



# NEWSLETTER

## Midwifery in Saskatchewan

Ray Joubert, BSP, Chairperson  
SCM Transitional Council

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Establishing a new regulated health profession can be challenging. However, proper planning, commitment, collaboration and resources can overcome these challenges. Those have been the main success factors for the establishment of regulated midwifery services in Saskatchewan.

In 2005, the government announced its commitment to the development and implementation of midwifery services in Saskatchewan. Government formed a Midwifery Implementation Committee to advise the Ministry of Health on strategies to successfully integrate midwives as members of a multi-disciplinary health care team "in a responsible manner that protects client safety", and allocated appropriate resources to this initiative.

While the Midwifery Act took several years to proclaim into effect, the Implementation Committee dedicated itself to planning for midwifery services. An important component of this planning was considerable research into the legislative framework needed to ensure that the public could rely upon competent practitioners.

With the proclamation of the Act, the Transitional Council was formed to guide the establishment of this new regulated health profession. Based upon the work of the Implementation Committee, the Council developed the relevant registration and licensing requirements, and the administrative resources needed to consider applications. We now have 7 licensed midwives in the province.

Thus, I take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in government, the Implementation Committee and its various working groups, the Ministry of Health, the Transitional Council, committees and staff, and other midwifery organizations, especially the Manitoba College of Midwives whose commitment, dedication, cooperation and assistance have contributed to our successes to date.

As we are working towards refining our policy on the relationship between midwives and others, I encourage everyone to apply these same success factors so that we will realize the original vision of midwives integrated as effective members of the multi-disciplinary health care team.

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**The Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan College of Midwives**

**Was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2010**

**Regina, SK**

**For a copy of the minutes of the meeting**

**Contact Maureen Belanger**

**At 306.781.1356**

## Saskatchewan College of Midwives

Cheryl Olson, Executive Director/Registrar

It is my distinct pleasure to communicate with our members and stakeholders through this, the first of many issues of the Saskatchewan College of Midwives newsletter. The newsletter has been developed for the purpose of sharing information and keeping our colleagues apprised of the activities of the College.

In September of 2009, the Transitional Council held a strategic planning session, the results of which have guided the work of the College staff members over the past 8 months. The key priorities were identified and categorized into 2 main areas:

### Public Safety

- Continuing Competence Program development
- Maintenance of Licensure/Registration – requirements to maintain eligibility for licensure
- Capacity/Number of Practitioners
- Discipline Committee – dedicated funds and policy development

### Operational

- Employ Full time Executive Director/Registrar
- Develop and maintain partnerships with counterparts
- Bylaw development and amendment
- Collaborate with Stakeholders
- Financial Reporting
- Terms of Reference for Committees
- Policy development and monitoring

The operational plan was developed with the strategic directives in mind and significant progress has been made in sorting out the administrative components of the College's day to day operations, in the areas of policy development, in streamlining the registration process and in identifying areas of the legislation where there is potential for change. We are currently working on the first phases of a Continuing Competence Program framework as well as updating and revising the Registrant Handbooks.

The College is represented on a national level by our involvement with the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Consortium and with the Steering Committee of the Multi-jurisdictional Midwifery Bridging Project. Our continued participation at these tables is one way of ensuring that Saskatchewan maintains a national as well as a provincial perspective of the regulation of midwifery in the public interest.

To date, there are 7 registered midwives practising in Saskatchewan. We anticipate that this number will increase over time as midwifery services across the province become available.

We welcome your feedback; please contact us with any ideas or suggestions you have for newsletter content. I look ahead with enthusiasm and commitment to ongoing work with our members, Transitional Council and stakeholders as we move forward with the regulation of midwifery in Saskatchewan.

### First Baby Born

February 7, 2009 marked a very special day in the history of midwifery in Saskatchewan. On this day, at 4:52 pm, Sophia LeRae was born to Cathy Chicoine and her partner Jason Sinclair, with the assistance of two registered midwives – the first birth under regulated midwifery services in Saskatchewan.

#### From left to right:

Debbie Mpofu, RM, Cathy Chicoine & Baby Sophia LeRae, Jessica Bailey, RM





## History of the College

The first year of life for the College of Midwives of Saskatchewan was an historic beginning, but it was also the culmination of more than a decade of labour to gain recognition for the important health care role of the community midwife.

### May 6, 1999

The Midwifery Act was passed.

### November 2005

In the Speech from the Throne on November 7, 2005, the Saskatchewan government announced its support for midwifery services as part of a multidisciplinary team in hospital and community settings, contributing to care that is safe, flexible and meets the needs of families.

### February 2007

Certain administrative sections of *The Midwifery Act* were proclaimed to allow for the establishment of the Saskatchewan College of Midwives and the Transitional Council.

### March 2007

At the March 2007 Legislative Regulatory working Group meeting, it was noted that clause 23(1)(a) of *The Midwifery Act* did not clearly specify the role of a midwife in the postpartum care of the mother of newborn.

The Lieutenant Governor appointed ten members to the Transitional Council of the Saskatchewan College of Midwives.

### May 10, 2007

The first meeting of the midwifery Transitional Council took place.

The Administrative Bylaws were approved by the Transitional Council.

### November 23, 2007

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan passed a bylaw under *The Medical Profession Act, 1981* to allow midwives to provide postpartum care. An interim solution until *The Midwifery Act* was amended and had a sunset clause of December 31, 2008.

### March 12, 2008

The Midwifery Regulations, which provide authority for midwives to prescribe drugs, order diagnostic tests and perform invasive procedures, were approved by Cabinet.

### March 14, 2008

Additional sections of *The Midwifery Act* were proclaimed making midwifery a provincially recognized and self-regulated health profession in Saskatchewan.

### April 2008

The Regulatory Bylaws were approved by the Minister and printed in the Saskatchewan Gazette.

### May 15, 2008

*The Midwifery Act* amended to allow midwives to provide postpartum care.

### October 22, 2008

First midwife registered and licensed under regulated midwifery in Saskatchewan.

### February 7, 2009

First baby born under regulated midwifery in Saskatchewan.

### December 1, 2009

Amendment to the Midwifery Regulations to permit the practice of intubation by Saskatchewan Registered Midwives. This change posted in the Saskatchewan Gazette December 4, 2009

### March 2010

The Saskatchewan College of Midwives currently has 8 members - 7 of which are Registered Midwives in the full practicing Category and 1 student member.

## Governing the Saskatchewan College of Midwives

**Adrienne Hagen Lyster, Consultant, Primary Health Services Branch  
Saskatchewan Health**

The Saskatchewan College of Midwives is governed by a Council which has the authority to enact bylaws and manage and regulate the affairs and business of the midwifery profession in Saskatchewan. As stipulated in section 51 of *The Midwifery Act*, the governing council of the College is the Transitional Council.

The Transitional Council is an interim measure until such time as a full governance structure for the Saskatchewan College of Midwives can be established. Currently, there are only seven midwives registered in the province so the need for a Transitional Council still exists. Two registered midwives are currently members of the Transitional Council.

All appointments are made through Order in Council by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. An order in council is a vehicle used to exercise power that the Legislative Assembly has delegated to Cabinet. The process to make appointments is:

- Upon expiration of the order in council (which are 3 years in duration), the Ministry of Health is responsible to initiate the process for new appointments.
- Stakeholder groups are asked to recommend individuals for membership on the Transitional Council. Stakeholder groups include the Midwifery Association of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Medical Association, Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association, Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations.
- One public representative is appointed to the Transitional Council. An employee of the Ministry of Health serves in the capacity as a government liaison.
- Once the nominations are received, the Minister of Health presents the recommended appointees to Cabinet for approval. The approved Orders in Council are publicly available in the Cabinet Secretariat office and are communicated to the stakeholder groups and the members appointed.



### Saskatchewan College of Midwives Transitional Council

#### Members

**Ray, Joubert, BSP**  
Chairperson, College of Pharmacists

**Rosalind Lydiate**  
Registered Midwife, Saskatoon

**Debbie Mpofu**  
Registered Midwife, Saskatoon

**Sonya Duffee**  
Doula, Regina

**Sheila Achilles, RN**  
Director, Primary Health, Saskatoon RHA

**Gail Rosseker, RN**  
Nurse Manager, Regina Qu'Appelle RHA

**Dr. George Carson**  
Obstetrician, Regina Qu'Appelle RHA

**SASKATCHEWAN COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES**

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**Office Hours 8 AM–4 PM**

### Saskatchewan College of Midwives Transitional Council 2010 Meeting Dates

June 15, 2010

September 21, 2010

October 19, 2010

November 16, 2010

December 21, 2010

**Cheryl Olson**

Executive Director/Registrar

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