

November 2000

## COLLEGE STRUCTURE

### WHAT IS THE COLLEGE?

The College is the governing body of midwifery. Its major function is to administer the *Midwifery Act* in the public interest. The College was established under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* to:

- regulate the practice of the profession and to govern the members in accordance with the legislation, the regulations and by-laws;
- develop, establish and maintain standards of qualification for persons to be issued certificates of registration;
- develop, establish and maintain programs and standards of practice to assure the quality of the practice of the profession;
- develop, establish and maintain standards of professional ethics for the members;
- develop, establish and maintain programs to assist individuals to exercise their rights under this Code and the *RHPA, 1991*; and,
- provide protection to the public by regulating the profession.

### WHAT IS THE COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES?

The Council acts as the board of directors for the College. Council manages and administers the affairs of the College and is composed of public and professional members. Currently all Council members are order-in-Council appointees, selected through the Public Appointments Unit of the Ministry of Health. In June 2000, the College held its first election for two professional members of Council with terms beginning in September 2000.

## **HOW DOES THE COUNCIL WORK?**

The Council oversees the work of the College, develops policies and standards and provides direction to the staff. The Council is divided into the following committees: Executive; Registration; Quality Assurance; Client Relations; Complaints; Discipline; and Fitness to Practice. Ad hoc committees are established as necessary to address specific issues. Each committee is coordinated by a Committee Chair. All Council meetings are open to members and the public. Members will be informed of Council meeting times and locations.

## **CURRENT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

Executive Committee

Registration Committee

Quality Assurance Committee

Client Relations Committee

Complaints Committee

Discipline Committee

Fitness to Practice Committee

## **COMMITTEE PANELS REQUIRED UNDER THE *RHPA, 1991***

### **REGISTRATION COMMITTEE - Review Panel**

This panel reviews applications referred to the Registration Committee by the Registrar or an application referred back to the Registration Committee by the Health Professions Board. The panel is selected by the Chair of the Registration Committee. It will be composed of at least three persons, one of whom will be a public member of the Council. Three members of the panel constitute a quorum.

After considering the application and any written submissions from the applicant, the panel will direct the Registrar on the final status of the application according to Sections 17 through 21 of the Procedural Code of the *RHPA, 1991*.

**COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE - Investigation Panel**

A panel will be selected by the Chair of the Complaints Committee after a complaint is received in writing or recorded on tape, film, disk or other medium.

The panel will be composed of at least three persons, at least one of whom is a public member of the Council.

After investigating a complaint, the panel may refer the case on to the Discipline Committee, the Executive Committee or another panel of the Complaints Committee or take action according to Sections 25 - 27 of the Procedural Code of the *RHPA, 1991*.

**DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE - Discipline Hearings Panel**

The Executive Committee may refer a specified allegation of a member's professional misconduct or incompetence to the Discipline Committee. The chair of the Discipline Committee may select a panel to hold a hearing of the allegations. The panel will be composed of at least three and no more than five persons, at least two of whom are public Council members. At least one of the members of the panel shall be both a College member (registered midwife) and a Council member. No person will be selected for the panel who has taken part in the investigation of what is to be the subject matter of the panel's hearing. The panel shall operate within strict guidelines provided in the Procedural Code of the *RHPA, 1991* Sections 38 - 56.

**FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE - Fitness to Practise Hearings Panel**

In the event that the Executive Committee refers a matter for hearing into a member's capacity to practise, the Chair of the Fitness to Practise Committee may select a panel from members of the Committee which will be composed of at least three persons, one of whom is a public Council member. After a hearing into the matter, the panel shall direct the Registrar as to the member's final registration status according to procedures outlined in Sections 64 - 69 of the Procedural Code.

## WHAT DOES THE COLLEGE DO FOR YOU?

The College will:

- provide official registration and appropriate certification to enable you to practise as a registered midwife in Ontario, which will be required to apply for funding to practise in the province and to apply for hospital privileges;
- provide a complete and current set of regulations, standards, by-laws, policies and other relevant material, revisions to which will be provided on an on-going basis;
- consult with members of the College during the development of future regulations, standards and policies;
- provide a registry of members to the public;
- provide information about College activities through regular information bulletins, consultations and Council meetings;
- promote consistent and professional standards within the health care system which will provide credibility for individual practices and ensure a level of quality assurance;
- provide a fair review, according to the Procedural Code of the *RHPA, 1991*, should the member require a Registration Review, Complaints Investigation or Discipline Hearing;
- maintain liaisons with other health professionals, health regulatory colleges and government in areas which effect members' practices;
- provide, through the Prior Learning Assessment process, a fair and equitable means of registration for midwives with credentials and training from outside of Ontario.