



**A Public Letter to: Midwifery Today**  
**RE: Conference Venue – a place of exclusion and discrimination**

**08 August 2019**

Quay Quay / Greetings,

My name is Carol Couchie and I am writing you along with Claire Dion Fletcher as the **Co-Chairs of The National Aboriginal Council of Midwives (NACM)**.

I am writing this public letter on behalf of the NACM Leadership after signing a petition to boycott the 2020 Midwifery Today conference which has chosen to gather in a venue with clear policy of discrimination. As Indigenous people, we know about being excluded, pushed to the side and told that our values are wrong, our knowledges dismissed, and our spiritual ways are evil. These things were told to us, our parents and our grandparents by Christians. I know this from a historical perspective and a personal one.

These acts of exclusion are not only unkind and hurtful, they are also against our human rights. I strongly urge you to remember, with humility, who attended to your ancestors as newcomers to Turtle Island and showed them the medicines they would need to survive. We urge Midwifery Today to change its conference venue and beyond this, carefully reflect on its core values. How does Midwifery Today intend to provide midwifery services for all people while you gather in a place that actively promotes exclusion and discrimination?

The National Aboriginal Council of Midwives stands behind every midwife without judgement of who they are and who they love. We also condemn any organization that excludes members of our communities that include LGBTQ+ and two spirited peoples.

All our Relations

Claire Dion Fletcher, Indigenous Registered Midwife

Carol Couchie, Registered Midwife, Nishnawbe Kwe Nipissing First Nation

**Co-Chairs of the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives**

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