

# MIDWIFERY

## Myths & Facts

### Myth

### Fact

There are no educational requirements to become a midwife in Canada.



Registered Midwives (RMs) in Canada are either trained through a four-year baccalaureate program, one of two community-based Indigenous midwifery programs, or a certified bridging program for internationally educated midwives.<sup>1,2</sup>

Midwifery is an unregulated health profession.



RMs in Canada are regulated through a provincial or territorial regulatory body, and must pass an exam set by the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council. Now that PEI has approved regulations, midwives are regulated in all Canadian provinces and territories.<sup>3,4</sup>

Midwives cannot care for and treat complicated pregnancies, births and/or emergencies associated with births.



RMs work in partnership with obstetricians and are trained to appropriately recognize and respond to complicated pregnancies and births including, unexpected emergencies.<sup>3</sup>

The only safe way to have a baby is in a hospital setting.



RMs offer choice of birth place including hospital and home settings. Birth place setting does not change the likelihood of serious adverse neonatal outcomes when attended by a midwife.<sup>5</sup>

People seeking preconception, pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care must be seen by a doctor.



RMs are autonomous primary health care providers who are able to prescribe medications, order, collect and interpret laboratory tests, and provide all necessary care needed from preconception to postpartum.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Association of Midwives, 2021. <sup>2</sup> National Aboriginal Council of Midwives, 2022. <sup>3</sup> Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council, 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Government of Prince Edward Island, 2021. <sup>5</sup> Hutton et al., 2016.



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Learn more about midwives at  
[PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/Midwifery.ca](http://PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/Midwifery.ca)



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