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THE MIDWIFERY COALITION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Key Messages on Home Birth

Home birth is safe.

A large body of evidence now exists to support home birth as a safe option for mothers and babies. Births at home have far fewer interventions like cesarean section.^{1 2 3} As well, mothers who choose home birth report greater satisfaction with their birth experiences.

Attending out-of-hospital births is part of a midwife's scope of practice.

It is included in the scope of practice in all other jurisdictions in Canada where midwifery is regulated. In order to comply with federal regulations regarding labor mobility, midwives in Nova Scotia must be competent to practice in all settings.

Midwives are trained to attend home birth.

Midwives are specialists in normal birth. They are required to be competent to attend births in both hospital and out-of-hospital settings. Midwives are trained to recognize developing conditions and transfer care to the appropriate specialists. They are trained to recognize problems emerging during labour and to transfer the mother to a hospital.

The choice of place of birth should be available to those who want it.

Choosing to have a baby at home is a relatively uncommon choice, but it is important to families who want it. Their choice should be respected. Regulated midwifery will make competent care available to women in whatever setting they choose for childbirth.

MIDWIVES DELIVER!

*Midwives provide high quality, affordable, accessible
primary maternity care.*

¹ Johnson, KC & Daviss, BA. (2005). Outcomes of planned home births with certified professional midwives: Large prospective study in North America. *BMJ*, 330(7505), 1416-1423.

² Janssen, PA et al. (2002). Outcomes of planned home births versus planned hospital births after regulation of midwifery in British Columbia. *CMAJ*, 166(3), 315-323.

³ Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. (2004). Ontario Midwifery Program Evaluation: Presentation to the Association of Ontario Midwives Conference. Toronto: Author.