



## **Budget 2025-26 Missing Crucial Investment in Midwifery**

For immediate release

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The Government of Nova Scotia's planned 2025-26 spending is missing investments in sexual, reproductive, and newborn health desperately needed to support growing families in the province.

"Midwives could do so much to help this province grow," says Kalyn Moore, registered midwife and Interim President of Association of Nova Scotia Midwives (ANSM). "We could be adapting models that have succeeded in other provinces, like postpartum and well-baby care at home for families who don't have a primary care physician. We could be providing more care to rural families with limited access to prenatal care. We could be collaborating with our physician and nursing colleagues to make sure everyone has access to the sexual and reproductive health services they need, everywhere in the province. Instead, families are going without while this government ignores a pressing need."

ANSM calls on this government to make sexual, reproductive, and newborn health a priority.

"If we want to grow and strengthen our communities, we need to support families. But Nova Scotia has only 3 sites offering funded midwifery care, and we continue to be very limited in what we can offer," says Elizabeth Fraser, Treasurer for ANSM. "All around the world, midwives take the lead in the care of women and families, and our midwives here are ready to step up to keep families and communities healthy, strong and growing. Midwives can relieve pressure on the system everywhere from family medicine clinics to the emergency department, and we would love to do it! We call on this government to make the best use of an essential health resource that has been overlooked for too long."

Nova Scotia has 2.6 midwives per 100,000 population, below the national average of 4.7 and far behind international comparators. Midwifery care is provided by the South

Shore Community Midwives (Lunenburg, Queens, and Shelbourne counties), IWK Community Midwives (Halifax county), and Highland Community Midwives (Antigonish, Inverness, Richmond, and Guysborough counties), as well as a pilot project through Doctors NS in Inverness. Currently, there are no plans to increase access to midwifery services, despite consistent demand in other areas of the province and long wait lists for existing practices. Last year, over 1200 letters were sent to the Government of Nova Scotia through the Nova Scotia Needs Midwives Campaign asking for expanded midwifery services in the province.

“Nova Scotians and their families need midwives in all areas of the primary care sector. The province needs to invest in training, retaining, and deploying skilled, competent, and committed midwives to help families thrive all across the province,” says Moore. “Nova Scotian families deserve more, and ANSM calls on this government to make that happen.”

#### **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:** <https://www.novascotiamidwives.ca/>

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