



THE MIDWIFERY COALITION  
OF NOVA SCOTIA

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## Press Release

### Nova Scotia Honours Midwives

May 1, 2014

On May 1, 2014, Leo Glavine, Minister of Health will read the following proclamation in the Legislature:

*Whereas midwives provide care to birthing women in every corner of the globe; and  
Whereas this is an opportunity to pay tribute to the dedicated and compassionate work of midwives, as well as the many Nova Scotians who are recipients of their care;  
Be it resolved that I, Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2014, as International Day of the Midwife and acknowledge their role in providing quality health and maternity care to Nova Scotians.*

On May 5, midwives and midwifery will be honored around the world for their contributions to the health and well being of mothers, babies and families. Two reports have looked at the implementation of midwifery in Nova Scotia—one in 2010 and another in 2011. Among many other recommendations, both of these reports urged the Department of Health and Wellness to announce a plan for the growth of midwifery in Nova Scotia.

“When midwives began to practice as part of our public health system in March of 2009, their services were available in three sites. Five years later, despite increasing demand from mothers, they are still available at only three sites,” said Dawn Hare, Spokesperson for Valley Families for Midwifery.

“Midwifery care is a good, solid investment in health for women and for their babies, the future population of this province. It is evidenced-based care and can make an enormous difference to people who may not have other resources,” said Nicole Eddy, MCNS Spokesperson. “While we recognize that the Department of Health has taken steps in implementing midwifery it has been much too slow. We look forward to working with them to make midwifery care widely accessible to women throughout Nova Scotia.”

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Members of the Midwifery Coalition will be present in the Legislature when the proclamation is read May 1 between 2 and 3pm and will be available for interviews.

For more information and to interviews please contact:

Nicole Eddy: 420-1785 (cell) 404-5168 (home) The Midwifery Coalition of Nova Scotia

Dawn Hare: 678-2446 Valley Families for Midwifery

*Both organizations are consumer groups and do not represent midwives. Their goal is for midwifery services to be available to all women in Nova Scotia, and have these services covered by public health insurance.*