

THE PINARD

Newsletter of the Canadian
Association of Midwives

CAM hosts successful visit from the Tanzania Midwives Association (TAMA) in Toronto and Montreal. PAGE 5

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Canadian Association of Midwives
Association canadienne des sages-femmes

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PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



CAM President, Joanna Nemrava and CAM Executive Director, Tonia Occhionero

We are thrilled to announce that the CAM Board of Directors has decided to hire a government relations firm for the next eight months to help boost our advocacy work as we lead up to the 2013 CAM Conference in our nation's capital. As the national association representing midwifery, CAM is committed to hosting our national conference in Ottawa every five years. This will be a big year for CAM as we work to engage the federal government on some of the critical issues faced by women trying to access maternity care in this country. This is a pivotal time for maternal newborn child health in our history; the Harper government has committed to being a leader in the reduction of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality globally, CAM will be hosting the midwives of the world in 2017 in Canada, and the countdown to accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals has begun.



Follow us at:
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 CanadianMidwives](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianMidwives)

What do we hope to achieve here at home?

With the Muskoka Initiative in June 2010, the Canadian government made a commitment to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of mothers and children globally. At the same time, 2010 figures released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development indicated that Canada's infant mortality ranking slipped from 6th place to 24th place internationally. In particular, First Nations, Inuit and Métis share significantly worse health outcomes than other Canadians. Some reports suggest that infant mortality is as much as three times higher among Aboriginal populations than non-Aboriginal people living in Canada, in part due to lack of access to care. Recent studies also indicate that Canadian women living in rural and remote communities, where lack of access to maternity care services means traveling long distances or relocating during pregnancy, experience poorer health outcomes.

- Midwives in Canada are proven to be a cost-effective solution to the provision of high quality, community based, culturally sensitive and family-centered maternal and newborn care.
- Midwives are highly trained and well suited to the provision of excellent maternal care in low resource settings such as rural and remote communities.
- Midwives work independently, as well as collaboratively with other health professions and achieve excellent health outcomes.

At a time when Canadians face a shortage of family physicians, and even fewer who provide maternity care, the profession of midwifery is ideally suited to fill the gap as a cost effective solution offering community based, quality maternal and newborn care.

We hope to bring this message to Ottawa at the upcoming CAM conference on November 6-8, 2013 and we need your support! Looking forward to seeing you all in Ottawa!

ADVOCACY AND INITIATIVES



Midwifery clinic in Ottawa, ON

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN 2013!

CAM has recently hired National, a government relations firm, to provide advocacy and lobbying support on behalf of midwives, and the profession of midwifery across the country.

This initiative – designed to maximize the unique opportunity of having the 2013 CAM Conference in Ottawa – will allow us to strengthen our relationships, and promote dialogue with key government health

representatives and decision makers, with a view to promoting the development of the profession in the public interest, and contributing the midwifery perspective to the national health policy agenda.

In the next few weeks, CAM will be launching its advocacy action plan for 2013 that will culminate at the CAM conference on November 6th, 2013 in Ottawa. On May 5th, CAM will be calling on all members to support a letter writing campaign to members of Parliament.

What are some of the key issues?

- Aboriginal women and their infants have a two to four times higher morbidity and mortality rate than the average Canadian. While midwifery has been shown to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal communities, the federal government provides little support for direct midwifery services on reserve.
- 100% of women in the Yukon, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, and New Brunswick are unable to access regulated midwifery care.
- Women in remote areas often must leave their community for weeks before birth.

Stay tuned for more information on CAM's advocacy initiatives 2013!

www.canadianmidwives.org

www.facebook.com/CanadianMidwives

CAM BY-LAWS REVIEW

Did you know? Canada's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (NFP Act), adopted in 2011, was designed to increase transparency and accountability, and to establish a new set of rules for federally incorporated not-for-profit corporations in Canada.



Meet CAM's newest Board Member, Misty Wasyluk, RM, representing the province of BC.

Misty obtained her Bachelor of Health Sciences in Midwifery Degree from Laurentian University in Sudbury. Currently she lives in Victoria where she works with *Access Midwifery* and *Family Care*, serving women and families who may have social barriers to accessing comprehensive health care. Misty is a Midwifery Emergency Skills Programme Instructor, and has been an MABC Board member for over two years, while also co-chairing the Midwives Association Aboriginal Committee. Welcome Misty! CAM is thrilled to have you!



As one of those federally incorporated not-for-profits, CAM has until October 2014 to become compliant with the Act, and to obtain the required Certificate of Continuance from Industry Canada. This means replacing our Letters Patent, and by-laws with new charter documents, which will set out CAM's primary rules of governance, going forward.

While it is a long and arduous task indeed, the Board Sub-Committee on Governance has been diligently reviewing and working to revise our by-laws, as well as the content for the Articles of Continuance, to ensure that they both comply with the Act, and reflect CAM's mission to provide leadership and advocacy for midwifery as a regulated, publicly funded and vital part of the primary maternity care system in all provinces and territories.

It is planned that the CAM Board will be adopting the new bylaws at the Board spring Intensive on June 7, 2013. The bylaws and Articles of Continuance will then be referred to CAM's membership for approval at our Annual General Meeting on November 6th, 2013 in Ottawa, Ontario.

REPRESENTING CAM IN QUITO, ECUADOR

CAM President, Joanna Nemrava, and Board Secretary Katrina Kilroy will be representing CAM at the **4th ICM Regional Conference, Professional Midwifery of the Americas**, to be held April 23-26, 2013 in Quito, Ecuador. With the support of ICM, CAM Vice President, Emmanuelle Hébert will also be attending to offer translation for the Haitian midwives who will be attending the Caribbean Midwifery Associations Regional Meeting portion of the event. Conference themes will include midwifery education, organizations (association and councils) and standards, and scientific updates on professional midwifery practice.

The goal of this event is to contribute to the interchange and analysis of these themes in order to share, disseminate, and update knowledge by providing a space for all participants to present their research, practice and experiences. As such, Katrina and Emmanuelle will showcase the history of the Tanzania registered Midwives Association (TAMA) Twinning Project and

the activities delivered to date, including a discussion of the joint Strategic Plan, and sharing of specific outcomes. They will also identify ways in which the respective associations are exchanging skills and expertise, including a peer-to-peer mentorship program involving midwife pairs.

CAM hopes to maximize this opportunity to foster relationships with midwifery associations in Latin America and the Caribbean - as we have done with l'Association des Infirmières Sages-Femmes d'Haïti (AISFH) - recognizing that these networks can support shared learning and growth initiatives in the future.



ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES



See photos of ICM at:
[facebook.com/
 CanadianMidwives](https://facebook.com/CanadianMidwives)

A MIDWIFE FOR EVERY WOMAN

The Board of Directors has approved the theme for the 2013 CAM Conference. The title, A Midwife for Every Woman, was proposed by the Conference Program Planning Committee earlier this year. CAM's advocacy work for 2013 will also fit with this theme as we work toward Ottawa 2013. Aligning well with ICM's overarching campaign "The World Needs Midwives Today More Than Ever", CAM's advocacy work will highlight the urgent need for more access to midwives in Canada. We look forward to engaging our members in this exciting campaign!

TAMA-CAM TWINNING PROJECT

As you know, CAM is participating in a reciprocal knowledge exchange project with the Tanzania registered Midwives Association (TAMA). We believe that by strengthening the capacity of our respective organizations, providing improved advocacy, continuing education, and health profession leadership, midwives in Canada and Tanzania will be better supported to access relevant information, and to engage in best practices, resulting in higher quality maternal health services for women in both countries. As part of this project, CAM and TAMA are facilitating twinning relationships between member midwives in Tanzania, with member midwives in Canada, to promote those same aspects of mutual capacity building at an individual level.

Twinning Survey

In late December, CAM and TAMA reached out to our respective memberships via survey, to gauge your interest in taking part in the international 'midwife to midwife' twinning. We were overwhelmed by your positive feedback and enthusiasm. It was also fascinating to learn how many of you either already have, or would be interested to gain international experience in your capacity as midwives, or midwifery educators. Thank you for taking the time to engage with us on this important subject.

Twinning Start-Up: Spring, 2013

In the next few weeks, heralded by a Twinning Start-Up workshop, 26 international midwife pairs will begin to establish their unique relationships, identifying areas of need, interest, or concern. The means and objectives of the twin pairings will remain flexible and self-directed, providing a safe space in which the midwife pairs can decide what would be most meaningful for them. CAM is thrilled to see this Project moving forward in so many substantial and exciting ways. We look forward to sharing news and developments with you as we move into the next phase of this valuable collaboration!

TAMA Visit in January, 2013

CAM is extremely grateful to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for the generous grant that allowed us to host our sister midwives from Tanzania, earlier this year. During their visit, CAM organized a **presentation** by TAMA President, Sebald Leshabari PhD, NM, at **Ryerson University** in Toronto, Ontario. The presentation,

Meeting MDGs 5 & 6: Midwifery Practice from a Tanzanian Perspective was delivered to a packed audience, made up of students, staff, and faculty from Ryerson's Midwifery Education Program, as well as representatives from the AOM, and CMO; and midwives, and interested non-governmental organizations from across the community. Special thanks to Ryerson MEP Faculty member, Mary Sharpe for facilitating the process!

CAM was also able to organize a **collaborative research meeting** held at **McMaster University** in Hamilton, Ontario, attended by Tanzanian and Canadian midwives who are engaged in research related to maternal newborn and child health. The meeting acted as a platform for the exchange of information about what participants were each doing in the field of midwifery research; and a way to identify areas of mutual interest which might be incubated for future uptake. Our sincere thanks to McMaster MEP Faculty members, Eileen Hutton and Patricia McNiven for facilitating the meeting! If you would like to know more about the outcomes of this research meeting, please contact pbondy@canadianmidwives.org.

Designed to promote dialogue, and knowledge sharing between midwifery researchers in Tanzania and Canada, these events also served to engage practicing midwives and Canadian midwifery students in a conversation about the benefits of cross cultural learning and collaboration.

A very special thank you to the TAMA midwives for sharing their amazing ideas, expertise, and vision with us.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES



TAMA representatives meet with Ryerson Midwifery Education Program Director, Mary Sharpe, and Dean of Community Services, Usha George. Left to right: Feddy Mwanga, Mary Sharpe, Usha George, Sebalda Leshabari, and Agnes Mtawa.



Montreal Rally February 24th, 2013. Source: CSN



Former CAM President, Anne Wilson introduces TAMA President, Sebalda Leshabari at her research presentation at Toronto's Ryerson University in January.



Nathalie Pambrun showcases NACM's beautiful and inspirational posters featuring Aboriginal midwifery.



CAM CONFERENCE 2013

CAM's 13th Annual Conference & Exhibit will be held on November 6-8, 2013, at the Marriott Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for some valuable learning, networking, and well-deserved fun in Canada's Capital. For information regarding registration, accommodation, or to find out about travel discounts, please visit: www.canadianmidwives.org/conference/

Looking forward to seeing you this fall!

ACROSS CANADA



Lucina Birth and Family Wellness Centre in Edmonton, Alberta



Arbour Birth Centre in Calgary, Alberta

ALBERTA

AAM has seen substantial growth in the number of midwives in Alberta as Canadian students have finished their programs and registered here, and new midwives have been recruited from out of province, and out of country. There are currently 15 midwifery practices in Alberta; with 74 registered working midwives, and 24 midwifery students. Most of the midwives in Alberta are based in the two major centres of Calgary and Edmonton. There are also practices in Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House serving central Alberta. A priority of the AAM and Alberta Health Services is to grow midwifery across the province, and particularly in rural areas to improve access for all Albertans. There are new midwives throughout the province who originate from rural communities and are planning to return to their communities and set up practices in the coming years.

On January 1, 2013 the **College of Midwives of Alberta (CMA)**, under the leadership of President elect, Diane Rach, was established as the regulatory

body for midwifery in Alberta. This is an exciting step in the maturation of midwifery as a profession in the province.

Mount Royal University in Calgary is the Midwifery program in Alberta. The first intake of students was in September 2011. Those students are now in the latter half of their second year and are in placements around the province. The first midwifery class from Mount Royal will graduate in the Spring of 2015.

In February the 500th baby was born at the **Arbour Birth Center in Calgary** - the first freestanding birth center in western Canada, which opened in 1994. The **Lucina Birth Centre opened in Edmonton** in 2011 and there have been 141 births there to date.

Submitted by the AAM

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Moving towards the **re-negotiation of our contract in 2014**, the MABC continues to engage with the BC Government on improving access to midwifery care for all families in the Province. Honorable Minister of Health Margaret MacDiarmid has spoken publicly on the safety of homebirth, and joined the UBC Midwifery Department and Alumni at their 10 year anniversary dinner. With our provincial election approaching, the MABC is in dialogue with the NDP and Liberal Party on issues relating to both midwifery care and maternity care as a whole.

The MABC is preparing for the launch of its **Rural Locum Pilot Program** later this month. Locums will begin placement in rural communities as of June 1st, providing rural midwives with necessary relief from practice at a subsidized rate.

The **Vancouver Foundation** has awarded \$160,000 for a midwifery research project. Co-lead by UBC/MABC, the 2-year project will endeavor to identify the barriers of accessing midwifery faced by marginalized communities.

We would like to congratulate **Joanna Nemrava** in her new post as the 7th President of CAM! Joanna, we wish you a productive term and look forward to working closely with you and our national association!

Submitted by the MABC



QUÉBEC

As you know, Le Regroupement Les Sages-femmes du Québec (RSFQ) is negotiating the renewal of its agreement. The first agreement in 2004 left many dissatisfied, facing unacceptable gaps on issues such as pay equity.

ACROSS CANADA

RSFQ is working to improve conditions and strengthen the status of Québec's midwives as autonomous professionals, asking for the same 'on call' premium as all other health professionals. The only way we will achieve this is by mobilizing the population to put pressure on Québec's government.

More than 250 people including women, families, and citizen's groups came to voice their support for midwives in Québec at a rally in Montréal on the 24th of February. We had great media coverage. Our fight is now in the public domain, and we are working to apply increased pressure until we obtain satisfaction!

Please support us by signing and sharing this petition with your contacts, so Québec's midwives will receive fair pay for 'on call' time - a critical element of the Canadian midwifery model of care. <http://www.rsfq.qc.ca/lettre-signature/form.php>.

Submitted by the RSFQ

ONTARIO

Birth centre sites announced: Midwives and clients in Toronto and Ottawa are looking forward to the opening of provincially-funded, midwife-led birth centres in both cities this fall. It is expected that in the first year of operation, approximately 300 to 450 births will take place at each centre. These new centres will be in addition to the existing birth centre located on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, Tsi Non:we lonnakeratstha Ona:grahsta', which has been providing care to women and families since 1996.

Third annual lobby day: On March 6, Ontario midwives and their clients set up



AOM President Lisa M. Weston, RM, and Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Deb Matthews share a laugh as Matthews holds baby Hugh Kim at the association's "Midwifery Expo" for MPPs at Queen's Park on March 6.

an expo at Queen's Park to highlight the quality care midwives bring to women and newborns and the value of midwifery care to the health care system as a whole. Sixty MPPs and political staff attended the event.

AOM President Lisa M. Weston, RM, and Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Deb Matthews share a laugh as Matthews holds baby Hugh Kim at the association's "Midwifery Expo" for MPPs at Queen's Park on March 6.

Annual conference: The AOM AGM and annual conference will take place May 6, 7 and 8 at Hockley Valley Resort near Orangeville. Register today at aom.on.ca

The AOM is moving: Same building, new suite: 365 Bloor St. West, Suite 800, Toronto, ON. Phone, fax and e-mail contacts remain the same. Effective April 26, 2013. For more information about the AOM, visit ontariomidwives.ca or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Submitted by the AOM

NEW BRUNSWICK

MANB is very excited to see two of our student members Jasmine Graham and Ashley Kaye approaching the completion of the Midwifery education at Laurentien University this spring. We are thinking of Jasmine and Ashley as you both work hard in the remaining few months!

Also, our membership has been very busy maintaining our **new Facebook page**, please check it out at: <http://www.facebook.com/NewBrunswickMidwives>

Submitted by the MANB

NACM

On December 18th, the Minister of Health and Long Term Care in Ontario announced that funding would be provided for the **Toronto Aboriginal Birth Centre** to open in the summer of 2013. The Toronto Aboriginal Birth Centre is committed to serving the urban Aboriginal community in Toronto through its core practice, Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto and through dedicated birthing space governed by Aboriginal people. NACM would like to acknowledge the great work of the Aboriginal Birth Center's two lead midwives Sarah Wolfe and Cheryllée Bourgeois for their dedication to community and focus on Aboriginal values. For more on Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto, go to www.sgmt.ca.

In January, NACM received a request from Christine Roy and Cheryllée Bourgeois to honour **Margaret Wabano**, an elder Cree midwife from the Moosonee area for her 109th birthday. A plaque, a Pendleton blanket, and a card were sent as gifts on behalf of NACM to honour her work and years of care to women and their families.

ACROSS CANADA



Presentation by Darlene Birch and Nathalie Pambrun to midwives enrolled in the Multi-jurisdictional Midwifery Bridging Program (MMBP) and students of the University College of the North (UCN) on March 4.

On March 4th, Nathalie Pambrun and Darlene Birch gave a presentation to midwives enrolled in the **Multi-jurisdictional Midwifery Bridging Program (MMBP)** and students of the University College of the North (UCN). There were about 30 people who attended this event. During this presentation, Nathalie and Darlene discussed NACM's role, vision, mission and current projects. They also discussed NACM's approach to supporting normal pregnancy, birth and postpartum care in Aboriginal communities.

NACM has been invited to host a booth during the **Annual Clinical Meeting (ACM) of the SOGC** which will be held in Calgary from June 11th to 14th. This will provide an opportunity for networking, as

well as informing physicians and other health care providers about Aboriginal midwifery. During the course of the ACM, NACM members will also participate in a Joint Workshop with the SOGC's Aboriginal Health Initiative Committee (AHIC) around bringing birth closer to home. The purpose of this workshop will be to build on the collaboration that has been taking place between NACM and AHIC in order to help support the return of birth in Aboriginal communities.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT MIDWIVES

A passionate group of student midwives from across the country have come together to launch the National

Association of Student Midwives. The interim steering committee has been meeting via skype since the fall of 2012, and is in the process of hosting elections at midwifery programs across the country, to elect the members of the first national steering committee.

The interim committee consists of representatives from University College of the North (Lindsay Stevenson), Université du Québec a Trois-Rivières (Christine Rheault), McMaster University (Liz Fraser) and Ryerson University (Erin Armstrong).

Areas of focus for the group will be finalized by the elected steering committee, but initial topics of interest include:

- increasing the presence of marginalized voices/student midwives who are representative of all Canadians
- investigating compensation for clinical placements in line with other medical students
- entrepreneurial and business skills for midwives
- developing resources for students who relocate to study/students who plan to practice in a province other than the one they train in

If you have any ideas or questions, or would like to become involved, the group can be reached at

nationalstudentmidwives@gmail.com.

AROUND THE WORLD



Jay MacGillivray is an Ontario midwife recognized across the country for her unique contribution to women's health. Jay co-founded the Positive Pregnancy Program (P3) at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, a program which provides comprehensive prenatal and post-partum care to HIV-positive/affected mothers and their babies.

1. Please describe a day in the life of Jay MacGillivray.

There really isn't a typical day. At the P3 clinic we see many women – some who have HIV; others who are affected by it - they may have partners who are HIV positive, and come to us in need of pre-conception counselling. Others might be *at risk* of contracting HIV, because they are street involved - they could be sex workers; they could have substance abuse, or mental health issues. Many of the women we see are new to Canada, often from conflict zones, and are survivors of gender-based violence. While the way we build care for each individual may vary according to their specific circumstances, the focus is on health promotion, not the HIV- as it is with every other person who is pregnant or planning to have baby. Much focused research is required to stay relevant, particularly given our broad demographic, so this is also a critical part

of my work. We are constantly learning and adapting our care accordingly.

2. What drew you to this work?

The backdrop is the rise of feminism - I learned from women smarter than I was to never ignore my sense of outrage, because it fuels change. Before I became a midwife, I was doing front line social service work with people who were street affected. Then along came HIV. I started seeing women, and men, and trans-gendered people who were affected. People were dying all the time, and it was usually an abandoned death. Medical care was often refused, or bitterly inadequate. I lost friends, I lost family. The work I do is emotional and medical - midwifery at its most basic, but foremost, emotional. I was fueled by my outrage, and the desire for change.

3. What are some of the issues of common concern between your clients?

Very often it is just two things: the first is pregnancy; the second is to live as a healthy woman with HIV. Otherwise, there really isn't a common reality. The particular needs of a woman from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who might be a traumatized survivor of sexual violence, are different from those of a woman who is engaging in survival sex; or suffering from mental illness. I don't presume to speak for any of the communities we serve, only to advocate for the specific needs of every individual, and to do everything I can to provide the most compassionate and responsive care possible.

4. Describe how you think international collaboration could support improved health outcomes for women and babies?

The real experts in *HIV and maternal newborn health* are in the Global South, and the need for international collaboration is immediate. While I keep apprised of the geopolitical landscape, and how the health of the women and babies I see may have been affected, it is simply not enough. There are reservoirs of wisdom in other parts of the world from which we can all benefit, and it is time for us to listen instead of teach, if the experts will be kind enough to share their knowledge with us.

5. What is the best part of the work you do? What is the biggest challenge?

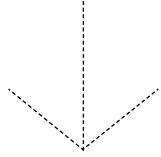
The wonderful clinicians with whom I work; and the women and the families I meet have all changed my life. They have reignited humour, humanity, and compassion in the midst of so much injustice.

My biggest challenge has been to accept that apart from the medical application, there is nothing I can do to change women's lives. On my own time, I can protest, boycott, lend my voice, etc., but it is not my role to say "I am going to fix your life." Women's lives are their own. My role is small and specific, but it always includes listening.

6. Can you offer any words of wisdom to midwifery students?

Never forget that social justice is what gave birth to midwifery. I could never have been the midwife I am if it weren't for those who worked to pave the way. I didn't do it, but I benefit from the result, and because of that I am honoured by the title, *Midwife*. Never forget your individual responsibility to be the midwife you were meant to be.

THE HEARTBEAT



WHAT IS IT?

The Heartbeat is a place for CAM members to place an announcement that will be seen by all CAM members. Anyone in your practice having a baby? Has a midwife in your community recently won an award? Did you have a wonderful experience with a preceptor and want to thank her? Want to welcome a new practice member or congratulate a retiring practice member? The Heartbeat is the place to announce any of these occasions and more!

We will also place job postings here if we have space, though the CAM website is still the best place for all job related news.

Should read: Please send title, location and announcement to admin@canadianmidwives.org.

Announcements longer than 50 words will be accommodated if space permits.

Deadline for next issue:
June 30, 2013.

A Decade at the Helm in BC

PREPARED BY: SUNYA LAI THOM

The MABC has the great fortune and privilege of having an Executive Director now in her 10th year of tenure. Since 2003, Ganga Jolicoeur has overseen the operation of our association with verity. She has helped to elevate the profile of midwifery in BC through careful and deliberate work involving both the Board of Directors and the Membership. Ganga's own knowledge of the profession and its complexities has contributed exponentially to its advancements in the province's maternity care system. The MABC places special gratitude towards Ganga's skills in political negotiations. Her role in re-negotiating the 2012 Master Agreement with the Ministry of Health helped reposition midwifery as more than just an option, but a viable solution to the crisis facing maternal health care in BC. Her ability to provide historical context continues to serve this association; with 2013 being an election year and contract negotiations set to begin again in 2014, the MABC could not wish for better counsel.

Ganga Jolicoeur – we honor you and your contribution to midwifery in British Columbia. As Executive Director and our *camarada* in arms, we are so very proud to call you our own. *Salut!*

New CAM staff person

Valérie Perrault began her role as Advocacy Project Coordinator for NACM and CAM, in January. Valérie is a midwife. She completed her training at Laurentian University in 2002, and worked as a midwife for several years in BC before moving back to Montreal to work at the Maison de Naissance Cotes-des-Neiges. She is an ESW and ALARM instructor and has recently completed her Masters in Community Health. In 2011, she was hired by l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Québec as a project coordinator to liaise with aboriginal midwives and communities in Quebec, particularly with the Inuit midwives, members of the OSFQ. Valérie is fully bilingual and comes to the position with a solid understanding of the issues regarding midwifery at both national and international levels. Welcome Valérie!



The Midwife Effect!!!

On December 15, 2012, our second daughter was born; a sweet (and intense!) birth: in water; by candlelight, and in the eyes of the elders. Manon, my midwife (and valued colleague), thank- you for everything. You knew how to be there for me in just right the right ways, from the invisible to the visible according to my needs. Your spirit, even without touching anything, gave me strength in my ancestral birth. In front of my partner, I felt strong and fortunate to give life. Emma was born pink, and strong, and perfect! Jeen, my second midwife (and valued colleague!), thank you too. You were there acting as a channel for the magic of the event. Through this journey, I have been transformed as a woman, as a mother, and as a midwife. I lived the Midwife Effect! Thank you!
Karine Langlois, Midwife, Maternity Centre of the Eastern Townships and mother of three

L'arbre et le nid – A Documentary on Birth

On International Woman's Day, March 8, 2013, a documentary on birth, "L'arbre et le nid" ("Tree and Nest") premiered in Quebec. This French film, soon to be available with English subtitles, poses the question: Are women losing the ability to give birth on their own? Noting the rise in caesarean section and obstetrical interventions around the world, the film explores the notion that the majority of women view childbirth as a painful and dangerous event that should absolutely take place at a hospital. This is held up against recent scientific data which clearly shows that current obstetrical interventions disrupt and hinder the physiological processes involved in childbirth. For a different birthing experience, increasing numbers of women hope to give birth accompanied by a midwife, outside the hospital setting.

Please access the following link to view the documentary trailer : <http://www.arbre-et-nid.com> and click on the EN tab!

Congratulations to Eby

Heller, CAM Project Coordinator and new mom!

Simone Linnaea Heller-Jacobs was born on April 2nd, 2013 at 4:30pm. Little Simone was born at the Blainville birthing centre just outside of Montreal under the watchful eyes of midwives Jacqueline and Andreane. Best wishes to Eby and her family!



UPCOMING EVENTS



More info on events at:
facebook.com/CanadianMidwives

2013-Emergency Skills Workshops for midwives (ESW)

Quebec: info@rsfq.qc.ca

Ontario: www.aom.on.ca/Continuing_Education/Emergency_Skills_Workshop/

Manitoba: midwivesofmanitoba@gmail.com

British Columbia: For information on the MESP program contact Sunya Lai Thom-Midwives Association of BC, continuinged@bcmidwives.com

2013-Advances in Labour and Risk Management (ALARM)

www.sogc.org

APRIL 2013

ALARM International Program (AIP)

APRIL 26-28th, 2013

Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel in Montreal, QC
<http://iwhp.sogc.org>

Postpartum Depression Symposium

APRIL 5, 2013

London, Ontario

<http://vestaparenting.ca/content/postpartum-depression-symposium>

Expanding Horizons for the Early Years

Promoting mental health from Conception and Beyond

APRIL 16 & 17, 2013

Westin Prince Hotel, Toronto

www.imhpromotion.ca/Events/ExpandingHorizonsfortheEarlyYears2013.aspx

Environmental Factors Which Cause Birth Defects

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

APRIL 21-23rd

<http://cme.med.harvard.edu>

International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Regional Americas Conference

APRIL 25-28, 2013

Quito, Ecuador

www.fenoe.org

Call for abstracts ICM Southern Europe Regional Conference

APRIL 26th, 2013

Malta

MAY 2013

Engaging the Team to Protect, Promote and Support Breastfeeding Families

MAY 3 & 4, 2013

Travelodge Hotel, Saskatoon, SK

International Day of the Midwife

MAY 5, 2013

Association of Ontario Midwives Annual Conference

MAY 6-8, 2013

Hockley Valley Resort, near Orangeville, ON

www.aom.on.ca/Continuing_Education/AOM_Annual_Conference/

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: from prenatal exposure to infancy

Queen's University, Centre for Neuroscience Studies

MAY 7, 2013 11AM-1PM

The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON

www.imhpromotion.ca/Events/IMHRounds.aspx

ICM Annual Council Meeting

MAY 25, 2013

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Women Deliver: The 3rd Global Conference

MAY 28-30, 2013

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

www.womendeliver.org/conferences/2013-conference/

ACNM 58th Annual Meeting & Exhibition

MAY 29 - JUNE 2, 2013

Nashville, TN

www.midwife.org/

JUNE 2013

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada 69th Annual Clinical Meeting

JUNE 11-14, 2013

Calgary AB

www.sogc.org

JULY 2013

UBC, 4th Brain Development and Learning Conference

JULY 24 TO 28, 2013

Westin Bayshore Hotel

Vancouver, BC

<http://braindevelopmentandlearning.com>

SEPTEMBER 2013

IARMM 2nd World Congress of Clinical Safety

SEPTEMBER 12 AND 13, 2013

Heidelberg, Germany

www.iarmm.org/2WCCS/

Australian College of Midwives 18th Biennial Conference

'Life, Art and Science in Midwifery'

SEPTEMBER, 30 - OCTOBER 3, 2013

Wrest Point Hotel, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

www.midwives.org.au

OCTOBER 2013

Midwives Alliance of North America

OCTOBER 24-27, 2013

Portland, Oregon

mana.org/mana2013/

NOVEMBER, 2013

Canadian Association of Midwives 13th Annual Conference & Exhibit

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2013

Marriott Ottawa, Ontario

www.canadianmidwives.org/conference/

The 3rd National CAPWHN Conference

21-23 NOVEMBRE 2013

Sheraton on the Falls in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

www.capwhn.ca

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Conference: Inspiration, Innovation and Education: Quality and Research in Nursing and Midwifery Practice Call for abstracts

JANUARY 17th - 18th, 2013

Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle, NSW

Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle, NSW

FUTURE YEARS

ICM Triennial Congress

JUNE 1-5, 2014

Prague, Czech Republic

www.midwives2014.org