

# THE PINARD

Newsletter of the Canadian  
Association of Midwives

## A Midwife for Every Woman 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Exhibit, Ottawa, Ontario November 6-8, 2013

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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

The countdown to the CAM Annual Conference in Ottawa has begun! We are thrilled to be in the nation's capital this year where we have a unique opportunity to increase political and public awareness of the vital need for recognition of the profession of midwifery at a national level. Please join us in Ottawa to help spread the word, network with your peers, and to learn from our exciting program of Canadian and international speakers!

This year, the Opening Reception will be an opportunity for CAM members to meet with members of parliament and senators. We are receiving positive replies to our invitations to government and many MPs are looking forward to meeting CAM members from their riding. This has been a very successful strategy to increase political presence at the CAM conference. If you have not already done so, please write

directly to your elected member of parliament inviting her or him personally to attend. You may be surprised!

Make sure to register for our social event this year. We promise you an evening of good food, fun and of course dancing! Join your fellow midwives for a great time at the chic Summit Room at the top of the Marriott Hotel with a fabulous city view.

Your provincial and territorial representatives make up the CAM Board of Directors. The entire Board will meet for two and a half days of intensive work prior to the conference with the goal of further developing the strategic directions of your association. CAM will be sending a survey to all members, specifically asking for your ideas and input as we begin the process of developing our next strategic plan over the course of 2014/15. We hope to hear from each and every one of CAM's 1300 members!

Finally, we are proud to announce in this issue of The Pinard that CAM has been awarded three year funding for a project titled *"Improved Service Delivery for Safe Motherhood: Strengthening & Supporting Midwifery in Tanzania"*. Over one hundred and forty proposals were submitted from forty-five different countries! CAM's submission was one of only six successful projects chosen for funding.

This important project focuses on delivering emergency skills training to midwives in identified zones in Tanzania but with a specific view to increase the capacity and enable the Tanzanian registered Midwives Association (TAMA) to deliver such training. Our alliance with TAMA presents an exciting opportunity for CAM as well. Through the successful realisation of this project, CAM increases its portfolio for innovative program development and fiscal responsibility and demonstrates the effectiveness of national midwifery associations working together to strengthen the profession of midwifery globally.

We look forward to seeing you all in Ottawa, November 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>!



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## ADVOCACY AND INITIATIVES



2013 CAM Conference

### **2013 CAM CONFERENCE**

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual CAM/ACSF general meeting, conference & exhibit will take place November 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Ottawa, Ontario. The theme for the conference, *A Midwife for Every Woman*, will highlight the importance of access to maternal and newborn care for Canadian families from coast to coast to coast. The conference will be held at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel, just steps away from Parliament Hill. This presents a special opportunity to increase political and public awareness of the vital need for recognition of the profession of midwifery at a national level. We hope that you will join us in Ottawa to help spread the word, network with your peers, and to learn from our exciting program of Canadian and international speakers! To view the program and for more information, please visit:

[www.canadianmidwives.org/conference](http://www.canadianmidwives.org/conference).

### **CAM ADVOCACY WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

CAM is working closely with the highly visible and well-regarded public relations firm, NATIONAL to provide advocacy and lobbying support on behalf of midwives,

and the profession of midwifery across the country. As we ramp up our advocacy work in preparation for the 2013 CAM Conference, this collaboration is helping to maximize the unique opportunity of holding the event in Ottawa – allowing 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 early May 2013, Dr. Colin Carrie, MP for Oshawa and then Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and the Honourable Dr. Hedy Fry, MP Vancouver Central and Liberal Health Critic stood up in the House of commons to deliver statements in support of midwifery nationally and globally (go to [www.canadianmidwives.org](http://www.canadianmidwives.org) to view video statements).

CAM has also been working strategically with Peggy Nash MP and NDP Finance Critic, to further CAM's advocacy objectives.

More recently in September 2013, the CAM President and Executive Director met with Dr. Colin Carrie to discuss key issues facing the profession.

### **Key Issue #1**

The Federal government currently provides little or no support for the delivery of direct midwifery services within federal jurisdictions. Given the Federal government's constitutional responsibility for providing primary health services for specific communities (including First Nations & Inuit, members of the military, members of the RCMP, prisoners in federal penitentiaries), we recommend the following action:

### **Recommendation**

Funding and support for midwifery services within these communities is a key area for policy development in order to respond to alarming regional discrepancies in maternal and newborn health, including the impact of routine evacuation of pregnant women. Midwifery is a safe and cost effective solution.

A job classification for midwives needs to be developed by the Treasury Board to enable Health Canada and the First Nations Inuit Health Branch to hire midwives to work in First Nations and Inuit communities including in areas such as policy development.

### **Key Issue #2**

In April 2013, the federal government officially launched the Student Loan Forgiveness Program for family physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners to address the shortage of health professionals working in more than 4 200 rural and remote communities in Canada. There are seven universities in Canada that offer a four year Health Sciences baccalaureate degree in midwifery and yet midwives have been excluded from this initiative.

### Recommendation

Including midwives in the Student Loan Forgiveness Program would increase the outflow of maternity health care providers to rural and remote communities across the country.

We also requested support from Dr. Carrie to ensure that the federal Minister of Health, the Honourable Rona Ambrose attend the CAM annual conference opening ceremony.

### MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

#### Help Us Bring Members of Parliament to the 2013 CAM Conference!

All Members of Parliament (MPs) and Senators have received personal invitations to attend the Opening reception of our annual Conference on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Several MPs have already responded positively! NATIONAL advises us that this level of interest is quite exceptional, which is very encouraging.

Feedback suggests that MPs and Senators want to know who within their ridings is anxious to move forward the midwifery agenda...and we are keen to let them know!

CAM and NATIONAL are now following up with telephone calls to MPs, but you can play a key role in getting our message across as well! Letters of reinforcement coming from Canadian midwives will make an important difference. Please see the following link (letter to MP), and complete, sign, and mail your letter to make your voice heard.

[www.canadianmidwives.org/campaign.html](http://www.canadianmidwives.org/campaign.html)

### ICM 2017 – Toronto, Canada

CAM is very excited to be hosting the midwives of the world at the 2017 ICM Congress in our very own Toronto, Ontario. Preparations for this prestigious event have already begun, with the ICM Host Congress Planning Committee (HCPC) meeting regularly, and working to develop a comprehensive work plan as we move toward the 2017 deadline. The Committee has been overseeing the development of branding materials including an event logo. Currently three logos have been submitted. The winner will be announced later this year! Watch this space!

#### Supporting International Access to the ICM Congress

One way to ensure the success and to maximize the value of events like these is to make them as accessible as possible to the greatest number of international midwives who wish to participate. In the coming months you will be invited to lend your fundraising prowess, support, and enthusiasm to the International Access sub-committee of the Host Congress Planning Committee. The sub-Committee is responsible for providing fundraising support to international midwives so that they can attend these important events, and bring their voices and unique perspectives to the table. Please let us know if you are interested in lending a hand!

#### Are you attending the ICM Congress in Prague in 2014?

Members of our Marketing & Promotions Committee for ICM 2017 are developing a plan to promote ICM 2017 at the ICM Congress in Prague in June 2014.

### SAVE THE DATE:

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual CAM/ACSF Conference will take place November 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2014 at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This will be the first time that the conference is held in Saskatchewan. The Prairies need your support! We look forward to seeing you there.

Promotional activities include organizing a 15 minute closing ceremony presentation and hosting an Exhibit booth where Canadian tourism information will be available and where products “made in Canada” will be sold. CAM needs your help...in the coming months, we will recruit volunteers for a number of “Canadian” events at Prague. They will include the following:

- Volunteers to promote Canada at the Exhibit booth from June 1-4, 2014.
- Volunteers to participate in the Canadian closing ceremony presentation on June 5, 2014.
- As many Canadians as possible to participate in a Midwifery Choir for the important pre-Congress event titled *Voices of Midwives* on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Similar to the 5km walk in Durban in 2011, this event is meant to bring media attention to midwifery and of course...to have lots of fun with your colleagues. CAM, as the next host association has been asked to form a Choir of midwives to sing three songs.

If you are attending the Prague congress and wish to lend a hand, please let us know by sending an email to:

[events@canadianmidwives.org](mailto:events@canadianmidwives.org)

## ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

### UMOJA INDIVIDUAL TWINNING BEGINS!

In June of this year, twenty-five Canadian midwives participated in a CAM-led Twinning Workshop designed to prepare individual Canadian participants for their twinning experience. The Workshop (delivered remotely, via teleconference/online) provided materials and guidance to participants, including an overview of the Tanzanian context and health demographics; diversity and collaboration exercises; and tools for developing a joint Twinning Plan with measurable goals and evaluation tools. At approximately the same time, TAMA led a similar workshop for its' twenty-five Tanzanian participants, which featured the same collaboratively developed tools and supports.

Each of the participants has now been paired with their respective twin, and the relationship building process via email, Skype, and telephone has begun! Ongoing support and logistical coordination is being provided by CAM and TAMA, and pairs have been invited to submit their joint Twinning Plans by the end of September. We look forward to learning from these Twinning Pairs, and from the unique experience that each participant brings to this process! Watch this space for future updates...

### TWINNING MEETS THE BIG SCREEN – PROMOTING UMOJA!

Mother, Film-maker, and midwifery advocate Gabby Morton Jones is generously donating her time and expertise to the creation of a promotional video featuring UMOJA, the CAM-TAMA Twinning Initiative.

Introduced to the work of CAM by her own midwife, Toronto's Katrina Kilroy, Gabby has expressed the desire to "give something back" in recognition of her wonderful birth experiences.

Using footage captured at the 2012 CAM Conference and during the Ryerson presentation by Sebalda Leshabari in January of this year, as well as new interviews with individual twinning participants, and UMOJA Steering Committee members, Gabby is using her magic to create something very special.

The video, which is slated for completion in October, will be suitable for a wide range of viewers, including midwives and other health professionals, NGO's, current and potential funders, and others, telling the story of how UMOJA began, the shared lessons we have learned, and what we hope to achieve together. It will also provide contextual information around the state of midwifery in Tanzania highlighting the importance of this work to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Gabby is no stranger to developing films with an international focus. Her contributions to the documentaries, *Rwanda Rises Up* and *Song for Africa* are examples of her strong capacity to sensitively and respectfully portray potentially unfamiliar stories and images, and make them accessible to a wide range of viewers.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Gabby for her commitment to the values of midwifery, and her willingness to help further CAM's mission by putting this unique video together. Hers is an extremely important contribution!

We eagerly anticipate the completion of this promotional piece. Stay tuned for the release on CAM's website this fall.

### PILOT ALLIANCE WITH CUSO INTERNATIONAL

CAM is delighted to announce a new pilot Alliance with Cuso International, a Canadian international development organization that recruits, selects, trains, and deploys volunteer professionals to do capacity building work with local partners in countries around the world. One of Cuso International's main focus areas is health.

"CAM and Cuso International share a commitment to improving global maternal and newborn health outcomes" says Joanna Nemrava, CAM's President, "and we believe that together we can achieve much more than if we work in isolation. The collaborative decision to forge a pilot alliance between our two organizations was the result of a long and thorough exploratory process, and we are extremely pleased that we will now be moving forward together to achieve some very specific, and mutually reinforcing outcomes."

CAM's work in Tanzania currently focuses on Association Strengthening with the **Tanzania Registered Midwives Association (TAMA)** through the UMOJA Twinning Project. The overall aim of the Project is to promote the sharing of ideas and skills, and to learn from each other through the exchange of information and technology transfer, peer support, and mentoring. We feel that these initiatives complement Cuso International's work to contribute to the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality by strengthening maternal health service delivery in Tanzania – confident that a stronger

midwifery workforce, supported by a stronger association will help to further those goals.

“Sharing skills and information, and mutual capacity building are inherent to both CAM and TAMA” commented Tonia Occhionero, CAM Executive Director. “This project will allow us to demonstrate to the global community how association strengthening can directly impact the capacity of national midwifery associations to strengthen their workforce.”

CAM’s Twinning partner, TAMA was established in 1992 as part of Tanzania’s commitment to the promotion of efficient safe motherhood service delivery. Midwives from across the country were expressing the need for a corporate body to organize registered midwives – one that would be responsible for providing guidance to the Tanzanian Government, non-government organizations, private sector, and individuals on the provision of high quality health services for mothers and children – and indeed this has become TAMA’s mandate.

“TAMA wants to increase its capacity to support its member midwives, and ultimately the women and newborns they serve” says Sebalda Leshabari, TAMA’s General Secretary. “It can mean many things, including strengthening our networks; being increasingly strategic in the way we take forward our mission; and improving our visibility across the country. And sometimes it means being able to provide the basic day-to-day support that helps a midwife to continue with her important work, even in challenging circumstances.”

As part of the pilot, Cuso International has already worked closely with TAMA to

identify their specific needs and priorities, and then to recruit TAMA’s first Organizational Development Advisor, who will work to support the Association’s promotions, advocacy, and strategic planning efforts, beginning in October 2013.

The timing for this initiative is optimal as TAMA will be recruiting additional project and financial management staff to support the new CAM-TAMA *Improved Service Delivery for Safe Motherhood* project, funded by the Sanofi-Espoir Foundation, (see *Around the World*, Page 11 for more information).

Cuso International will also play a key role in *this* project by selecting, and delivering its Skills for Working in Development (SKWID) training to the six Canadian instructor midwives who will work with our Tanzanian counterparts to deliver Emergency Skills training across Tanzania. As one of Cuso International’s key areas of expertise, this highly relevant training represents a critical part of the journey that each of the participating midwives will take in support of improved maternal and newborn health in Tanzania. This project will directly impact midwives in the rural areas of Tanzania – equipping them to provide better support and care to mothers and their children. We believe that increased focus on maternal health and building capacity to provide quality health care services is a necessary step towards achieving the Millenium Development Goals. Cuso International is proud to be a part of this exciting initiative, says Barb Hogan, Director of International Volunteering at Cuso International.

CAM’s vision is that midwifery is fundamental to maternal and newborn health



services, and that every woman in Canada will have access to a midwife’s care for herself and her baby. We also fundamentally believe that with access to skilled midwifery care, women around the world will be able to give birth more safely, and live to see their children grow up.

The internationally recognized Canadian Midwifery Model and Emergency Skills training programs may be adapted for maximum relevance in other countries, and within low resource settings. We believe that by working through partnerships and special alliances – with TAMA, with Cuso International, and with others, we can make an important and lasting contribution; and we are very proud to be working together in specific, targeted ways to support maternal and newborn health internationally.

#### About Cuso International

Cuso International is an international development organization that works to reduce poverty and inequality through the efforts of skilled volunteers.

Each year, we place hundreds of professionals from North America in developing countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America. These volunteers share their knowledge, skills and experience to collaborate on health, education, social justice and sustainability projects that have real development impact and create lasting social change.

**Volunteer your skills, your voice and your support. Gain a life changing experience.** [www.cusointernational.org](http://www.cusointernational.org)



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



Kerry Bebee, NACM co-chair, accepting an award on behalf of Margaret Wabano in recognition of her years of service and dedication to Mushkego women and families.



Collaborative meeting between NACM and the Aboriginal Health Initiative Committee (AHIC) of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) in June of this year. From left to right: Rachel Olson, Yvonne Malloy (ACOG), Dr. Chelsey Rose Topping (AHIC), Evelyn Harney, Ellen Blais, Elizabeth Harrold (AHIC), Nicole Robinson, Moya Crangle (SOGC), Gisela Becker (AHIC), Dr. Bing Guthrie (AHIC)



Tanzania Registered Midwives Association (TAMA) representatives, Feddy Mwanga, Agnes Mtawa, and Sebalda Leshabari



Tanzania Registered Midwives Association (TAMA) office in Dar es Salaam



## ACROSS CANADA

### REGROUPEMENT LES SAGES-FEMMES DU QUEBEC (RSFQ)

Quebec midwives are undertaking a difficult battle in the renewal of their agreement. Negotiations over the last two years have focused on specific actions designed to build awareness through the media, and within the general population. It is felt however, that the health ministry is not taking the concerns of Quebec midwives seriously enough, as demonstrated by their offers which are thought to be insulting to the model of care and dismissive of midwives' on call time!

It is hoped that by applying greater pressure, a satisfying resolution may be reached, and the lack of awareness around the value of midwifery may be addressed! If you haven't yet signed the petition, please click on the following link <http://www.rsfq.qc.ca> to support Quebec's midwives. Thanks!

### NATIONAL ABORIGINAL COUNCIL OF MIDWIVES (NACM)

Kristi Shawana and Naomi Wolfe hosted a booth and gave a workshop during the Sudbury edition of the Soaring: Indigenous Youth Career Conference which took place on May 8<sup>th</sup>. This event provides an opportunity for Indigenous high school students to learn about career options and educational pathways. Many high school students visited the NACM booth and were very keen to learn about midwifery.

### NACM

A grant was secured at the beginning of June from the **Foundation for the Advancement of Midwifery (FAM)**, <http://foundationformidwifery.org/>, to support the development of NACM multimedia resources.

In late August, a sizable grant was also secured from **First Nations, Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) through the Aboriginal Health and Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI)**. This funding will enable NACM to continue its vital work of supporting the development of Aboriginal midwifery. Thanks to Kerry, Nathalie and Pauline for all their hard work on these proposals!

During the AOM's Annual Conference in May, several momentous events happened. The first was that AOM members passed a constitutional change allowing Aboriginal midwives working under the exemption clause to have the option of becoming AOM members. Secondly, Margaret Wabano, an elder Cree midwife from the Moosonee area received the AOM Award in recognition of her years of service and dedication to Mushkego women and families. Kerry Bebee, NACM's co-chair, accepted this award on her behalf. And lastly, there was a consultation between the AOM and NACM members to see how the AOM can support the growth of Aboriginal midwifery in Ontario.

NACM was invited to host a booth during the Annual Clinical Meeting (ACM) of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) which took place in Calgary from June 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. Evelyn Harney, Rachel Olson and Ellen Blais attended this event in person.

A Collaborative Meeting was held on June 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 between NACM and the Aboriginal Health Initiative Committee (AHIC) of the SOGC. It provided an opportunity for members of both organizations to brainstorm about different ways to bring low-risk birth back to Aboriginal communities across the country. Various strategies for moving forward collaboratively were discussed. NACM looks forward to having other opportunities to work together with the AHIC Committee, to continue to address issues of culturally relevant care and access to services for Aboriginal women and families.

In July, NACM was invited to participate in a workshop held by the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research. The workshop was attended by Nathalie Pambrun and her family at a fly in camp in Yellowknife, NWT and focused on indigenous values for health systems stewardship. Local Dene ceremony contributed to the workshop experience and was incorporated in workshop activities. Circumpolar nations from Norway, Finland, Alaska and Canada were represented. Participants had varied backgrounds as researchers, health care professionals, informal caregivers, Indigenous leaders, elders, and health managers and clinicians. Research experience was specific to health systems research in circumpolar countries, Indigenous knowledge, and experiences with participatory research. The commonality in values between countries highlighted the potential for international collaborations and comparisons between countries as nations move towards reconciliation and improvements of livelihoods for Indigenous peoples. The



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participatory consensus approach was an empowering and relationship building experience where shared values were used to further health systems development within a stewardship framework. A report and short film should be released in the fall. There is potential for future collaborations, see website for more info: <http://ichr.ca/about/overview/>

### ALBERTA ASSOCIATION OF MIDWIVES (AAM)

Currently there are **78** midwives practicing in AB: **50** in Calgary area, **22** in Edmonton area and **6** in Central Alberta. The third cohort of 12 students began their Bachelor of Midwifery (B. Mid.) at Mount Royal University in September 2013. This is the first and only midwifery education program offered in Alberta, an important step in filling the growing demand for midwifery services, especially in rural and remote areas. The first cohort of 14 midwives will be expected to graduate in Spring 2015 with the second cohort of 14 students scheduled to graduate in 2016.

Alberta's independent College (The College of Midwives of Alberta) is successfully up and running as of January 2013. The registrar, president, and committee members have been hard at work reviewing and updating all the midwifery regulation documentation for Alberta.

The AAM signed a three year funding agreement (2012-2015) with Alberta Health Services in June 2013. The AAM has made much progress in the department of Communications Strategies and is currently working on forming a Communications Committee as a formal

way for midwives to liaise with current vested stakeholders such as rural and urban consumer groups, other maternity care practitioners, and government representatives. It is hoped that this committee will successfully hear the comments and concerns from these stakeholders in order to move midwifery forward in bigger and better ways!

### MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (MABC)

Increasingly the MABC is putting greater human and financial resources into political advocacy, public awareness, media relations and government relations. Gone are the days when the negotiation table was its primary contact with government and its sole opportunity to affect change. The MABC is now engaged in an on-going dynamic of dialogue and advocacy to have its message heard and to build strong linkages and relationships between all stakeholders and decision makers.

In preparation for another round of negotiations (early 2014), the MABC is hard at work reviewing its 2010-2013 strategic plan to determine where where it can make greater inroads in improving the profession and in creating greater access to care for women across BC. Much of MABC's progress over the last year has been in the development of two programs which address disincentives to rural practice, including the cost of starting up a practice in a new community and the challenges of finding locum coverage. The *Rural Midwifery Locum Program*, launched in March 2013, has been well received by members in rural communities. More than

21% of rural midwives have used RMLP to find locum coverage; the locum pool has filled 87% of the requests made. *The Rural Midwifery Practice Support Grant Program* has approved its first application for a new practice in Hazelton BC. Midwifery services in this remote northern town will help to keep birth close to home for many women of the community.

The *Midwives Emergency Skills Program* has been warmly received by MABC's members, and in its third year, is now being utilized in Alberta. The modules and exams are offered online and the workshops are offered closer to midwives' local communities. The combination of self-directed online learning and shorter, more accessible workshops has been a positive move forward. With a small grant from the Province MABC has been able to offer MESP free of charge to its members since its inception. MESP will be increasingly accessible (and replicable in other provinces) with the recent move to a Moodle-based online platform.

We join the University of BC Midwifery Program in welcoming its new Director, Dr. Michelle Butler. UBC and the MABC are co-leads on a community-based research project, 'Why Midwifery Care?' with funding by the Vancouver Foundation. Through its first stage of outreach, the MABC has over 1000 current and potential clients signed up to participate in the study on maternity care experiences in BC.

The College of Midwives of BC and the MABC have partnered to undertake a review of the scope and model of practice in British Columbia. While



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the Ministry of Health considers funding support, the CMBC and the MABC have contracted a midwife consultant to complete a literature review and jurisdictional comparison.

### ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO MIDWIVES (AOM)

The Association of Ontario Midwives (AOM) continues to work towards achieving pay equity for members. The AOM is planning to launch a human rights complaint against the Ontario government for discrimination in October. Read more at [OntarioMidwives.ca](http://OntarioMidwives.ca) and in the latest member newsletter. There are now close to 700 midwives practicing at more than 100 clinics throughout the province.

Two new birth centres will open this fall, in Ottawa (October), see below, and Toronto (TBA). The centres are expected to accommodate up to 700 clients (combined) in their first year of operation.

The AOM is pleased to announce a new Emergency Skills Workshop (ESW) program. The ESW program includes a new manual, an online exam, and improved in-person training. The workshop will be offered at the CAM conference. Preview a sample chapter and register today at [www.aom.on.ca/Continuing\\_Education/Emergency\\_Skills\\_Workshop](http://www.aom.on.ca/Continuing_Education/Emergency_Skills_Workshop).

Be sure to check out new clinical practice guidelines on your smartphone! Download the AOM apps about VBAC and HDP from the Apple app store or download a web-based app for blackberry and android from the AOM website.

### OTTAWA BIRTH AND WELLNESS CENTRE (OBWC)

The OBWC is being established as a regulated, community-based health care facility funded by the Ontario government as a two-year pilot project. The OBWC is scheduled to open in October 2013.

The OBWC will celebrate healthy natural births and family wellness by providing a safe community home and a broad range of maternal and infant services to Ottawa women, newborns, and their families.

Our goal is to be a centre of excellence for natural childbirth and wellness and to be accepted as a safe and desirable option for the majority of normal births in Eastern Ontario. Our initial target is 450 births per year.

Guided by the midwifery model of care, the OBWC will be a wonderful option for healthy women who have normal, uncomplicated pregnancies and are planning a non-medicated, out-of-hospital birth.

#### Our Clients and Services

The OBWC will provide services to women of childbearing age and their families within the Ottawa region. We will be looking to promote and facilitate access to the birth centre for vulnerable pregnant women, including adolescents, single women, Aboriginal women and new immigrants.

In addition to labour and delivery care, the OBWC will be providing a variety of wellness services for the benefit of moms, babies and the local community, including information and support about pregnancy, lactation consulting,

massage therapy, and various educational programs. There will also be a retail store for maternal and baby supplies.

#### A place to celebrate midwifery

The OBWC is intended to become the home of midwives in Ottawa, a place to celebrate what midwifery is all about. Our facility will have beautiful fully stocked birthing suites that are sound-proofed with natural lighting. Each suite will have all the necessary equipment and supplies including a birthing tub, shower, birthing balls, stools, slings, and floor mats. Clients will have the freedom to eat, drink and walk around in labour as well as have access to outdoor space. There will be a comfortable lounge area for those who are supporting the client.

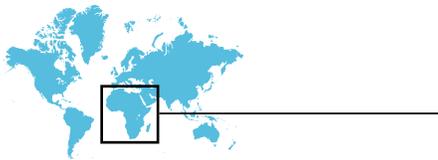
Birth Centre Aides employed by the OBWC will provide non-clinical support to the midwife and client. There will be a place for midwives to eat and rest and as well as training and development opportunities for registered midwives and students.

#### Come visit!

We invite all CAM conference delegates to visit us on Thursday November 7<sup>th</sup> between 5:00pm to 7:00pm for an open house.

We are located at 2260 Walkley Road (at St. Laurent Blvd) – in close proximity to local hospitals if a transfer is required and close to most of the midwifery practices in Ottawa.

## AROUND THE WORLD



**CAM is pleased to present the following summary of our newest collaborative project to fight maternal and infant mortality:**

<b>Location of Project</b>	Six zones across Tanzania, including: <b>Eastern</b> (Dar es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro); Southern (Lindi, Mtwara); <b>Southern Highlands</b> (Ruvuma, Iringa, Mbeya, Rukwa); <b>Central</b> (Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Shinyanga, Kigoma); Lake (Mwanza, Kagera, Mara); & <b>Northern</b> (Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Tanga, Manyara).	
<b>Name of Association</b>	<b>Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM)</b> <a href="http://www.canadianmidwives.org">www.canadianmidwives.org</a> (English) <a href="http://www.canadianmidwives.org/accueil.html">http://www.canadianmidwives.org/accueil.html</a> (French) and <b>Tanzania Midwives Association (TAMA)</b>	
<b>Addressing the Millennium Development Goals</b>	MDG 4 - Reduce child mortality MDG 5 - Improve maternal health	
<b>Project Partners (financial and operational)</b>	Ministry of Health & Social Welfare (MoHSW)	Cuso International Ministry of Health & Social Welfare (MoHSW) Muhimbili National and Referral Hospital Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MHAS)



TAMA Executive member and midwife, Agnes Mtawa provides breast feeding support to a new mother.

## IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY FOR SAFE MOTHERHOOD

### Strengthening & supporting midwifery in Tanzania

“Enhancing the skills of midwives ensures the evidence-based health care services, and individualized care that women need – care that promotes the survival of mothers and babies who could otherwise die from preventable pregnancy and child birth complications. Indeed, competent and adequately resourced midwives save lives.”

-Dr. Sebalda Leshabari, General Secretary, Tanzania Midwives Association (TAMA)

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

It is estimated that 536,000 women worldwide die of maternal causes, along with 11,000,000 children under five, of which 4.4 million are newborns. The majority of these deaths occur in Sub Saharan Africa. Tanzania is one of the ten countries contributing to 61% and

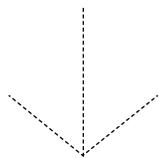
66% of the global total of maternal and newborn deaths, respectively.

Maternal and newborn health care in Tanzania faces many challenges including a critical shortage of adequately skilled maternal health service providers; and constraints around uptake of, and access to these health services due to barriers including distance to the nearest facility, the lack of affordable transport at the time of labour, and obtaining skilled and affordable care upon arrival at a health facility.

- Estimated annual number of maternal deaths: 14,000
- Neonatal mortality rate: 34 per 1,000 live births
- Number of maternity health providers per 1000 population: .2
- Births attended by skilled health personnel: 43%
- Average distance to the nearest hospital in rural Tanzania: 31.7 km
- Health centres equipped to provide Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care: 5%

This project will address the need for improved maternal health service delivery in 6 zones across Tanzania; specifically recognizing geographically disadvantaged areas that face limited access to emergency obstetric care; and shortages of adequately skilled maternity health care providers. The project will strengthen the capacity of practicing, and re-engaged rural midwives across the country through *Emergency Skills training workshops*, co-delivered on location, by Tanzanian-Canadian midwife pairs. It will also focus on linking the right competencies with rural areas, by identifying traditional birth attendants (TBA) in target communities, and bringing them together with re-engaged retired midwives within those same settings, for mentorship, and skills sharing support – strengthening the continuum of care from home to health facility. Various tools will be created to enhance midwifery knowledge transfer and advocacy; and essential resources will be provided to support increased access to quality midwifery care.

## 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](mailto:admin@canadianmidwives.org).

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

Deadline for next issue: November 30, 2013.



On June 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:37 PM, Sikulia (see-koo-lee-ah) joined Nathalie, Ian and Nuna. Sikulia means “the way of the sea ice” or “new ice” in Inuktitut. He was born at home in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, surrounded by his loved ones. Congratulations Nathalie, Ian and Nuna!”

Womancare Midwives in London Ontario is thrilled to welcome 9lb 12 oz Gareth, second baby of our colleague midwife Aimee Fehlner and her partner JD. Gareth was born after a spontaneous labour and successful VBAC at 41+5!

We are delighted to announce that NACM member Karen Lawford received the Dawn Walker Grant, in recognition of her research around the Impact of the Evacuation Policy on First Nations Women and Families. She received this Grant during the SOGC’s Healthy Women, Healthy Future Gala held in Calgary during the SOGC’s ACM. Congratulations Karen on this wonderful accomplishment!

Congratulations to the NACM members who have recently graduated: Melodie Murphy (Tsi Non:we lonnakeratstha Ona:grahsta’ Training program), Tracy Pittman (Ryerson University), and Diane Simon (Ryerson University)! Congratulations on all your hard work! We are very excited to see you joining the ranks of Aboriginal midwives across Canada!

We are very excited to share that a new education program has opened in Nunavik, Northern Quebec! Two students started their training in Kuujuaq in August. This program will enable women from the Ungava Coast to train locally, contributing to bringing birth back to communities in a sustainable way.

We are thrilled to announce that CAM’s Events Coordinator, Jill DeWeese-Frank is expecting her first baby in October. Her last day in the office will be September 26<sup>th</sup>, and while we are sad to see her go on leave, we wish her much happiness as she begins this new chapter in her life. Over the next year, Jill’s position will be covered by Julie Surprenant, a former CAM staff member with experience in event planning, communications and translation. Welcome again to the CAM team Julie!

### PhD Research Summary

My name is Lisa Morgan and I am a practicing midwife in Cambridge, Ontario and a PhD student with the school of Rural & Northern Health at Laurentian University. My research will investigate the perspectives, beliefs and opinions of women concerning their reproductive health care in northern Ontario and how provision of care might be improved in a context of limited provision of services and a limited role for midwives. Women will be approached to complete a survey on their current reproductive health care and comfort with midwives providing these services outside of pregnancy and postpartum, which reflects many midwives’ current scope of practice. A portion of these women, who indicate their willingness at the end of the survey, will be interviewed to provide depth to the responses on the survey. This research is intended to explore whether women’s uptake of reproductive health care services may be increased through the introduction of another health care provider in their community providing these services, specifically midwives. If you wish to follow my research, you can follow me on twitter, where I will be providing weekly updates including my research web address when activated. My twitter address is [@lmorgan\\_lisa](https://twitter.com/lmorgan_lisa)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



More info on events at:  
[facebook.com/  
 CanadianMidwives](https://facebook.com/CanadianMidwives)

### 2013-Emergency Skills Workshops for Midwives (ESW)

Quebec: [info@rsfq.qc.ca](mailto:info@rsfq.qc.ca)

Ontario: [www.aom.on.ca/Continuing\\_education/emergency\\_Skills\\_Workshop/](http://www.aom.on.ca/Continuing_education/emergency_Skills_Workshop/)

Manitoba: [midwivesofmanitoba@gmail.com](mailto:midwivesofmanitoba@gmail.com)

British Columbia: For information on the MESP program contact Sunya Lai Thom-Midwives association of BC, [continuinged@bcmidwives.com](mailto:continuinged@bcmidwives.com)

### 2013-Advances in labour and risk management (ALARM)

[www.sogc.org](http://www.sogc.org)

#### OCTOBER 2013

The AOM has released the Call for Abstracts for its 2014 Annual Conference, May 5-7, 2014 at Hockley Valley Resort in Orangeville. The deadline is **Oct. 4, 2014**. Feel free to circulate this to colleagues and networks.

[http://www.aom.on.ca/Continuing\\_Education/AOM\\_Annual\\_Conference/Call\\_For\\_Abstracts.aspx](http://www.aom.on.ca/Continuing_Education/AOM_Annual_Conference/Call_For_Abstracts.aspx)

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

OCTOBER 17-18, 2013

Newcastle City Hall, Newcastle, NSW  
[www.nursingmidwiferyconference.com.au/](http://www.nursingmidwiferyconference.com.au/)

### Symposium francophone de médecine 2013

OCTOBER 22-25, 2013

Montreal, Quebec  
<http://www.sfdm.org>

### Midwives Alliance of North America

OCTOBER 24-27, 2013

Portland, Oregon

[www.mana.org](http://www.mana.org)

### Midwifery Today Conference

OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 3, 2013

Blankenberge, Belgium

#### NOVEMBER, 2013

### Canadian Association of Midwives 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Exhibit

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2013

Marriott Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario

[www.canadianmidwives.org/conference/](http://www.canadianmidwives.org/conference/)

### International Conference on Family Planning

NOVEMBER 12 - 15, 2013

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

[www.fpconference2013.org/](http://www.fpconference2013.org/)

### SOGC OBS Conference

#### FMC du Québec en obstétrique

NOVEMBER 14 & 15, 2013

Montreal, Quebec

[www.sogc.org](http://www.sogc.org)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> International Midwifery Congress in Turkey

NOVEMBER 20-23, 2013

Antalya, Turkey

[www.ebko2013.org/eng](http://www.ebko2013.org/eng)

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> National CAPWHN Conference

NOVEMBER 21-23, 2013

Sheraton on the Falls in Niagara Falls, Ontario

[www.capwhn.ca](http://www.capwhn.ca)

### 4<sup>th</sup> EMA (European Midwives Association) Educational Conference

NOVEMBER 29-30, 2013

Maastricht, Netherlands

[www.av-m.nl/avm-university/ema-education](http://www.av-m.nl/avm-university/ema-education)

#### FUTURE YEARS

### Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies: New Research and Best Practice Perinatal Conference 2014

FEBRUARY 21, 2014

Vancouver, B.C.

[www.bcmidwives.com/events/details/884](http://www.bcmidwives.com/events/details/884)

### Best Start Resource Centre

FEBRUARY 26-28, 2014

Toronto, Ontario

[www.beststart.org](http://www.beststart.org)

### Midwifery and Child Care in South Africa- A Study Tour

APRIL 2-13, 2014

South Africa

[www.jonbainestours.co.uk/itinerary.php?tour\\_id=81](http://www.jonbainestours.co.uk/itinerary.php?tour_id=81)

### ICM Triennial Congress

JUNE 1-5, 2014

Prague, Czech Republic

[www.midwives2014.org](http://www.midwives2014.org)

### 2014 CAM/ACSF Annual Conference

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2014

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Upcoming Education in Perinatal Bereavement, provided through Pregnancy and Infant Loss Network [www.painnetwork.ca](http://www.painnetwork.ca). Please see the site and click on 'healthcare professionals' to access Registration Brochures for the 2-Day RTS Workshops as they provide more detailed information:

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	SPECIAL INFORMATION
2-day RTS Training in Perinatal Bereavement	Ottawa (Vanier-Richelieu Centre)	Oct. 7 & 8	*Early Bird Registration by August 15, 2013 Final registration date by September 23, 2013	*Sponsored by Kelly Funeral Home
PAIL Network's 1-Day Sensitivity Training	London (Lampighter Conference Centre)	Oct. 15	*Contact <a href="mailto:kory.mcgrath@painnetwork.ca">kory.mcgrath@painnetwork.ca</a> for info on how to register	
2-day RTS Training in Perinatal Bereavement	St. Catharine's / Niagara (Hernder Winery)	Oct. 22 & 23	*Early Bird Registration by August 20, 2013 Final registration date by October 8, 2013	*Venue: Hernder Estate Winery – evening tours & tastings (Near Niagara)
PAIL Network's 1-Day Sensitivity Training for Midwives and Students	Ryerson University	Nov. 2	*Contact <a href="mailto:kory.mcgrath@painnetwork.ca">kory.mcgrath@painnetwork.ca</a> for info on how to register (Ryerson students receive a special discounted rate)	*Sponsored by Association of Ryerson Midwifery Students (ARMS)
Presentation	Ottawa	Nov. 8	Access with registration to CAM conference	Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) – 1 hour session
2-day RTS Training in Perinatal Bereavement	Toronto (St. Michael's Hospital / Ryerson University Hosted)	Nov. 18 & 19	*Early Bird Registration by October 1, 2013 Final registration date by November 4, 2013	*Special student rate of \$250.00