

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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B.C. midwives' expanded role and new contract offer enhancements for patients

Vancouver – The Midwives Association of B.C. today announced that the new regulations, recently approved by Health Services Minister George Abbott, are a very positive step toward expanding the availability of Midwifery care throughout the province.

The new regulations authorize Midwives to deliver a broader range of services to new and expectant mothers that include: being able to prescribe medications for those women dealing with conditions such as bladder infections and the use of acupuncture for non-pharmaceutical pain management to promote healthy pregnancy and birth. It is expected that experienced BC Midwives will begin to access approved training and certification for these advanced skills in the fall.

“With these changes to the Midwives’ scope of practice, Midwives will continue to provide excellent care for healthy pregnancy and birth while being able to care for those women who have minor complications,” said Shannon Norberg, President of the Midwives Association of B.C.. “Moreover, the changes will enable Midwives to care for a larger number of women, support expansion into underserved areas, and keep healthy pregnancy and birth in the community. The new regulations will help address the shortage of Maternity care providers in B.C and enhance existing working relationships with other health care providers.”

The MABC is also pleased to announce that there is a new BC Midwifery Master Agreement and Fee schedule effective March 31, 2009. The new agreement ensures that services continue to be covered, with some new enhancements. The new MMA will be posted on the Ministry of Health and MABC websites as soon as possible.

About The Midwives Association of BC

The Midwives Association of British Columbia (MABC) is the professional body representing Midwives and the practice of Midwifery in the province of British Columbia. There are over 130 midwives registered in BC attending nearly 10% of the births in BC each year. BC Midwives have been regulated by the government and publicly funded since 1998. Their services are covered for those with a BC CareCard and no referral is necessary.

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