



## Enhanced Midwifery Regulations Proclaimed Under the Health Professions Act

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Registered midwives in Alberta will soon be joining 27 other health professions in being regulated by a self-governing college under the Health Professions Act (HPA). The new regulations were proclaimed under the HPA on December 11, 2018 and will take effect on April 1, 2019. This change will impact Alberta's 126 registered midwives who attend approximately 6% of Alberta's births each year.

"Although midwives have been regulated in Alberta since 1998, the proclamation of these regulations under the Health Professions Act starts a new era in professional status and expanded scope of practice for midwives," stated Cassondra Evans, President of the College of Midwives of Alberta (the regulatory body of the profession) and registered midwife.

"As the professional body that represents midwives, the Alberta Association of Midwives (AAM) also welcomes this regulatory change," said registered midwife and the AAM's President Nicole Matheson. "The expanded scope will help increase access to primary care in rural, remote and underserved communities by providing quality care to families at home or as close to home as possible. It also enables registered midwives in all areas of the province to deliver an expanded repertoire of services."

Continued Ms. Evans, "The new regulations align with other Canadian jurisdictions by allowing the College to set entry requirements, uphold our Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, set continuing competency requirements, investigate complaints and impose disciplinary actions against regulated members."

"For all midwives practicing across Alberta, having the CMA be self-governing along with midwives being able to work at a greater capacity are such exciting developments," stated Ms. Matheson. "More importantly, Alberta's childbearing families will receive high quality maternity care at a reduced cost and burden on our healthcare system which benefits all Albertans."

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*The College of Midwives of Alberta (CMA) is the regulatory body of the Midwifery profession in Alberta. The CMA sets the Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics and competencies for Registered Midwives. For more information, or to arrange an interview, contact [registrar@albertamidwives.org](mailto:registrar@albertamidwives.org), or 1-403-474-3999, or Sharon Prusky at (403) 601-4071, or visit our website [www.albertamidwives.org](http://www.albertamidwives.org).*

*The Alberta Association of Midwives (AAM) is the professional body representing midwives and the practice of midwifery in the province of Alberta. For more information or to arrange an interview, contact [info@abmidwives.ca](mailto:info@abmidwives.ca) or 1-888-316-5457 or visit our website [www.alberta-midwives.ca](http://www.alberta-midwives.ca).*