

Dear Partners and Existing Indigenous Midwifery Programs (IMPs):

Further to the [recently announced agreement](#), the Ministry of Health (the ministry) and the Association of Ontario Midwives (AOM) have agreed to continue to work together to improve access for low-risk pregnancy and reproductive care in First Nation, Inuit and Métis (FNIM) communities.

The ministry is inviting applications for new or expansion IMPs with a focus on improving access, choice and care that is responsive to the needs of the community.

IMPs provide culturally appropriate Indigenous-led midwifery services to urban, rural and 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 and ceremonialists;
- Pregnancy tests and parent/baby classes;
- Rites of passage, among other activities in alignment with community needs, priorities and interests.

IMP models can include:

- **An IMP working within Interprofessional Primary Health Care Teams:** Midwives working in this model will work on a multi disciplinary team with physicians, nurse practitioners, social workers, and Elders, Knowledge Keepers/Carriers and ceremonialists. The governance structure for these programs is primarily provided through an Indigenous governed primary health care team (Indigenous Primary Health Care Organization, Community Health Centre or Family Health Team).
- **Autonomous Indigenous Midwifery led programs:** Midwives provide the governance structure within this model and will establish links with local primary

health care services that currently exist within their area in order to support integrated and comprehensive primary care delivery.

These initiatives provide an opportunity for healthcare providers and communities to work together to design a program to support the return, growth and sustainability of Indigenous midwifery pregnancy, newborn care, and sexual and reproductive health care services.

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

The AOM's Indigenous midwifery team is available to provide support and guidance to midwives, community leaders, communities and/or organizations on this opportunity and to recipients of IMP funding 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

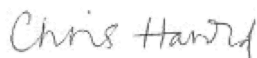
Email: marla.monague@aom.on.ca

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,



Chris Harold
Director, Primary Health Care Branch
Ministry of Health

Ellen Blais



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