

# Access to the midwifery profession in Ontario

*This document was updated in collaboration with the Labour Market Integration Unit, Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration in May 2007. Requirements may have changed by the time you apply. Please contact the College of Midwives of Ontario before you complete your application.*

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Midwives in Ontario are regulated by the College of Midwives of Ontario (the College). You cannot practice midwifery, call yourself a 'midwife' or hold yourself out to be such unless you are registered with the College.

Midwives in Ontario are primary caregivers. As such, they hold full legal responsibility for their clients and are not supervised by a physician or obstetrician. Midwives in Ontario never work in only one area of client care, such as prenatal or intrapartum care. They are required to provide full service to their clients in all trimesters, throughout labour and birth and for six weeks postpartum. Under normal circumstances, a midwifery client and her newborn do not see any other health care practitioner during this time.

All midwives must attend both home and hospital births. Midwives are required to hold admitting privileges in at least one hospital and to attend a minimum number of both home and hospital births per year in order to maintain their registration.

Midwives in Ontario work as independent practitioners in group practices that are funded by the provincial Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. They are not salaried employees of hospitals, health centres or clinics and do not work shifts. Midwifery practices provide 24 hour on-call service to their clients. This means that every midwife works on call for set periods of time and while on call must be available 24 hours a day.

# ELIGIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION AS A MIDWIFE IN ONTARIO

To be eligible for registration with the College of Midwives of Ontario you must:

1. Be a graduate of the Ontario Midwifery Education Program (MEP), be a graduate of the International Midwifery Pre-registration Program (IMPP) or be a general registrant in another province of Canada.
  - a. The Ontario Midwifery Education Program (MEP) is a four-year, baccalaureate degree offered at three Ontario universities. For information on the MEP, contact Ryerson University at [www.ryerson.ca](http://www.ryerson.ca), Laurentian University at [www.laurentian.ca](http://www.laurentian.ca) or McMaster University at [www.mcmaster.ca](http://www.mcmaster.ca).
  - b. The International Midwifery Pre-Registration Program (IMPP) is a one-year bridging program offered at Ryerson University. It is designed to offer assessment and upgrading to internationally trained midwives, in order to ensure that they meet the required standards to practice in Ontario. For information on the program, contact [www.ryerson.ca/ce/midwife](http://www.ryerson.ca/ce/midwife).
  - c. Midwives who are general registrants in another province of Canada where midwifery is regulated may be eligible for reciprocity registration. Please contact the College for more information.
2. Be currently certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Obstetrical Emergency Skills (ES), and Neonatal Resuscitation (NRP)
  - a. CPR and ES certification must be within the previous 24 months, NRP certification must be within the previous 12 months. The standard for NRP is the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, the standard for CPR is Basic Rescuer Level C and standard for ES is the Association of Ontario Midwives' ES workshop, ALARM, ALSO or MORE OB.
3. Have demonstrated proficiency in either French or English
  - a. Proficiency in either French or English is demonstrated by one of the following: having obtained a midwifery degree in Canada; being registered in another province of Canada in which midwifery is regulated; or passing the Ontario Midwifery Language Proficiency Test (MLPT). The International Midwifery Pre-Registration Program administers the MLPT. For information on the test, please visit [www.ryerson.ca/ce/midwife](http://www.ryerson.ca/ce/midwife).
4. Be legally entitled to work as a midwife in Canada
  - a. In order to demonstrate entitlement to work in Canada, proof of one of the following is required: Canadian citizenship, landed immigrant status, or an open employment authorization.
5. Hold membership with the Association of Ontario Midwives (AOM).
6. Have arranged professional liability insurance.
  - a. Professional liability insurance is arranged for each midwife through the Association of Ontario Midwives (AOM).

# Classes of Registration

There are three classes of registration with the College of Midwives of Ontario: General, General with Conditions, and Supervised.

## **General**

Registrants in the General class practice with no restrictions on their registration.

## **General with Conditions**

Graduates of the Ontario Midwifery Education Program (MEP) are registered in the General with Conditions class. The conditions imposed on their registration are those of the College's New Registrant's Policy. This policy states that for the first year of practice, all new registrants must practice within an established Ontario practice, must work full time and must attend births with an experienced midwife. Other than these conditions, the new registrant is like any other midwife in the province, and provides the full scope of midwifery care. Once the conditions of this policy have been met, the member's registration class is changed to General.

## **Supervised**

Graduates of the International Midwifery Pre-Registration Program (IMPP) are registered in the Supervised class. The supervision is imposed in order to enable the supervised midwife to meet the clinical birth numbers required by the College's Registration Regulation, as well as to make up any gaps in clinical skills identified during the International Midwifery Pre-Registration Program. Supervised midwives are fully registered members of the College and provide the full scope of midwifery care to their clients. They are paid at the same rate as all other new registrants. Supervision will typically last anywhere from 6-12 months. Each supervised midwife has an individualized supervision plan prepared by the College prior to registration. Once the supervision plan is complete, the member's registration class is changed to either General with Conditions or General, depending on whether the midwife is still in her new registrant's year. A supervised certificate may only be issued for twelve months or less.

# REGISTRATION APPLICATION PROCESS

## STEP 1 – Submission of Application

Application forms are provided to students of the Midwifery Education Program and the International Midwifery Pre-Registration Program as part of the course materials. Midwives who wish to apply under reciprocity from another Canadian province should contact the College for an application form.

The completed application form is submitted to the College along with the following:

- For Midwifery Education Program (MEP) graduates; a transcript and clinical record, proof of current certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Obstetrical Emergency Skills (ES) and Neonatal Resuscitation (NRP), proof of ability to work in Canada, photo id, 2 passport photos, post-dated cheques to cover registration fees.
- For International Midwifery Pre-Registration Program (IMPP) graduates; a copy of the IMPP final report and clerkship requirement form, proof of a passing grade in the Ontario Midwifery Language Proficiency Test (MLPT), proof of current certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Obstetrical Emergency Skills (ES) and Neonatal Resuscitation (NRP), proof of ability to work in Canada, photo id, 2 passport photos, post-dated cheques to cover registration fees.
- For applicants who are a general registrant in another province of Canada; a Letter of Professional Standing from their regulatory body, proof of current certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Obstetrical Emergency Skills (ES) and Neonatal Resuscitation (NRP), proof of ability to work in Canada, photo id, 2 passport photos, post-dated cheques to cover registration fees.

## STEP 2 – Review of application

Applications are reviewed in order to determine completeness. Once an application has been reviewed, the applicant will be contacted and informed of any missing information or documentation.

### STEP 2 a) – Supervision Plan – For IMPP graduates only

When an application for an International Midwifery Pre-Registration Program (IMPP) graduate is received, the College prepares an individual supervision plan for the applicant. This plan will address both clinical number deficiencies and any gaps in clinical skills identified by the IMPP. In the plan, a supervising midwife will be designated. Both the applicant and all members of the practice she will be working with during her supervision must sign this supervision plan. The IMPP graduate's application is not complete until the College receives the signed supervision plan.

### **STEP 3 – Verification of AOM membership and insurance status**

Once the application is complete, the College will contact the Association of Ontario Midwives to verify that the applicant is a member of that organization and that the applicant’s liability insurance has been arranged.

### **STEP 4 – Registration**

Upon receipt of verification from the Association of Ontario Midwives of both membership and insurance, the College will issue the registration number and process the registration documents. The new member may now begin providing midwifery services.

## **LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION**

Demand for midwifery services is high across the province. Ontario’s Ministry of Health and Long Term Care allocates the funding for midwifery practices. While there is no guarantee of immediate employment, generally new registrants are able to find work. You may need to relocate to a community where a midwifery practice has an opening for a midwife. Midwives may work full-time or part-time, although they must work full-time for their first year of registration. Currently, there are over 300 midwives working in Ontario, with approximately 40 new registrants joining the profession each year.

### **COLLEGE FEES (in Canadian dollars):**

College application fee.....	\$	50
College membership– annual fee .....	\$	1,500
Administration fee – annual .....	\$	35

Note: In your first year of practice, college fees will be pro-rated.

### **ADDITIONAL FEES:**

International Midwifery Pre-registration Program .....	approximately \$	4,500
Ontario Midwifery Language Proficiency Test.....	\$	175
Association of Ontario Midwives fees (contact AOM for details) .....	\$	1100-\$2300

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**For further information about applying to register as a midwife in Ontario, please contact:**

Registration Administrator  
College of Midwives of Ontario  
55 St. Clair Avenue West, PO Box 27  
Toronto, Ontario M4V 2Y7  
CANADA

Tel: 416-327-3915  
Fax: 416-327-8219  
Email: [regadmin@cmo.on.ca](mailto:regadmin@cmo.on.ca)  
Website: [www.cmo.on.ca](http://www.cmo.on.ca)

**For information about the International Midwifery Pre-registration Program (IMPP) or the Midwifery Language Proficiency Test (MPLT), please contact:**

Alison Gaul, Program Administrator  
International Midwifery Pre-registration Program  
Ryerson University  
87 Gerrard Street East, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, EPH300  
Toronto, Ontario M5B 2K3  
CANADA

Tel: 416-979-5000, ext. 7681  
Email: [agaul@ryerson.ca](mailto:agaul@ryerson.ca)  
Website: [www.ryerson.ca/ce/midwife](http://www.ryerson.ca/ce/midwife)

**For information about professional liability insurance, please contact:**

Association of Ontario Midwives  
789 Don Mills Road, Ste. 608  
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1T5  
CANADA

Tel: 416-425-9974  
Fax: 416-425-6905  
Toll Free: 1-866-418-3773 (in Ontario)  
Email: [admin@aom.on.ca](mailto:admin@aom.on.ca)  
Website: [www.aom.on.ca](http://www.aom.on.ca)

**For a government contact about accessing health related professions in Ontario, please contact:**

HealthForceOntario  
Access Centre for Internationally  
Educated Professionals  
Ryerson University  
285 Victoria Street, 7<sup>th</sup> floor  
Toronto, ON M5B 1W1  
CANADA

Tel: 416-314-4409 or 1-800-596-4046  
TTY: 416-598-5964  
Fax: 416-598-5968  
Email: [accesscentre@healthforceontario.ca](mailto:accesscentre@healthforceontario.ca)  
Website: [www.healthforceontario.ca](http://www.healthforceontario.ca)

**For more information about the Midwifery Education Programme, a Bachelor of Science program available at three Ontario universities, please contact:**

Midwifery Education Program  
McMaster University  
1200 Main St. W., MDCL 3103  
Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3Z5  
CANADA

Tel: 905-525-9140, ext. 26654  
Fax: 905-523-6459  
Website: [www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/midwifery](http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/midwifery)

**For information about the allocation of midwifery services across Ontario, contact the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The address is:**

Coordinator  
Ontario Midwifery Program  
Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
393 University Avenue, Suite 2100  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1E6  
CANADA

Tel: 416-327- 7540  
Fax: 416-327-7550

**For information on where and how to get help with settlement in Ontario:**

Visit [www.settlement.org](http://www.settlement.org), or contact:

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI)  
110 Eglinton Avenue West, Suite 200  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1A3  
CANADA

Tel. 416-322-4950  
Fax: 416-322-8084  
E-mail: [generalmail@ocasi.org](mailto:generalmail@ocasi.org)  
Website: [www.ocasi.org](http://www.ocasi.org)

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# REGISTRATION PROCESS

