baby;
- * providing care to a woman and her healthy baby during a normal pregnancy, labour and post-partum period;
- * prescribing, dispensing or administering drugs;
- * ordering, performing or interpreting diagnostic tests;
- * performing invasive procedures.

Every person who contravenes section 23 is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a possible maximum fine of \$4,000 for a first offence and to a possible maximum fine of \$8,000 and/or imprisonment for a term of up to six months for subsequent offences.

If a registered midwife or a member of the public is aware of any circumstances where an individual is engaging in unauthorized midwifery practice or the use of the title "midwife", please contact the Executive Director/Registrar Cheryl Olson at the Saskatchewan College of Midwives for further information. Telephone: 306.781.1352 Email: registrar@saskmidwives.ca

Did You Know?

Subject to the terms and conditions of a member's licence, a member may perform the authorized practices of midwifery as outlined in *The Midwifery Act*. *The Midwifery Regulations* identify the drugs that registered midwives are authorized to prescribe and the diagnostic tests and invasive procedures they are authorized to order, perform and interpret. *The Midwifery Regulations* can be found at <http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/M14-1R1.pdf>

Reminder to Members

Although continuing competence requirements are not yet in place for registered midwives in Saskatchewan, it is an expectation of the College that members participate in continuing education and professional development to maintain and enhance their skills, knowledge and abilities.

MIDWIFERY SERVICES

- Saskatoon Health Region - Contact the Midwifery Office in Saskatoon at 306.655.5371.
- Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region - Contact the Midwifery Manager in Regina at 306.766.0645.
- Cypress Health Region - Contact the Midwifery Office in Swift Current at 306.778.5118 or Toll Free 1.877.401.8071.
- All Nations Healing Hospital - Women's Health Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle at 306-332-2673.


**Saskatchewan College of Midwives
Transitional Council**
Members

Ray Joubert, BSP, Chairperson
 Debbie Mpofo, RM, Vice-Chairperson
 Debbie Vey, RM
 Dr. George Carson, MD, CSPQ, FRCSC,
 FSOGC
 Gail Rosseker, RN
 Rosalind Lydiate, RM
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**Saskatchewan College of Midwives
Transitional Council 2012 Meeting**
Dates

February 21, 2012
 April 24, 2012
 June 12, 2012
 September 18, 2012
 November 20, 2012
 December 18, 2012