

Dear Partners,

The Ministry of Health (the ministry) and the Association of Ontario Midwives (AOM) continue to work together to expand options for low-risk pregnancy and reproductive care in First Nations, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) communities.

The ministry is undertaking a call for applications for the **Community Readiness Grant: Building the Community Birth Bundle** in 2026-27. This Community Readiness Grant (CRG) will provide one-time funding for a total of \$600,000 for Indigenous communities and/or organizations to increase awareness of midwifery and to enable community readiness with the goal of establishing an Indigenous Midwifery Program (IMP) that will serve Indigenous communities in the future.

IMPs provide culturally appropriate Indigenous-led midwifery services to urban, rural, northern FNIM communities including:

- a. Prenatal, intrapartum and post-partum care;
- b. Programs and services to support expectant families (e.g. parenting classes, breastfeeding support); and,
- c. Community education to support informed decision-making around sexual and reproductive health across the lifespan

In addition to pregnancy and newborn care, IMPs provide a wide range of services for community members including:

- Well-person care across the lifespan (e.g. contraceptive care, sexual and reproductive health care, including prevention and screening, menopause care);
- Community-based birthing practices that can be supported by Elders, Knowledge Keepers /Carriers
- Pregnancy tests, counselling and parent/baby classes
- Rites of passage, among other activities in alignment with community needs, priorities and interests

Please consider the Community Readiness Grant opportunity for your communities.

Joint submissions, as appropriate, are encouraged to support more communities.

Interested parties can contact the ministry at midwifery@ontario.ca to request an application. **The deadline for all application submissions to the ministry, at midwifery@ontario.ca, is 5pm EST on Monday, October 5, 2026.**

The AOM Indigenous midwifery team is available to provide support and guidance to midwives, community leaders, communities, and/or organizations who are planning to submit applications.

If you would like assistance from the AOM, please contact:

Indigenous Midwifery Programs

Marla Monague

Interim Director, Indigenous Midwifery

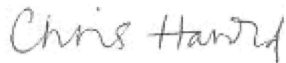
Email: marla.monague@aom.on.ca

Telephone: 416-425-9974 ext. 2224 or 1-866-418-3773 ext. 2224

The ministry will determine which proposals will receive funding. Additionally, the Ministry manages the relationship with funding recipients to ensure oversight and accountability.

For assistance from the ministry, please contact midwifery@ontario.ca.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Harold".

Chris Harold
Director, Primary Health Care Branch
Ministry of Health

Ellen Blais

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Ellen Blais or Juana Berinstein.

Ellen Blais & Juana Berinstein
Co-Chief Executive Officers
Association of Ontario Midwives