



On the International Day of the Midwife, the SOGC calls for a more collaborative approach to obstetrical care in Canada

OTTAWA (Ontario), 4 May 2011 – Tomorrow, the world celebrates the International Day of the Midwife and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) is proud to reconfirm its strong support for the continuing process of establishing midwifery in Canada as a regulated, publicly funded profession with access to hospital privileges. The SOGC is firmly committed to a vision of obstetrical care that draws on the skills of other health professionals, especially midwives.

“A collaborative care model can go a long way to address the looming crisis in maternity care at home and abroad,” said Dr. Ahmed Ezzat, President of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. “Midwives are key members of the obstetrical health-care team, particularly when it comes to normal, low-risk pregnancies.”

In partnership with a number of health-care professional organizations representing the full range of maternity care providers in Canada, including the Canadian Association of Midwives, the *Multidisciplinary Collaborative Primary Maternity Care Project (MCP2)* was developed in 2006. This initiative was designed to address the human resource shortage crisis that exists in the provision of intrapartum care to pregnant women, to reduce the key barriers, and to facilitate the implementation of a national, collaborative approach to delivering obstetrical care in Canada.

To help ensure mothers and babies receive the quality health-care services they need during pregnancy and childbirth, *A National Birthing Strategy for Canada* followed in 2008 as a multi-faceted way to address obstetrical care shortages, implement collaborative care models for pre- and post-natal care, and to look at ways of providing optimal care in urban, remote, rural and aboriginal communities.

“The SOGC acknowledges that it is the mother’s decision to decide where she would like to give birth,” stated Dr. André Lalonde, executive vice-president of the SOGC. “Most babies are born without serious complications. As ob/gyns, our specialized training allows us to address the unique requirements of high-risk situations. What matters is that all professions acknowledge each other’s competencies and work together to provide mother and baby with the quality care they need, when they need it, where they want it.”

On this International Day of the Midwife, Dr. Lalonde is proud to be actively participating in the *National Capital Walk*, organized by members of the Canadian Association of Midwives, to be held on 5 May, at 9 a.m., in Ottawa. Through his participation, the SOGC wishes to emphasize its shared commitment to improving maternal and newborn health around the world and the important role midwives can play to achieve this goal.

On this International Day of the Midwife, the SOGC calls on the federal, provincial and territorial governments to acknowledge and address the health human resource crisis and support the implementation of a more collaborative approach to obstetrical care here in Canada.

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Reference Documents

- SOGC Policy Statement – Midwifery: www.sogc.org/guidelines/public/126e-ps-march2003.pdf
- Multidisciplinary Collaborative Primary Maternity Care Project: www.mcp2.ca
- National Birthing Initiative for Canada: www.sogc.org/projects/pdf/BirthingStrategyVersioncJan2008.pdf
- An Aboriginal Birthing Initiative for Canada: www.sogc.org/projects/pdf/AboriginalBirthingJune12%2007.pdf
- SOGC Policy Statement: Returning Birth to Aboriginal, Rural and Remote Communities: www.sogc.org/guidelines/documents/gui251PS1012E.pdf