



Midwifery Advisory Committee: Executive summary of discussions

The Midwifery Advisory Committee was struck in October 2017 to advise the Government of Yukon on its initiative to regulate, fund and integrate midwifery into Yukon's healthcare system. The committee includes representatives from the Yukon Medical Association, the Community Midwifery Association of Yukon, the Yukon Registered Nurses Association, and the Yukon Hospital Corporation. Between October 2017 and August 2018, the Committee met over 25 times.

The Committee reached agreement on a number of topics, including:

- Support for a regulatory framework governing midwifery and its integration in the healthcare system in Yukon.
- Different registration categories for midwives: full, temporary, student, and inactive.
- Clear requirements for registration, qualifications, competencies and standards that support quality midwifery care.
- The use of standard Canadian core competencies as the essential knowledge and skills required to practice as a midwife in Yukon.
- Initially introducing midwife-attended birthing as an option in the Whitehorse area, where processes and emergency services that support pregnancies and birth are already in place.
- Importance of midwives holding hospital privileges, to allow for midwife-supported births in hospitals and/or to allow for safe transfers to, or involvement of other hospital staff if required.
- An advisory committee that includes both midwives and physicians to provide ongoing advice.
- Clear processes for inspections, complaints, and discipline.
- The importance of developing strong professional relationships between midwives, obstetricians, other physicians, nurses, hospital staff and EMS personnel. This will support the system's ability to successfully undertake care in complex situations.

Topics on which further work is required include:

- Identifying what additional services midwives could offer outside the Canadian core competencies and whether they require additional training.
- How far away from emergency medical services homebirths can safely occur.
- Identifying conditions or situations in which a physician should be consulted or care transferred to a physician.
- What medications midwives should be able to prescribe.

In August 2018, with initial discussions completed on all topics, the Committee meetings were paused. As work on this initiative continues, the Yukon government will continue to engage the members of the committee as work moves forward on the regulatory framework and a model supporting the integration of midwives into the healthcare system.