



Yes! I want to support

THE  
**MIDWIFERY COALITION**  
OF NOVA SCOTIA

- I am enclosing
- \$25 Membership
  - \$25 Annual Contribution
  - \$10 Annual Contribution (students and underemployed)
  - \$\_\_\_\_\_ donation to help MCNS continue its work

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Community \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: The MCNS, PO Box 33028, Halifax, NS, B3L 4T6

THE  
**MIDWIFERY COALITION**  
OF NOVA SCOTIA



For 20 years, the Midwifery Coalition of Nova Scotia has been working to have midwifery accepted as a regulated health profession. Our goal is for midwifery services to be available to all women in Nova Scotia, and have these services covered by our health insurance

We do our work by:

- Lobbying politicians, health ministers, health critics, and civil servants
- Participating in government sponsored task forces, working groups and committees
- Maintaining a website with information on midwifery and links to other useful sites
- Organizing public events and programs to let Nova Scotians know about midwifery
- Hosting an annual baby fair to raise funds and spread the word about midwifery

The Midwifery Coalition of Nova Scotia (MCNS) believes that midwifery provides the highest standard of care for mothers, babies and families. We believe it is an important part of maternity care and is a choice that should be available to families in Nova Scotia.

[mcns.chebucto.org](http://mcns.chebucto.org)

# 10 Reasons

## Why We Need Midwifery in Nova Scotia

### 1 Midwifery is Safe

Midwifery care has been shown to provide safe care for uncomplicated births.

### 2 Midwifery provides comprehensive primary health care services

Midwives offer community-based care throughout pregnancy, labour and birth and for six weeks postpartum. This includes: well-woman gynecological and maternity care; pre- and post-natal education and counseling; support and counseling for breastfeeding; parenting education; and care of the newborn.

### 3 Midwives are specialists in the care of healthy women and normal childbirth.

To quote Dr. Murray Enkin, retired obstetrician and professor emeritus at McMaster University, "As experts in normal pregnancy and birth, midwives offer an expertise that doctors, whose medical training is disease oriented, do not."

### 4 Midwives practice as part of a health care team.

As independent practitioners, midwives practice collaboratively and consult with medical specialists, other health care professionals and hospitals. They refer clients when necessary.

### 5 Midwifery is cost effective.

By improving birth outcomes, reducing the number of premature and low-birth-weight babies and reducing the number of medical interventions in childbirth, midwifery is cost effective in both the long and short term.

### 6 Midwifery care is flexible.

Midwifery services can be provided in a variety of settings, including hospitals, community-based birth centres or homes.

### 7 Midwives offer on-going support to mothers, babies and families.

Midwifery provides continuity of care throughout pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period.

### 8 Midwives work in rural communities.

There are shortages of doctors in parts of rural Nova Scotia, and even where there currently is a doctor, women must sometimes travel out of their community for care in late pregnancy and childbirth.

### 9 Midwifery is family-centred.

Midwives work in partnership with women and their families,

### 10 Midwifery care is a choice more families would like the opportunity to make.

In Ontario, the midwives currently licensed to practice are swamped by the demand for their services.

## Join us!

### Help the Midwifery Coalition of Nova Scotia advocate for high-quality, accessible midwifery care in Nova Scotia!

Membership is \$25 -- \$10 for students. This one-time membership fee entitles you to vote at our Annual General Meeting and attend all meetings of the Coalition. The MCNS Board meets monthly. Members are welcome at any meeting.

For more information about membership or the Coalition, contact Octavia James at 902 455-1211 or Catherine Berry at [cjberry@netcom.ca](mailto:cjberry@netcom.ca).

To become part of the MCNS right away, send this form, along with your membership fee, to:

MCNS,  
PO Box 33028.  
Halifax, NS B3L 476