

COLLEGE OF MIDWIVES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

POLICY ON INTER-PROVINCIAL REGISTRATION RECIPROCITY for the Mobility of Midwives in Canada

Representatives from Midwifery Regulatory Colleges from across Canada signed a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on March 23, 2001, to facilitate the mobility of registered midwives across the country. This agreement has been updated and reaffirmed each time another Canadian province or territory has proclaimed its regulation of midwifery. In this MRA, midwifery regulatory bodies from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Northwest Territories set out the conditions for a general registrant to have her qualifications recognized by a College in another province or territory.

As a result of amendments to Chapter 7 of Canada's Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), as of April 1, 2009, all professional MRAs have been replaced by a process for registering an exception necessary to achieve a legitimate objective, such as the protection of human health. The goal of the AIT, agreed to by federal, provincial and territorial governments, is to achieve full labour mobility for workers in regulated occupations in Canada.

In addition to registering an exception as noted above, Articles 706.3 and 706.4 of Chapter 7 permit regulatory bodies to impose certain requirements on inter-provincial applicants. Based on Articles 706.3 and 706.4, the College of Midwives of British Columbia will register midwives currently registered in other Canadian jurisdictions as follows:

1. An applicant for registration with the College of Midwives of British Columbia (CMBC) under the provisions of Chapter 7 of AIT will be eligible for registration without additional assessment subject to the following requirements:
 - a) The applicant must be a general registrant with no practice conditions or restrictions in one of the other Canadian provinces or territories that regulates midwifery;
 - b) The applicant must give consent for the regulatory body in the Canadian jurisdiction(s) in which she is currently or has been previously registered to provide the CMBC with a *Letter of Good Standing*, with that regulatory body setting out any relevant information on the applicant's conduct as a midwife¹;

¹ "Letter of Good Standing" will normally be obtained directly from the regulatory college in the province of origin. Such "Proof" has been agreed to include that the applicant has general registration status, with no conditions or limitations placed on her registration, is not in default of fees, meets all continuing competency requirements in the province of origin (and what those are) and has had no disciplinary findings against her in the previous six years of practice. Regulators have also agreed to provide each other with registration information which would include disciplinary findings, outcomes of settled complaints/consent agreements, any suspensions, conditions or limitations imposed on the applicant's registration, and whether a complaint or other investigation is currently in process (with the understanding that this is a "yes/no" response and further information about a current proceeding cannot be shared). Regulatory colleges reserve the right to wait for investigations that are in process to be concluded prior to granting registration.

- c) The applicant must meet clinical experience requirements as set out in the Bylaws for the College of Midwives of BC and outlined in Appendix "A"² and must be able to document this experience to the satisfaction of the CMBC;
 - d) The applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English to ensure proper communication and public protection in the practice of midwifery in the province of BC. The requirement is only applicable where the applicant was not required to meet or has not met an equivalent requirement to demonstrate proficiency in English in the province or territory where she is currently registered. Information about how to demonstrate an acceptable level of English language proficiency is available from the CMBC;
 - e) The applicant must satisfy any other non-competency registration requirements specified by the laws of British Columbia, regulations and CMBC by-laws³;
 - f) The applicant must have completed and submitted the prescribed application form with related documents;
 - g) The applicant's current and past registration(s) must be verified⁴; and
 - h) The applicant must pay the fees required.
2. An applicant who has been a general registrant for less than one year in a Canadian jurisdiction which regulates midwifery is eligible to be registered under this policy but will be subject to the same new registrant requirements as set out in CMBC's *New Registrants Policy* that applies to all other BC registrants in their first year of registration.
 3. The applicant must have current neonatal resuscitation certification and current cardiopulmonary resuscitation that meet CMBC requirements in order to register as a midwife in BC. An applicant who comes from a jurisdiction that does not require certification for neonatal intubation and/or umbilical vein catheterization as a part of neonatal resuscitation certification will be required to obtain such certification prior to registration. This certification is readily available across Canada. If the applicant does not have current emergency skills certification that meets the CMBC requirements, the applicant will be given conditional registration and a period of up to six months as a conditional registrant to re-certify in emergency skills. Until her emergency skills certification is current, the registrant will be required to attend all births with another registrant whose emergency skills certification is current.

² Where the applicant meets all of the requirements with the exception of home/out of hospital/hospital experience due to provincial/territorial barriers which may be legislative, jurisdictional or administrative, the applicant's clinical experience will be accepted with the understanding that temporary conditions will be applied to address these requirements. (e.g. orientation to home or hospital birth practice within the first month of registration and/or supervision for five home or hospital births).

³ E.g. criminal record clearance, professional liability insurance, good character consistent with the responsibilities of a registrant, etc.

⁴ Verification will be done directly between regulatory colleges.

4. A registrant of a Canadian regulated jurisdiction who does not meet Chapter 7 criteria as relates to the requirements specified above, such as a registrant with conditions or restrictions on her registration, may apply for BC registration and may have her application considered. The CMBC may register the applicant with conditions or restrictions or may decline her application, based on the Approval Panel of the Registration Committee's assessment of that application.
5. All inter-provincial applicants must review a CMBC registration orientation package addressing BC-specific regulations, standards and practice issues, and pass the BC Jurisprudence Examination on BC specific knowledge essential to practice, such as consultation and transfer requirements and midwives' prescribing and diagnostic testing authority. The BC Jurisprudence Examination is not more than two hours in length, takes a short period of preparation time and can be accessed any time during the year. If the applicant does not demonstrate competence via the examination, the applicant may be given conditional registration and an opportunity to prove competency in those areas.
6. BC temporary registration and liability insurance coverage is available on a monthly basis to registrants from other Canadian provinces who meet the above requirements. Temporary registration can facilitate such things as locum coverage and visiting faculty being affiliated with midwifery practices.
7. An inter-provincial applicant who is applying for temporary registration of less than one month and who can provide proof of 1) current general registration in her home province or territory and 2) liability coverage from her home province or territory that has been extended to cover her practice in British Columbia, may be exempted from the written examination requirements under #5 above and may be granted temporary registration with conditions at the discretion of the Approval Panel of the Registration Committee.

APPENDIX "A"

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

The following clinical experience must have been completed during the previous five years (and may include experience obtained as a student of midwifery):

Number of Births	Role/Setting
60	Attendance
30 (of 60)	as a midwife providing "continuity of care" *
40 (of 60)	as primary midwife **
5 (of 40)	Home/out of hospital ***
5 (of 40)	Hospital ***

For the purposes of labour mobility in British Columbia:

- * continuity of care shall be deemed to have been provided to an individual woman and her newborn when one midwife, or student of midwifery, has attended a minimum of seven visits with the woman, including a minimum of 3 antenatal visits and 1 postnatal visit, and her labour and birth.
- ** a midwife who, in her practice or as a part of her education program, is the most responsible care provider for a woman during the intrapartum period. Such responsibility would normally include conducting the delivery of the newborn and managing the third stage of labour, unless there were clinical indications for transferring care to a physician. If transfers of care exceed 20% of the primary midwife requirement, a detailed chart audit will be required. If transfers of care exceed 30% of the requirement, temporary conditions on registration may be required.
- *** Note: where applicants meet all requirements but are unable to obtain home/out of hospital/hospital experience due to provincial/territorial barriers, see footnote to 1(c) of this policy.