

# THE PINARD

Newsletter of the Canadian  
Association of Midwives

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIDWIFE

VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 1 • 2018

## NEW STATISTICS ON MIDWIFERY-ASSISTED BIRTHS ACROSS CANADA PAGES 6-7

Calling on all members  
to answer our 2018  
Members' Survey

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Our members' newsletter, The Pinard, was initially launched in 2011 in response to our 2010 members' survey as a means of sharing information from your national professional association in a more regular way throughout the year. Now, in 2018, we are launching a new members' survey and I encourage all members, once again,

to take 10 to 15 minutes out of your day to share your thoughts and concerns regarding the profession of midwifery. It is crucial to the continued strength of the organization that CAM's activities remain driven by our members' needs. While CAM's vision guides all of our activities, the survey results will feed into the strategic planning process. The next three-year strategic plan will run from 2019 to 2021, and the CAM Board of Directors will begin working on our new strategic plan in October. In addition to the 2018-member survey results, the Board will look at the work that has been done over the past few years and evaluate how much of the current plan has been accomplished, what needs more work and what we can build on. Your voice matters, so please visit the CAM website to fill out the survey online and let us know how we can best represent the issues that matter to you.

I would like to take this opportunity to say how excited I am about our members' interest in CAM Global's projects. Canadian midwives' participation as consultants and volunteers in our global projects confirms that we are providing our members with much-wanted opportunities, in English and French, to expand their experience of midwifery and grow professionally and personally in an international context.

While CAM Global brings experience opportunities to Canadian midwives, it has also helped drive CAM's development as an organization. I am very proud of the growth of the CAM office, which is due, in part, to our expanded global role. Over the past two years we have grown from 6 employees to 17. As CAM's organizational capacity grows, our visibility and credibility with the federal government also becomes greater. Today, CAM is poised to work with government agencies and to advocate for midwives as leaders in developing health promotion and prevention initiatives with



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CAM is now on Twitter!  
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[plus.google.com/u/1/101476818998626764055](https://plus.google.com/u/1/101476818998626764055)

respect to guidelines around pregnancy and childbirth. We are also embarking on a long-awaited public engagement project that will hopefully install midwives in the hearts and minds of the Canadian public as the experts in normal pregnancy and birth and reproductive health care.

As CAM works to ensure that "midwife" becomes a household word and a viable birth option for people in every corner of the country, Canadian midwives are taking leadership roles in promoting midwifery and maternal and child health both at home and abroad. Locally, Nova Scotia midwife and President of the Nova Scotia Midwives Association, Kelly Chisholm, recently made a huge contribution to the Nova Scotia program by convincing the Nova Scotia Health Minister to add three new positions to save the program. Internationally, NACM leader Cheryllee Bourgeois recently made an appearance at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York to participate in the dialogue on the state of Indigenous midwifery in the Americas. Emily Chartrand-Hudson, another NACM leader, was recently accepted to participate in the Women Deliver Young Leaders' Program, in recognition of her leadership contributions to women's health and her potential to grow further in that role. And this is just to name a few...

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Pinard and look forward to learning your thoughts and opinions on all of CAM's activities when you fill out the 2018 members survey.



Tonia Occhionero and MP Mona Fortier, at the Parliamentary reception in celebration of the International Day of the Midwife and the Midwives Save Lives project.



CAM and NACM leaders met to develop their government relations plan in March, 2018.

## NATIONAL PRIORITIES – MEMBERS’ SURVEY

It’s already 2018. That means that its time to start pulling together CAM’s next strategic plan. One of the first things we do in the planning process is consult you, our members, about your priorities, concerns and suggestions.

By answering the 2018 Members’ Survey you can help shape CAM’s work over the next three years.

The survey is short and takes as little as ten minutes to fill out. It will help CAM understand the challenges you face as a midwife and those facing the profession of midwifery. Your answers will help the Board of Directors decide where CAM should focus its resources over the next three years. We want to know how we can represent and serve you better.

Please check your emails from CAM to find a link to the survey, or go to the CAM webpage at <https://canadianmidwives.org>. The survey will be online until June 30.

## HAPPY INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIDWIFE (IDM)

We hope you enjoyed this year’s IDM Challenge. This year CAM wanted to spread the message about midwifery to a wider audience. We hoped to create a groundswell of support for midwifery by having you post clips of yourselves dancing and challenging three of your friends, colleagues and clients to do the same.

We chose the song Sisters by a Tribe Called Red in honour of the ongoing collaboration between CAM and NACM and the important role of Indigenous midwives.

Thanks to Alixandra Bacon and Sequoya Bartrem for sharing their IDM images with us to help bring attention to the challenge.

“  
**BEING PART OF THIS SPECIAL DAY BRINGS ME SO MUCH JOY AND IS ONE OF THE REASONS I LOVE WHAT I DO.**  
”  
**-STUDENT MIDWIFE SEQUOYA BARTREM**



Check your email for the Survey.

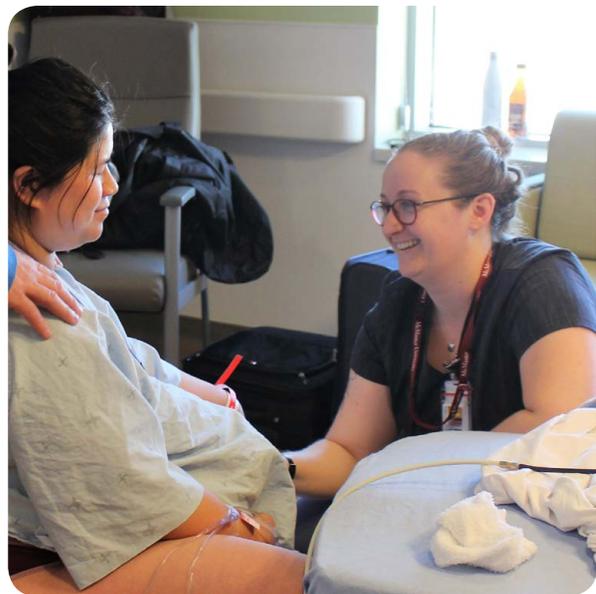


Photo credit Angie Stenback

# NEWS FROM NACM

## NACM MEMBER CHOSEN FOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Congratulations to NACM member and new registrant Emily Chartrand-Hudson who was one of 300 chosen out of 3000 young leaders from around the world to participate in the Women Deliver Young Leader’s program. The participants were selected for their potential to have a lasting impact on the lives of girls and women.



Emily Chartrand-Hudson  
Photo credit: Allison Roberts of Dark Woods Photography (North Bay, ON)

Emily feels honoured and humbled to have been selected, and is looking forward to meeting her cohort of talented young people working to further women’s health, well-being and equity. “I think the program will be of huge benefit to my skills as an Indigenous midwife and women’s health advocate,” she said.

The Young Leader’s program provides youth advocates with opportunities to build and strengthen their advocacy capacity and skills.

## 2018 IEWIROKWAS CAPE AWARD FOR MIDWIFERY HEROES

NACM members, Kerry Bebee and Melida Jimenez, are recipients of the 2018 Iewirokwas Cape Award for Midwifery Heroes. Kerry and Melida are humble, dedicated midwives who enrich their cultural communities. The two midwives who are honoured each year are awarded beautiful, artist-commissioned, capes. The name of the recipients and the year received are sewn onto the capes as permanent tributes. The capes are handed on year after year to subsequent heroes.



Kerry Bebee and Melida Jimenez in their capes.

## ANISHNABEK HEALTH CONFERENCE NAMES NACM MEMBER COMMUNITY HERO

The Anishabek Health Conference awarded Carol Couchie a Community Heroes in Health award at its conference in Sault Ste Marie. The award recognized individuals who work to build capacity within First Nations territory by empowering residents to become more active, healthy and improve the overall well-being of the community. Carol was recognized for her work to advance health and well-being for First Nation women and families in many communities and her influence in developing Indigenous midwifery.

## NACM TRAVELS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

NACM members have been busy advocating for Indigenous midwifery as part of the Bringing Birth Home project funded by Save the Children Canada and in connection to its work with Indigenous Services, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch.

In December, Carol Couchie and Brenda Epoo met in Kuujuarapik, QC to advocate for midwifery there, and in January, Carol made a solo trip to the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach, QC on the border with Labrador, to share with that community the benefits of midwifery care and the steps that would need to be taken to bring birth back. Cheryllee Bourgeois and Alyssa Gagnon promoted Indigenous midwifery in Taykwa Tagamou, ON in February and Evelyn Harney George went to the Yukon. In March, Alisha Julien Reid, Diane Simon and Evelyn Harney George were in Fredericton and at St Mary’s First Nation, NB and Millbrook, NS speaking about midwifery. There are also plans for NACM members to travel to Fort McMurray, AB, Sturgeon Lake, SK, M’Chigeeng First Nation, ON and Kanawake, QC before Bringing Birth Home ends in June.



New Brunswick midwives Ashley Kaye, Kate Leblanc and Melissa Langlais (far right) joined Evelyn Harney George, Alisha Julien Reid and Diane Simon at St. Mary’s First Nation, NB in February.

# ACROSS CANADA

## ONTARIO PROMOTES HOME BIRTH

During the month of March, the AOM ran a campaign to promote midwifery-attended home birth as a birth place option for Ontario families. The campaign used a mix of radio and digital ads to raise awareness and education about home birth, especially for those who may have never considered it before. Although the number of Ontarians who use the services of a midwife is growing every year (approximately 17% of all Ontario births in 2018 will be attended by a midwife), not everyone is aware of all their birth place options. The campaign also addressed misconceptions about home birth with a midwife.



This image was used in one of 1.2 million targeted digital ads AOM ran about home birth in March.

## NOVA SCOTIA GETS THREE MORE MIDWIVES

In February, the Nova Scotia Health Authority announced the creation of three new, full-time permanent midwifery positions, one in each of the regions, in order to support midwifery services and make them more sustainable. New positions in Bridgewater, Antigonish and Halifax, should be filled shortly, bringing the total number midwifery positions in Nova Scotia to 12.

## NEW BRUNSWICK MIDWIVES GET A NEW HOME

Although New Brunswick officially opened the Fredericton Midwifery Centre on April 5, midwives Melissa Langlais, Kate Leblanc and Ashley Kaye started receiving clients there on March 19. The Centre boasts three clinic rooms, a large community room, and a large kitchen. Clients and midwives enjoy the relaxed and spacious atmosphere as well as the free parking.

## QUEBEC MIDWIVES CONCLUDE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

At a special assembly held on April 11, 2018, the members of the Regroupement les Sages-femmes du Quebec adopted an agreement in principle that had been reached in March. The agreement gives Quebec midwives some significant gains, including a salary increase, an enhanced on-call fee, funds to improve efficiency of administrative tasks carried out by midwives and the association, renewal of the Midwife Coordinators' bonus, increase in the number of professional days, and a lump sum for the RSFQ to support professional development. The agreement also provides a means to contextualize administrative statistics shared with health authorities. Finally, Quebec midwives will participate on a consultation committee to evaluate and analyze a redesign of the way they are paid.

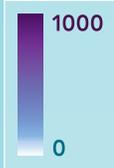
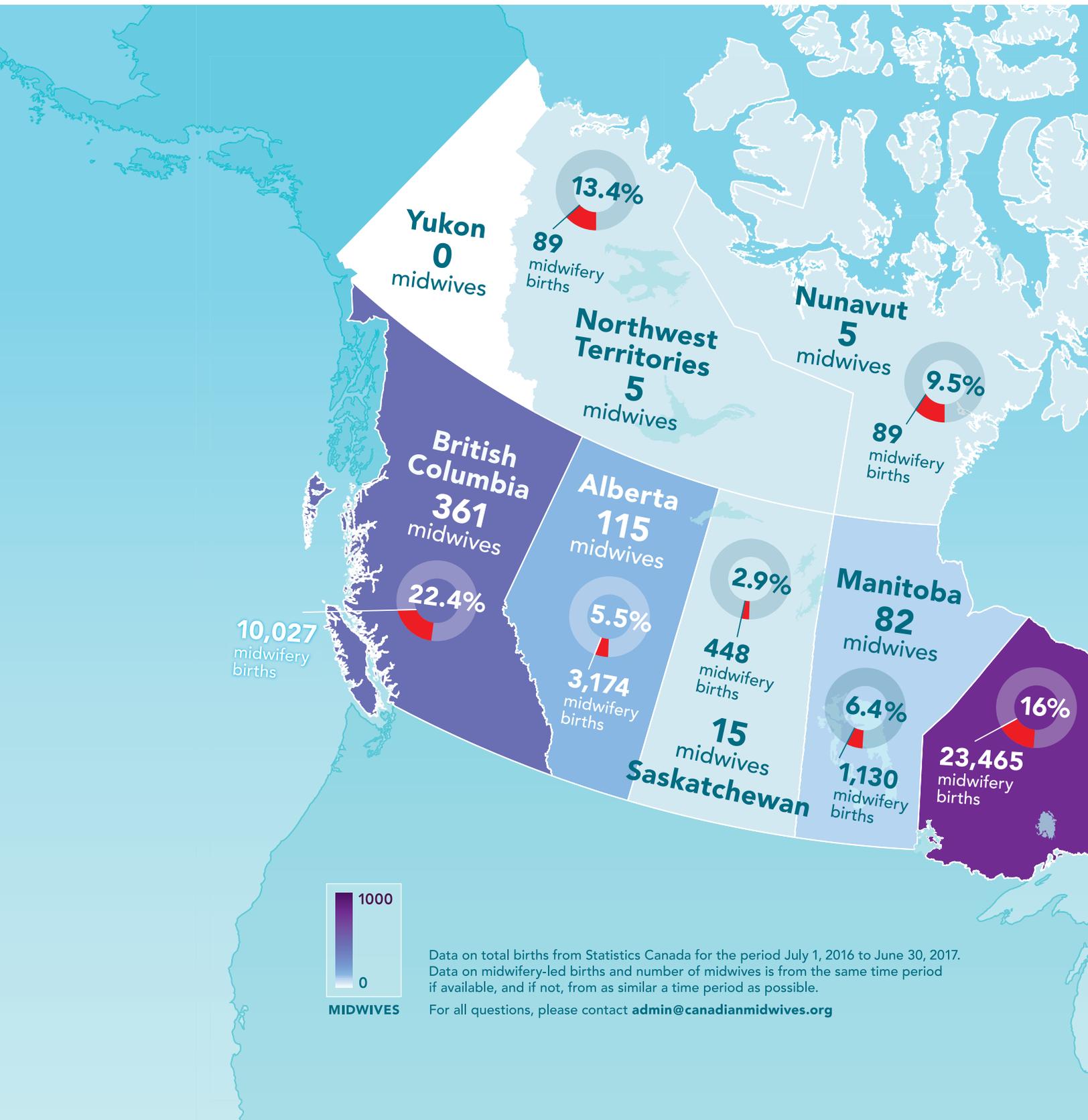
The agreement ends a lengthy process that began in March 2015. Once signed, it will be in force until March 31, 2020.



Quebec Midwives consider their new contract at Special Assembly in Montreal on April 11.



Fredericton Midwifery Centre



MIDWIVES

Data on total births from Statistics Canada for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Data on midwifery-led births and number of midwives is from the same time period if available, and if not, from as similar a time period as possible.

For all questions, please contact [admin@canadianmidwives.org](mailto:admin@canadianmidwives.org)



# CAM ACSF 2017

## Registered Midwives and Midwifery-led Births



**Canada**  
**1,690**  
midwives

### TOTAL BIRTHS 2016/2017

YT.....	401
NT.....	666
NU.....	933
BC.....	44,764
AB.....	57,394
SK.....	15,750
MB.....	17,641
ON.....	146,659
QC.....	84,700
NB.....	6,678
PE.....	1,448
NS.....	8,467
NL.....	4,411
<b>CANADA:</b>	<b>389,912</b>

**Quebec**  
**217**  
midwives



**Newfoundland  
& Labrador**  
**1**  
midwife

**Nova Scotia**  
**9**  
midwives



**P.E.I.**  
**0**  
midwives

**New  
Brunswick**  
**3**  
midwives

**Ontario**  
**877**  
midwives

# CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIP: MORE AND BETTER MIDWIVES FOR RURAL TANZANIA

The *More and Better Midwives for Rural Tanzania* (MBM-RTz) project officially launched at Bukumbi College, Mwanza, in Fall 2017. Currently in Tanzania there are not enough healthcare workers to meet the needs of the population. Like in Canada, recruiting healthcare workers to rural areas is particularly challenging. The aim of the five-year MBM-RTz project is to increase the number and skill-level of rural midwives and the number of births attended by a skilled practitioner and to decrease the maternal and infant mortality rates in rural Tanzania. The project focuses on the Lake and Western Zones of Tanzania, a remote area in the northeast of the country near Lake Victoria.

Many women in rural areas face challenges accessing reproductive healthcare in Tanzania. Less than 50% of births in these areas take place in healthcare facilities, or with any medically trained attendant. The MBM-RTz project encourages secondary school students from Lake and Western Zones to consider midwifery as a career option, provides scholarships for students from those areas to attend midwifery school, provides physical upgrades to the health centres where the students will do their practicums, and provides stronger supervision and mentorship to students and newly deployed midwives. It also provides training to improve the skills of practicing midwives in the area.

The project is funded by Global Affairs Canada, and is a partnership led by the American healthcare NGO Jhpiego, with CAM and Amref Health Africa as implementing partners. Jhpiego has a long history of working in the healthcare field in eastern Africa, and has numerous offices and deep relationships in Tanzania. The partnership with Jhpiego provides an exciting opportunity to share resources and learning.

Although it is CAM's first partnership with Jhpiego, this is our third ongoing project with the Tanzania Midwives Association (TAMA). We have been working on skill-sharing and association strengthening through our twinning relationship with TAMA since 2011, and both organizations have benefited from this rich relationship.

CAM and TAMA are working on the following activities for the project: training midwives in Respectful Maternity Care, training midwives in mentorship and providing these trainees with the resources necessary to carry out mentorship activities, and developing materials to promote midwifery to secondary school students. MBM-RTz started in 2016 and runs until 2021.



Dancers recreate the moment of the birth at the Project launch celebration at Bukumbi College.

The Project launch was an opportunity for CAM and Jhpiego staff to meet in person for the first time. It was a festive occasion featuring speeches, songs and dances, including a memorable dance routine that concluded with a performer pretending to give birth. The resultant “baby” (an anatomical model for practicing resuscitation) was presented to great applause to Dr. Faustin Ndugulile, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Welfare.



The MBM RTz was celebrated by representatives from the regional and village authorities, the Ministry of Health, representatives from the project partners, Jhpiego, Amref, CAM, and TAMA, heads of various midwifery colleges, and many midwifery students themselves.



Left to right: Rachel Sandwell, CAM Project Officer, Stephano Simba, TAMA Project Officer, Nicodem Komba, TAMA Executive Member, and Feddy Mwanga, TAMA President, at the MBM RTz Project Launch in Bukumbi College.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO SOUTH SUDANESE MIDWIVES!

CAM congratulates our partners, the South Sudan Nursing and Midwifery Association (SSNAMA), UNFPA, and the Government of South Sudan on passing a great milestone for midwifery in the country. On March 6, 2018, the South Sudanese Ministry of Health took a historic step in announcing the establishment of an Interim Regulations and Registration Committee for midwifery and nursing in South Sudan. It is the first step in regulating the professions. Two members of SSNAMA will hold seats on this committee, alongside key stakeholders from the Ministry of Health and Civil Society.

As the draft Midwifery and Nursing Act moves through parliament, SSNAMA and other partners have been advocating for the bill and for the establishment of a regulatory council. This was a key advocacy point at the recent National Conference in November 2017. Over 400 nurses and midwives gathered for the conference including CAM Midwives Kelly Chisholm and Beverly O'Brien, as well as international representatives from ICM and midwifery associations from neighboring countries. The visitors lent their voice to the call for regulation.

The interim body will be responsible for laying the ground work for regulation in South Sudan. It will begin to determine the qualifications to be a midwife, start building the framework for accrediting training institutions and establish continued professional development activities. These activities are the cornerstone of building trust between midwives and communities.



South Sudanese Midwives dancing at the SSNAMA Conference in November.

“Trust between the midwife and the community is so important,” notes CAM Global Director Emmanuelle Hebert. “In a context, like South Sudan, where the majority of women will not have a skilled birth attendant present with them during labour, promoting midwifery means establishing trust. When a woman goes to a midwife, she needs to feel that the midwife is going to be able to help her, otherwise why would she go?”

In the Strengthening Midwifery Services in South Sudan Phase II Project, which is lead by UNFPA and funded by Global Affairs Canada, CAM has the unique opportunity to work with our SSNAMA colleagues at this historic moment for midwives in that country.

For Canadian midwives, CAM’s global work provides an opportunity to exchange skills with their peers around the world. For CAM members it is also about being part of the global midwifery community and the movement to bring quality midwifery care to women world wide. As such, our Global work is guided by the ICM pillars of regulation, association, and education, and the three go hand in hand.

South Sudan is the world’s newest country, and so the implications of that for legislation and civil society building cannot be overstated. South Sudan is in the process of forming the legislative and health systems landscape for the country. At independence in 2011, there were less than 10 midwives in the country, and no regulation related to midwifery. The South Sudanese Nurse and Midwifery Association was launched in 2011 and has grown to have over 600 members. Since its inception, SSNAMA has advocated for the regulation of midwifery in the country.



Canadian Midwives Beverly O'Brien and Kelly Chisholm on stage with SSNAMA President Repent Khamis at the SSNAMA 2nd Nursing and Midwifery Conference in Juba, November 2017.

# STORY FROM THE FIELD: MIDWIFE EMERGENCY SKILLS TRAINING SAVING LIVES IN TANZANIA

On the night of September 2, 2017, nurse-midwife Razack Mohammed was alone on duty at the Mwalugulu Dispensary in Kahama District, Tanzania when Gaudensia Peter arrived in labour with undiagnosed twins. After a normal delivery of the first twin, the second baby was presenting in a way that could not be born without help. According to his scope of practice, Razack was required to transfer Gaudensia to the hospital. However, that night it was impossible: when he called the transport officer to arrange the transfer, Razack learned that the ambulance was at the garage for servicing. Razack had no choice but to assist Gaudensia himself. Fortunately, Razack had just taken the Midwife Emergency Skills Training (MEST) being carried out as part of the Midwives Save Lives (MSL) project in the Shinyanga Region of Tanzania in August. Recalling the clinical skills and knowledge he learned at the MEST, he was able to maneuver the baby into a safe position and conduct a breech delivery. The long and difficult birth meant that the second twin required resuscitation, which he was able to provide thanks to his MEST training. Razack also recalled that he needed to actively manage the third stage of labour to prevent a haemorrhage as the mother was at high risk of this major cause of maternal mortality. Thanks to the MSL project and the MEST, Razack used many life-saving skills to help Gaudensia and her two babies that night.



Tanzanian midwives learning emergency twin delivery.

***THE MIDWIVES SAVE LIVES (MSL) PROJECT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY CAM, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CUSO INTERNATIONAL, AND IS FUNDED BY GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA.***

## REFLECTIONS OF A QUEBEC MIDWIFE INSPIRED BY HER CONGOLESE COLLEAGUES

*The Point Hotel in Mitendi Commune is a little oasis in the middle of large palisades that cut us off from the rest of the world. From my room, I can see the people who live outside. It is a background of tiny tin huts erected here and there. Inside, there is no running water and no electricity for the many people who live there. A little farther away, I see little gardens where people grow vegetables. There is not a lot of material wealth, but still the children run and play and the adults gather to laugh and talk.*

*In my enclosure, midwives have arrived for five days to perfect their knowledge. They have sad stories to tell, a lot of humility and a desire to learn so that things change with respect to maternal and infant mortality. We have motivated trainers, a dedicated secretary, and an inspiring Congolese Midwifery Association president.*

*While supervising the final exams, I realize that I will never be the same. I would like to be in the field to really save lives. I also dread my return, which is approaching quickly. I am afraid to taste disgust with my three meals a day, aware that many people here, for lack of means, eat two or only one meal. There is a hint of sadness in realizing the extent of the consumer society in which we live, the wealth, the health system (despite the cuts).*

*When helping women give birth on my return, I'll be thinking of those who don't have access to decent care for lack of material or human resources, of all of those who die of avoidable causes. And in spite of it all, the people here laugh, sing, dance, look straight ahead and don't feel sorry for themselves. They want change, and are figuring out how to get there. They are inspiring.*



## CAM GLOBAL TO WORK IN HAITI

Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Marie-Claude Bibeau, announced funding for a project that will strengthen midwifery in Haiti. This \$15 million project begins in 2018 and will be implemented in partnership by UNFPA, CAM and Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR).

This project will help build the Haitian government's capacity to train, recruit, hire and support midwives in the most disadvantaged areas of the country. It will increase the capacity of the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population to manage and regulate the education and practice of midwifery and it will build the capacity of the Association des infirmières sages-femmes d'Haiti to promote the profession. CAM will soon be seeking qualified midwives in Canada to support this initiative, so keep your eyes open for opportunities.

**GENEVIÈVE POIRIER IS A MIDWIFE FROM QUEBEC WHO TRAVELLED TO KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC), TO PROVIDE MIDWIFE EMERGENCY SKILLS TRAINING (MEST) IN FEBRUARY 2018 AS PART OF THE MIDWIVES SAVE LIVES (MSL) PROJECT. MSL IS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY CAM, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CUSO INTERNATIONAL, AND IS FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.**

Geneviève Poirier  
delivering MEST  
in the DRC,  
February 2018.



# IN GOOD HANDS

MIDWIVES LEADING THE WAY  
IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

17<sup>th</sup> Annual CAM  
Conference and Exhibit

[canadianmidwives.org/cam-conference-home/](http://canadianmidwives.org/cam-conference-home/)



**CAM ACSF**

Canadian Association of Midwives  
Association canadienne des sages-femmes

October  
17-19

2018

Hilton Lac-Leamy  
**Gatineau Québec**

**NEW!**

Please also join us for the  
**CAM Global Symposium**

October 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 | Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel, Gatineau

For more details visit  
[canadianmidwives.org/cam-conference-home/](http://canadianmidwives.org/cam-conference-home/)