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SECURING THE FUTURE OF THE MIDWIFERY EDUCATION PROGRAM

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMISSION D'ENQUÊTE SUR LES
RELATIONS ENTRE LES AUTOCHTONES ET CERTAINS SERVICES
PUBLICS AU QUÉBEC

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Summary

The midwifery education program is a model of education that is regarded throughout the world as an example. It finds itself at a cross road where investments are required to meet its needs and his future. Actions at different levels of government will be needed to ensure its viability.

Mrs Brenda Epoo; Maternity coordinator
Miss Elisapi Tukulak; Student midwife in training
Miss Djenane Gaspard; Coordinator DPHS
Mr Serge Provençal; DHS



Important actions needed for the midwifery education program on the Hudson Coast and Nunavik

Supporting & securing its future

- 1) **Secure a recurrent & dedicated budget for the midwifery education program and their activities.** It would be possible to:
 - a) Create a maternity advisor position to assist on the development of the maternity activities, practice and educational needs;
 - b) Support continuous education process of midwives and their students for attending conferences outside Nunavik;
 - c) Trained Inuit midwives to become instructors in Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP), Emergency Skill Workshop (ESW) and other formations pertinent to their practice instead of relying on southern resources;
 - d) Support the salary of the midwife trainees (students) through out their education program: 12 recurrent positions at a time; enrolled in the education program (4 per maternity);
 - i) It will contribute to provide career learning opportunity while creating employment;
 - ii) It will develop a “work force” to replace retiring midwives;
 - iii) It will provide more resources for services where there is no maternity and develop future maternities as population is growing;
- 2) **Regionally at the NRHBSS** develop a Midwifery head of program to support along with both health centers the midwifery program, its promotion, support, development and representation at key levels to ensure its viability for the future.
- 3) **Develop a partnership with Kativik School Board** in order to:
 - a) Have access to their facilities and resources for a proper learning environment;
 - b) Promote the midwifery program within Nunavik.
- 4) **Provincially**
 - i) Obtain a special agreement, status or derogation for midwives in Nunavik; like dentists or doctors.
 - (a) Is very difficult to recruit bilingual or English speaking midwives in Quebec. English being the most spoken language after Inuktitut represent a necessity in order to facilitate communication between professionals and clients.



- (b) The Ordre des professions du Québec (OPQ) and the Ordre des sages femmes du Québec (OSFQ) are applying rules that creates obstacles to out of province recruitment such as:
1. French proficiency test, for full time position;
 2. Requirement of out of province midwives to also pay the Quebec licence to the OSFQ for 6 or 12 months even if they're working only 6 to 8 weeks; this creates extra cost that discourages potential candidates to come.
- 5) **Obtain the contribution & support of a teaching establishment already giving a midwifery curriculum in English**, which we do not have at the present time. It could be outside of the province, if necessary.
- a) Would contribute in maintaining the program updated and keeping up with best practices;
 - b) Having recognition from a teaching institution would be an asset for our program. The OSFQ is the only organization that recognizes our curriculum of formation.