

Midwives Association of NWT

Report submitted by Heather Redshaw, RM

L'Association des sages-femmes des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Rapport soumis par Heather Redshaw, SF

AGM

The Midwives Association of the NWT is planning its Annual General Meeting in October 2009. Lesley Paulette continues to be the President. Heather Redshaw is the NWT representative for CAM. The association continues to have three full RM members.

Initiatives and Committees

The Midwives Association of the NWT is represented on the NWT Maternal Perinatal Committee, the NWT Midwifery Advisory Committee and on the Territorial Credentialing Committee. The association is also represented on the territorial ISDM (Integrated Service Delivery Model) working group.

The NWT Department of Health and Social Services recently completed a summary of Midwifery Client Satisfaction questionnaires collected from the previous fiscal year. Overall midwifery clients were highly satisfied with the care they received and would seek midwifery care in the future if needed.

The Association will be hosting a one day workshop on Complementary Medicine in Maternity Care given by Dr. Cathy Carlson-Rink in Yellowknife in October 09.

Current Events

Currently there are two midwifery programs running in the NWT; in Fort Smith and Yellowknife. Gisela Becker and Lesley Paulette work in Fort Smith providing prenatal and postnatal care for all childbearing families in that area with a community birth rate of 50-60 percent. Heather Redshaw works in a solo practice in Yellowknife and provides services to 6-7% of women from her community. Demand for midwifery services continues to outnumber the program's capacity.

There has been interest from other NWT communities to obtain and provide midwifery services, however there has been no additional midwifery positions funded this past year.

Website Link

http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/professional_licensing/midwifery.htm

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