

## Midwives Call on the Nova Scotia Government to Relieve Pressure on the Primary Care System by Investing in Midwives

May 5, 2022



**(Halifax, NS)** The Association of Nova Scotia Midwives (ANSM), along with midwife allies around the world, will mark International Day of the Midwife on May 5<sup>th</sup> (#IDM2022). Registered Midwives provide essential primary reproductive care for adults and newborns from early pregnancy until six weeks postpartum. Nova Scotians often have to travel long distances to seek out any reproductive care and most areas of the province are entirely without access to midwifery care. **ANSM is calling for urgent evidence-based investments in midwives** to strengthen and relieve pressure on Nova Scotia’s primary healthcare system.

Nova Scotia currently has 16 full-time midwifery positions. Midwives work within the Nova Scotia Health in Antigonish and on the South Shore, and with the IWK in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Midwives in Nova Scotia attend only 2-3% of the births in our province.

Investments in midwives is a direct route – and one of the most cost-effective strategies – to achieving full sexual and reproductive health coverage and reproductive freedom for all who give birth. **ANSM urges the government to increase the number of midwifery positions and midwifery practice sites, particularly in rural and underserved areas, and ensure midwifery leadership is present in health care decision-making.**

### **About The Association of Nova Scotia Midwives:**

The Association of Nova Scotia Midwives (ANSM) is the provincial organization representing Registered Midwives and the profession of midwifery in Nova Scotia. Our purpose and mission is to provide leadership, support, and advocacy for midwifery as a vital part of the primary health care system.

**For more information:** [www.novascotiamidwives.ca](http://www.novascotiamidwives.ca)

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