

FOR RELEASE
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Government of Yukon takes steps towards regulated midwifery in Yukon

The Government of Yukon has created a Midwifery Advisory Committee tasked with examining policy and regulatory options to govern midwifery in the territory. The committee will also advise on a model of care and a plan to fund and integrate midwifery into Yukon's health system. These initial stages are expected to take six to eight months.

The committee includes representatives of the Community Midwifery Association of Yukon, Yukon Hospital Corporation, Yukon Medical Association, Yukon Registered Nurses Association and a rural member of the public. It will be co-chaired by representatives from the Government of Yukon's Department of Community Services and the Department of Health and Social Services.

Following the initial work, the committee will provide a summary of its findings to the Yukon government, who will then seek public input.

Quotes

"We understand that the birth of a child is a major milestone for any family. That's why the Government of Yukon is committed to regulating midwifery. As we begin the process to develop sustainable and safe midwifery to meet the needs of Yukoners, I would like to thank the members of the Midwifery Advisory Committee for the time and professional expertise they will contribute."

–Minister of Community Services John Streicker

"The Midwifery Advisory Committee will provide us with valuable input on how to successfully integrate midwifery into the territory's health system, and we look forward to sharing their findings. This framework will benefit Yukoners who wish to use the services of a midwife, and will ensure midwifery is a sustainable and viable profession in our territory."

–Minister of Health and Social Services Pauline Frost

Quick facts

- Midwives are health professionals who provide primary care to mothers and babies during normal pregnancy, labour, and up to approximately six weeks after birth.
- Across Canada there are more than 1,500 trained and certified midwives. It's estimated that they provide services in approximately ten per cent of all Canadian births. Regulating midwifery as a profession in Yukon will provide a framework to guide those midwives who currently practice here, as well as other certified midwives who wish to come to the territory.
- Midwifery is a regulated profession in all jurisdictions except Yukon and Prince Edward Island. New Brunswick, as well as Newfoundland and Labrador, are working towards full implementation of their regulations.

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