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#NovaScotiaNeedsMidwives Campaign Urges Government Action to Address Inadequate Access to Midwifery Services in Nova Scotia.

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The Association of Nova Scotia Midwives (ANSM) along with concerned citizens and healthcare advocates are rallying behind the #NovaScotiaNeedsMidwives campaign to draw attention to the pressing issue of inadequate access to midwifery services in Nova Scotia. Despite 15 years of regulated midwifery in the province, the current landscape reveals a stark reality: with only 16 funded positions and three practice sites, many communities across Nova Scotia lack essential midwifery care.

Statistics from 2021 show that midwifery-led births accounted for only 5% of total births in Nova Scotia, far below the national average of 14%. This disparity highlights the urgent need to address the growing demand for midwifery services in the province.

Midwives play a vital role as primary care providers, offering expert care throughout pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period, as well as comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services. Despite their proven effectiveness and cost-efficiency, midwives in Nova Scotia are underutilized, contributing to growing gaps in access to primary care.

Investing in midwifery care aligns with government priorities to improve access to healthcare services and achieve full sexual and reproductive health coverage for all Nova Scotians. Midwifery care not only delivers cost savings for the healthcare system but also leads to optimal health outcomes and increased client satisfaction. Research shows that midwifery clients experience higher rates of spontaneous vaginal births, breastfeeding initiation, and lower rates of interventions compared to other models of care.

The Association of Nova Scotia Midwives is urging the Government of Nova Scotia to take immediate action by committing to increasing the number of midwife-led births to 10% of total births by 2025 and 30% by 2027. This strategic investment will not only address the current shortfall in access to midwife-led models of care but also contribute to bringing essential healthcare services closer to home for Nova Scotians.

For more information on the #NovaScotiaNeedsMidwives campaign and how you can get involved, please visit <https://www.novascotiamidwives.ca/novascotianeedsmidwives/>.

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