

# THE PINARD

Newsletter of the Canadian Association of Midwives

## RECORD TURN-OUT AT CAM ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN VICTORIA!

Over 400 midwives and other health professionals attend CAM's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exhibit.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## WELCOME TO CAM INCOMING PRESIDENT, KATRINA KILROY



*Katrina Kilroy has been a practicing midwife since 1991. She has worked in rural, small urban and large urban communities. She was a member of the Association of Ontario Midwives' Board of Directors from 2004-2012, including serving as President from 2008-2012. She has been on the Canadian Association of Midwives Board since 2006, serving as Ontario representative, Secretary, Vice President and now President. Katrina was a founding member of the twinning program between CAM and the Tanzanian Registered Midwives Association. She has been a clinical preceptor and guest lecturer for the Ontario Midwifery Education Program since its inception in 1993. She has worked with many Ontario hospitals as a consultant to improve interprofessional relations within birthing units and to help maximize the scope of midwives. Katrina was a leader of the campaign to establish additional birth centres in Ontario and has played a central role in the fight for pay equity for Ontario midwives.*

Greetings!

As the incoming CAM President, I am very excited to have this opportunity to introduce myself to our members and supporters. I currently work at the Midwives Collective of Toronto where I attend clients at home, the Toronto Birth Centre and Mount Sinai Hospital. I am an activist who is committed to social justice and ongoing anti-oppression learning and action for myself and others.

This is a very dynamic time to be involved with CAM and midwifery across the country and around the world. Midwives are organizing to bring excellent care to their communities and CAM is working to ensure that our strategic plan contributes to these efforts in the most constructive way possible. Midwifery continues to face pressures in Canada and around the world that contribute to the marginalization of midwives. We are also growing exponentially, experimenting with different models of care, and providing care to more and more Canadian families and communities.

CAM is proud to continue to support the remarkable work of the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives and to ask ourselves what more we can do and what role we can play in the important work of reconciliation that needs to take place across

our country. We see increased efforts outside our borders to restrict the sexual and reproductive rights of women and trans people and midwives are important advocates for these rights. The recent publication of the *Midwives' Voices, Midwives' Realities* report by the WHO and others shows us how some of our struggles are shared with midwives around the world. Our global program has grown dramatically and is also highlighting what we share and what more we can share with midwives on the other side of the planet. All of these factors present challenges and great opportunities for midwives to continue to work together to effect change.

I hope to see you all at the International Confederation of Midwives Congress in Toronto from June 18-22, 2017. Not only will this event bring much needed attention to the current state of midwifery in Canada but, for those of you who have never attended an ICM congress, I would just like to say that it will change your life as a midwife. To be among thousands of midwives from all corners of the globe, listening, learning and dancing, brings a very particular kind of focus to the work that we do every day, and night. Be sure to register by February 28 to ensure you get the early bird rate.

Hope to see you there.



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



CAM is now on Twitter!  
Follow us at [@Canadamidwives](https://twitter.com/Canadamidwives)

**Video content:** For the first time ever, CAM has included video excerpts to several of its articles. To access these videos please find our newsletter online at [www.canadianmidwives.org](http://www.canadianmidwives.org).

Cover photos of speakers and delegates at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Association of Midwives Conference in Victoria, BC.

# THE CAM GLOBAL PROGRAM

The Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) believes that midwives play a unique and fundamental role in the provision of quality reproductive, maternal, and newborn health care – both in Canada, and internationally. We are investing in a world where every girl, individual, woman and newborn will have access to that care – care that can save lives.

## ASSOCIATION TO ASSOCIATION

CAM works in partnership with other national associations on mutual capacity building initiatives. CAM believes that a midwifery association is the most appropriate body to provide capacity building support to another midwifery association. This approach invites opportunities for CAM to exchange knowledge, share good practice internationally, and broaden our understanding of the challenges for midwives and the profession in other contexts.

## PRINCIPLES OF PARTNERSHIP

**Equity & Sharing:** CAM partnerships are two-way, mutually beneficial relationships based on fundamental principles of equity and sharing.

**Respect:** This premise acknowledges and celebrates our differences, and recognizes that our approach and objectives must remain flexible for partnership outcomes to be mutually relevant.

**Trust and Transparency:** CAM partnerships are based on a shared commitment to honest and fully transparent communication, both at the strategic planning level, and within day-to-day working relationships.

TO LEARN MORE VISIT: [www.cam-global.org](http://www.cam-global.org)

## BECOME A CAM GLOBAL ASSOCIATE!

CAM works alongside midwifery association partners, in countries such as **South Sudan, Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania** and **Ethiopia** to deliver quality reproductive, maternal and newborn health programming.

**We are pleased to be able to provide a variety of international placement opportunities for our members.**

CAM Global Associates are the key to CAM's ability to provide support to midwives and midwifery associations in Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere. Without our Global Associates, we would not be able to contribute to reducing maternal and newborn mortality in the same way: midwives supporting midwives! We look forward to working with you!

**Duration:** 3-6 weeks

**Placements reflect the specific needs** identified by our local partner associations.

**Types of work:** Developing midwifery curriculum manuals, training midwives in emergency skills, providing peer-to-peer support and much more!

**Shorter placements** are delivered on a rotating basis; this helps support our partner associations in a sustainable way while still fitting into midwives' schedules.

**Placements may be for** volunteers or for consultants depending on the type, length, and geographic location of the work.

**Some placements** may include a **remote** support component.

Placements are available in both **English & French.**

# NEWS FROM THE MIDWIVES SAVE LIVES PROJECT IN BENIN!

CAM-Global's new project officer for Midwives Save Lives (MSL), Cindy Hénault-Robert and CAM President, Emmanuelle Hébert recently returned from a two-week trip to Benin to meet with our partner sister association, the Association des sages-femmes du Bénin (ASFB). The goal of their trip was to continue building CAM's relationship with the association and to learn more about the midwifery context in their country. They also worked on finalizing the project's activities in Benin — particularly those focused on association strengthening — and identified volunteer and consultant opportunities for Canadian midwives.

**“IN ALL THE HEALTH CENTRES WE VISITED WE MET MIDWIVES WHO WERE ENTHUSIASTIC BUT DEFINITELY OVERWORKED, AND HEALTH FACILITIES THAT WERE CLEAN AND ORGANIZED BUT UNDER-RESOURCED.”**

– Cindy Hénault-Robert

The goal of the Midwives Save Lives (MSL) project is to contribute to the reduction of maternal and child mortality in Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia and Tanzania. Research shows that improving the quality of care is often more important to the reduction of maternal and child mortality than increasing the quantity of midwives because it encourages more women to use midwifery services and increases the ability of healthcare providers to save lives. The project, which is funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada and being implemented in partnership with Cuso International, aims to improve the **quality of midwifery care**, increase its **utilization by communities and women** and **increase the influence of midwives** and the recognition of midwifery as a cost effective, high



Emmanuelle Hébert and Cindy Hénault-Robert with a group of health administrators at the Adja Ouéré maternity ward. In pink, one of the health facility's two midwives. They catch around 35 births per month.



Bénois midwife instructor Kate Guinley (L) and ASFB Administrative Secretary Karamatou Bangbola (R) at the national midwifery training institution in Cotonou.

Emmanuelle Hébert and ASFB President Laurence Monteiro at the Kétou maternity ward. There are 60-70 births here per month and 5 midwives on staff.

quality path to improved reproductive, maternal and newborn health and rights through the strengthening of midwifery associations.

In Benin, there are 405 maternal deaths for every 100,000 births (compared to 7 in Canada)<sup>1</sup> and for every 1,000 live births, 100 children under 5 will die (compared to 5 in Canada). Of those, 64 are children under 1. Significant issues exist around access and availability of health services. Gender-specific socio-cultural factors are also at play, such as limits on a woman's ability to make her own decisions about her body and the care she receives.

The implementation phase of the project has just begun. Cindy is currently working with our partner associations, including ASFB in Benin, to develop the 2017 volunteer and consultant placements for CAM members. Several of these will be published in December 2016 and in the coming months, so interested midwives should keep a close eye on their inboxes for emails from CAM as well as the CAM Global website opportunities page.

<http://cam-global.org/opportunities-for-midwives/>

**CLICK HERE:** To read the detailed interview with CAM-Global project officer Cindy Hénault-Robert.

<sup>1</sup> <http://data.unicef.org/topic/maternal-health/maternal-mortality/>

# BUILDING MIDWIFERY IN SOUTH SUDAN: 3 CANADIAN MIDWIVES SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE

Canadian midwives Alixandra Bacon, Kelly Chisholm, and Beverley O'Brien were recently together at the CAM offices in Montreal to work on phase 2 of the *Strengthening Midwifery Services in South Sudan* (SMS II) project. They will be collaborating with Sudanese midwives to strengthen the South Sudanese Nurses and Midwives Association (SSNA-MA), recruit new members, and access resources.

In 2015, CAM was approached to partner with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on an existing project to strengthen midwifery services in the world's newest country of South Sudan. The 5-year Strengthening Midwifery Services (SMS) project (phase 2), supported by Global Affairs Canada, led by the UNFPA in partnership with CAM, and South Sudan's Ministry of Health officially began in spring 2016. South Sudan has among the world's highest maternal, newborn and child mortality rates, due in part to the critical shortage of skilled health care providers. Through the provision of capacity building initiatives for midwives and other health care providers, CAM and its partners hope to improve health outcomes in South Sudan. CAM will provide direct peer-to-peer mentoring support and technical expertise from practicing Canadian midwives, as well as other MNCH professionals.

Team leader for the association strengthening component of the SMSII project, BC midwife Alixandra Bacon plans to share with the Sudanese "what worked for us here in Canada and what didn't, our strengths and pitfalls", adding that "we're also going to have to get a good understanding from them of what's unique about their situation and how we might have to approach things differently". ([Click HERE](#) to listen to video excerpt of Alixandra Bacon interview)



L to R: Midwives Bev O'Brien, Kelly Chisholm, and Alixandra Bacon.

All three midwives have had prior experience working in an international context. They all agree that an important aspect of this project will be the mutual exchange of knowledge and skills. Retired Edmonton midwife Bev O'Brien is confident that the Sudanese will teach them what they need to know. "How do Sudanese women learn? What are the best strategies for them to present information to each other. How do they communicate? What are the issues among the many tribal groups in Sudan that may impair their ability to form a strong in South Sudan. How they get their message out so it is received by the people they want to receive it."

Technical consultant for the South Sudan project, Halifax midwife Kelly Chisholm will work on strengthening the midwives' association in South Sudan, drawing from her 10 years of involvement with the Association of Nova Scotia Midwives. She is confident that this project can make a difference.

**"WHAT REALLY STRUCK A CHORD WITH THIS PROJECT WAS THE SUPPORT THAT IT HAS THROUGH THE UNFPA-SOUTH SUDAN AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA. THIS IS A PROJECT THAT ISN'T JUST GOING INTO A COUNTRY AND SLAPPING A BAND-AID ON A PROBLEM AND WALKING AWAY, THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS LONGEVITY, IT HAS TEETH AND MORE IMPORTANTLY IT HAS A LEVEL OF SUSTAINABILITY WHICH I'M HOPEFUL WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE SOUTH SUDANESE PEOPLE."**

– Kelly Chisholm

Ms Bacon strongly encourages other Canadian midwives to get involved with CAM's Global program: "Whether you're working in South Sudan, Tanzania, Ethiopia, DRC, any of those projects. You get this beautiful insight into what it means to be a midwife, if you distill it right down. What is a midwife, regardless of culture or setting or workplace. And it gives you great insight into what we do well here, and what we could do better, and what we could do differently".

To read the full-length article, [CLICK HERE](#).

# 2016 CAM CONFERENCE

A record-breaking 400 midwives and other health professionals attended CAM's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual AGM, Conference Exhibit in late October in beautiful Victoria, BC. This year's conference theme, *Midwives Caring for Diverse Communities: Leadership & Collaboration*, was underscored by provocative and engaging presentations that touched topics of clinical practice, recent research, and reflections on the profession.

Keynote speaker, UK midwife Lesley Page opened the conference with an impassioned and entertaining speech, weaving stories of her first delivery as a young midwife with those of midwifery advocacy and the evolution of the midwifery practice in the UK, where she is the current President of the Royal College of Midwives. ([Click HERE](#) to listen to video excerpt)

Cree speaker Madeleine Dion-Stout generously shared her Cree lessons, teaching attendees the Cree word for Midwifery Care, *Nakatokewin*, a term closely associated with: visiting, witnessing, watching, mirroring. She suggested that CAM, at this time of unprecedented growth, should not forget that "imperfection is the beauty of partnerships". Her messages

were met with a spontaneous standing ovation. ([Click HERE](#) to listen to video excerpt)

Other speakers included medical sociologist Raymond De Vries, who shared with attendees his bioethics approach to maternity care and explained the reasons why midwifery is still under-utilized despite reducing costs and lowering risks, as well as UBC's Elaine Carty who used her collection of birth art to underline the importance of the humanities for midwives to learn more about themselves and to experience ideas about pregnancy and birth that connect them to the past, present and future.



The Thursday evening Costume party was a definite hit, with participants from around the country outdoing themselves with creative costumes and everyone burning up the dance floor! Prizes were awarded to best costumes. All around fun for everyone!



Assistant Deputy Minister, Ted Patterson, with Midwives Association of British Columbia CEO Ganga Jolicoeur, CAM President Emmanuelle Hébert, and MABC President, Alixandra Bacon. Ted Patterson gave strong messages of support for the midwifery model and confirmed that BC is on target to achieve its goal of 35% of midwife accompanied births by 2020.

([Click HERE](#) to listen to video excerpts of the presentation)



CAM and NACM members join in song and dance at the Mungo Martin House, Victoria's traditional Kwakwaka'wakw bighouse.



Right to Left: Midwifery students Clío Mawdsley (MRU, 2<sup>nd</sup> year), Sarah-Jane Steele (UBC), and Tietje White (MRU, 4<sup>th</sup> year) all agree that the CAM bursary was the key to being able to participate in this year's conference. Students Kory McGrath (Ryerson, 4<sup>th</sup> year), Elizabeth Schonewille (Ryerson, 2<sup>nd</sup> year), Sarah Bjorgan (UBC, 4<sup>th</sup> year), and Rhiannon McKechnie (UBC, 1<sup>st</sup> year) also received grants.



CAM President, Emmanuelle Hébert, congratulates Dr Murray Enkin, following his acceptance of honorary CAM and CAMED memberships for his longstanding role in the promotion of midwifery.

## A RECORD YEAR FOR STUDENT MIDWIVES!

This year's conference was marked by an important increase in the presence of midwifery students, with over 90 students in attendance. Their participation at this year's conference was made possible through grants given by CAM and MABC as well as time off granted by the University of British Columbia and other education programs. Students from across Canada were able to meet, network and learn about their profession. Students and recent graduates also presented at the CAM conference on topics ranging from student-preceptor relationships to contraception to Aboriginal midwifery.

Tietje White is a 4<sup>th</sup> year student at Mount Royal's Bachelor of Midwifery program in Alberta. This was her second CAM conference. "As a student it's easy to get bogged down in the day to day of getting homework done and just jumping through the hoops to get to the end, but I find coming here gives me a real burst of renewed energy to keep my passion alive and going." Clío Mawdsley, also a student at Mount Royal, in her second year of midwifery training, says the grant was a blessing. "It relieved a lot of pressure. ...There's a lot of financial pressure and I might be going away for placement next semester. (I'm in) sort of that unpredictability of midwifery life so it's good to have that support. Thank-you!". A native of Halifax Nova-Scotia, Sarah-Jane Steele is a 1<sup>st</sup> year student at UBC's Midwifery Program. She says that she found it refreshing to see the "arts side of midwifery" and to listen to midwives talk about what they do. "It reinforced for me what it is that I'm going to do as a midwife when I'm out and practising, so it was wonderful!"

([Click HERE](#) to see video excerpts of student testimonies.)

## NEXT CAM CONFERENCE IN 2018

In June 2017, Canada will host the 31<sup>st</sup> ICM Triennial Congress. In honour of this event, CAM will not be holding its Annual Conference in 2017. The CAM conference will return in 2018! CAM's Annual General Meeting for 2017 will be held in Toronto on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

# ACROSS CANADA NEWS FROM PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ASSOCIATIONS

## DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS ACROSS CANADA

Contract negotiations have kept some associations busy these last few months. Quebec midwives are presently organizing public demonstrations and using media coverage to kick-start stalled negotiations in their plea to convince government officials to reach agreements regarding work conditions and fair wages. Midwives in Manitoba came to an agreement with their provincial government this year after being without a contract for two years and are now fighting for an education program. Midwives in Alberta, Ontario and elsewhere area also negotiating their contracts.



## MANITOBA MIDWIFERY EDUCATION PROGRAM

In Manitoba, the newly elected Progressive Conservative government refused to fund a newly created joint program between University College of the North (the previous provider of midwifery education) and the University of Manitoba, putting in danger the future of the program's 14 midwifery students. Fortunately, the McMaster University Midwifery Education Program stepped in and will be offering their midwifery education program to these students at a distance. This allows the students to complete their education while remaining in Manitoba and supports the needs of Manitoba's families for more midwives and midwifery services.



Midwives turn out in large numbers to attend the Human Rights Tribunal proceedings.



## ONTARIO MIDWIVES TAKE THE STAND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In Ontario, home to 50% of Canada’s midwives, hearings began in June regarding 800 Ontario midwives’ 2013 application to the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario (HRTO) that alleges that midwives have experienced a gender-penalty in their pay set by the government for almost two decades. Witnesses have taken the stand to describe the history of discrimination and their efforts over the years to address the wage gap with the government and advocate for compensation that accurately reflects midwives’ skills, effort, responsibilities and working conditions. The hearing will continue till at least March 2017.

## WHERE ARE WE AT IN UNREGULATED JURISDICTIONS?

In New Brunswick, the Department of Health announced last February that New Brunswick midwives would soon have their first practice, comprised of four midwives. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Minister of Health announced that the practice would soon be opening in Fredericton and that the midwifery positions will be posted shortly. 2017 may finally be the year for midwives to start working in New Brunswick!

In Newfoundland and Labrador, midwifery regulations were passed last April 2016 and came into effect on September 30<sup>th</sup>. A first meeting of the “College of Midwives of NL” (CMNL) took place in October, and midwives can now register in the province at <http://www.nlchp.ca/level2.php?id=58>.

However, there are still no midwifery positions funded in the province.



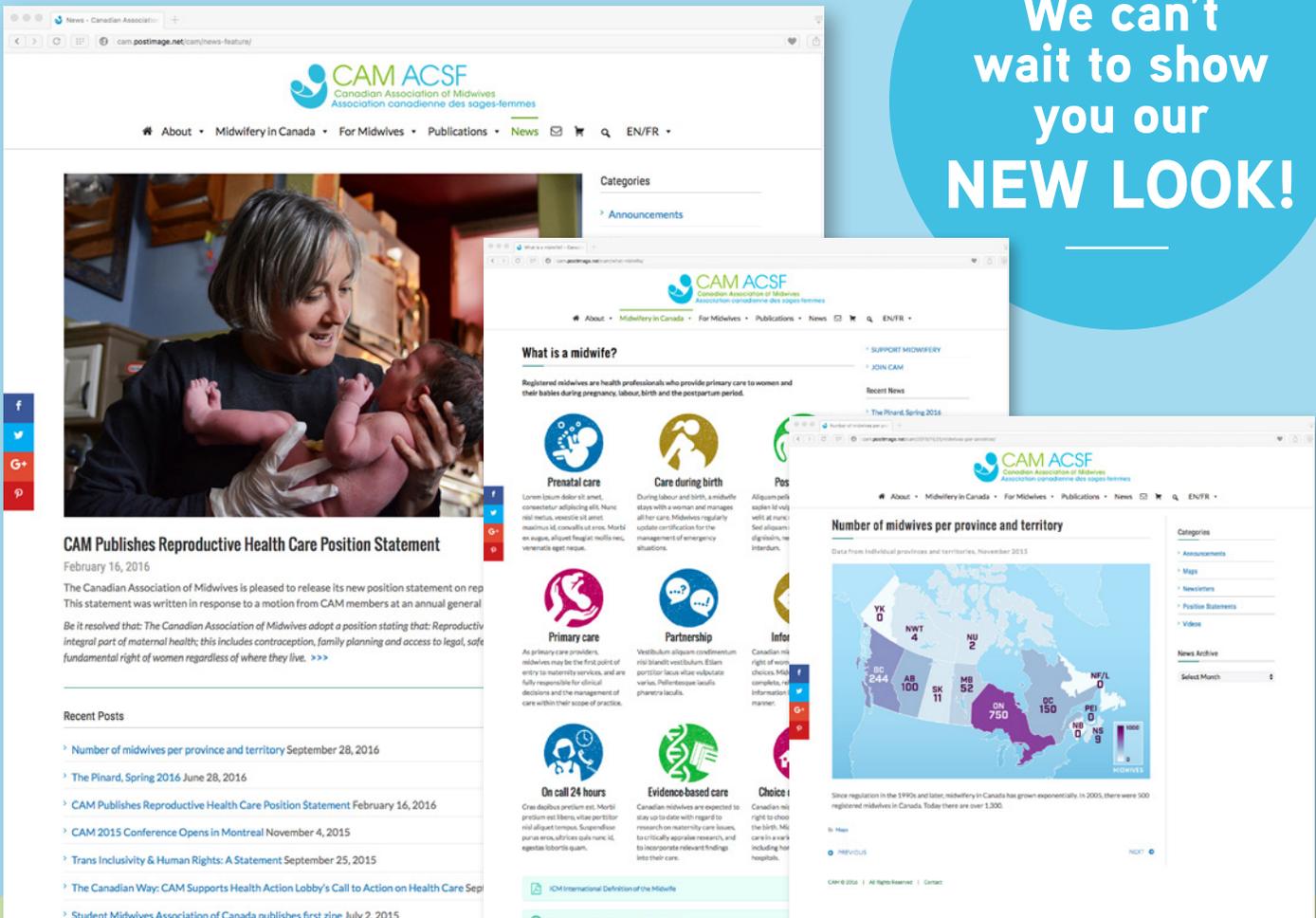
Mélissa Langlais, President of the Midwives Association of New Brunswick, demonstrates prenatal care at a press release while Ministers Victor Boudreau (Health) and Stephen Horsman (Families and Children) look on.

# CAM IS UPDATING ITS WEBSITE!

CAM will be launching an updated website in early 2017. This website will better serve our members and the public by:

- Being clearer and more concise
- Providing a more updatable format so our members and researchers can find current information about midwifery
- Answering frequently asked questions about midwifery in Canada
- Bringing together statistics on the profession and birth across provinces and territories

We can't wait to show you our **NEW LOOK!**



**CHECK BACK WITH US IN JANUARY!**

# THE ICM FUND CHALLENGE IS ON!

Canadian midwives are raising money to bring midwives from under-resourced countries to the ICM Congress in 2017!

The ICM fund Challenge is off to a great start! Several practices have answered CAM's challenge and have committed to raising money to ensure that midwives from under-resourced countries have the chance to attend the 2017 31<sup>st</sup> International Confederation of Midwives Triennial Congress, June 18-22<sup>nd</sup> in Toronto.

The midwives at Womancare Midwives are a great example of midwives working together to raise money. The London Ontario practice has committed to raising \$6,000 to bring a midwife from Sub-Saharan Africa to the Congress. Jane Erdman says they chose this goal because one of the practice members is twinned with a midwife in Tanzania so the midwives feel a special connection to that part of the world.

**CAM has pledged to make this Congress the most accessible Congress yet. We know that it is unaffordable for many midwives in under-resourced countries to attend the ICM Congress, and we also know what a life-changing experience it can be. Money raised will cover Congress registration, travel, accommodations and visa fees. Special consideration will be given to Indigenous, LGBTQ2, and young midwives. All money must be raised by January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in accepting the challenge, contact Eby Heller at [eheller@canadianmidwives.org](mailto:eheller@canadianmidwives.org).**

**"WE ALL AGREED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT THE REDUCTION OF GLOBAL MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY AND WE KNOW THAT TRAINING MIDWIVES IS A KEY WAY TO DO THIS. ALSO, AS MIDWIVES, I BELIEVE WE COME TO OUR PROFESSION WITH A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE AND TAKING UP THIS CHALLENGE REALLY REFLECTS THAT"**

*- Jane Erdman*

The practice will raise money by selling onesies, having a garage sale and holding a 50/50 draw to guess the date and time that a pregnant colleague will give birth. Signs in the clinic will let clients know that they can also donate directly to the campaign through [www.cam-global.org/donate](http://www.cam-global.org/donate)

Midwifery Group of Ottawa is another example of great teamwork! They have also committed to raising \$6,000 to bring a midwife from Sub-Saharan Africa to the Congress. Liz Darling, a midwife at the practice who attended the ICM Congress in Prague, says the event is "an opportunity to learn, share ideas and experiences, and stretch our own conceptions about how we might do things and how we work."



Midwifery Group of Ottawa



Ontario MEPs Graduating Class 2016



Womancare Midwives



## PRACTICES WHO HAVE COMMITTED:

- Womancare Midwives, London, ON: \$6,000
- Midwifery Group of Ottawa: \$6,000;
- Midwives Collective of Toronto: \$3,500;
- Burdock (a collective event between Midwives Collective of Toronto, Seventh Generation Midwives and East York Don Mills Midwives): \$1,000;
- Community Midwives of Toronto: \$5000;
- Burlington and Area Midwives: \$4,500;
- Midwives Association of British Columbia: \$3,500;
- Midwives of Vancouver Island Health Authority: \$3,500;
- Ontario MEPs Graduating Class 2016: \$3,500;
- Midwifery Care of Peel and Halton Hills: \$6,000;
- Midwives Clinic of East York- Don Mills: \$2,000;
- McMaster Student Midwifery Collective: \$200;
- Alberta Association of Midwives: \$3,500;
- CAM Staff Members: \$300;
- HIROC will also donate \$12,000 to this initiative.

**31<sup>ST</sup> ICM Triennial Congress**  
**TORONTO, CANADA 18-22 June 2017**

MIDWIVES - MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

## ICM CONGRESS 2017

In 2017, Canada will host the 31<sup>st</sup> International Confederation of Midwives Triennial Congress which will take place June 18 – 22, in Toronto, Ontario.

The ICM congress represents and works to strengthen professional associations of midwives throughout the world. This international event will host representatives from 116 Midwives Associations, representing 102 countries across every continent!

ICM 2017 registration is open. We invite our members to register as soon as possible for this historic event. Please note that Early Bird registration fees end on February 28th, 2017.

**For more information, or to register: <http://www.midwives2017.org/registration>**