

Indigenous Access and Regulatory Responsibility: From Intent to Action



regional  Council on Licensure,
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About the College of Midwives of Ontario

- Primary care providers integrated in the Ontario public health care system
- Solo midwife practices and group practices
- Care provided in various settings



Indigenous Midwifery in Ontario



- Midwifery is deeply rooted in Indigenous traditions
- Legislation enables Indigenous Midwives to operate outside the RHPA and *Midwifery Act*
- College does not have jurisdiction, respecting self-determined practice

Registration Requirement: Education

The applicant must have at least one of the following:

A baccalaureate degree in midwifery from Ontario university

OR

Qualifications that are equivalent, as determined by Board

- Bridging assessment program (internationally educated)
- Baccalaureate degree delivered outside Ontario (non-labour mobility) accredited by CAMED

About the Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council

- IAESC is Indigenous-governed and oversees quality standards at Indigenous Post-Secondary Institutes
- Role:
 - IAESC approves/accredits Indigenous Institutes as organizations
 - IAESC authorizes Institutes to grant certificates, diplomas, degrees, and accredits programs
- Accreditation based on IAESC standards and ability to be registered in specific profession

Decision of the Board

- IAESC as a new accrediting body for the purpose of meeting the education requirement for registration in Ontario
- Indigenous Institute will not need to seek CAMED accreditation
- Graduates of midwifery degree programs delivered by an Indigenous Institute will have the option to either work under the exemption OR be registered with the College

The College of Chiropodists of Ontario

- Regulating chiropodists and podiatrists in Ontario

Public Protection Mandate

- As a regulatory body governed by the *Regulated Health Professions Act* the College's mandate is to protect the public *vis-à-vis* footcare provided by College registrants
- Because of the nature of the services and treatments the registrants of the College provide, including surgical procedures, First Nations and Indigenous communities, with high rates of diabetes, and limited access to registrants, have higher rates of lower limb loss

The Data

- Understanding the depth of the disadvantages experienced by First Nations and Indigenous communities was difficult to assess because there was little available Ontario-based data
- That changed when data was released showing that First Nations communities:
 - experienced triple the rates of lower limb amputations compared to their Ontario counterparts; and
 - had a first lower limb amputation at an average age of 54

Professional Regulation = Public Protection

- With this data, the College had to acknowledge that more needed to be done to try to address the inequitable access to registrants' services and treatments that was causing devastating results
- In June 2023 I travelled to Thunder Bay to the Chiefs of Ontario's Annual General Meeting to meet with the Health Committee
- At our meeting, we discussed the Chiefs' perspective and views on appropriate resolutions

Chiefs' Resolution and Letter

- Following our meeting the Chiefs passed a resolution in support of the Full Scope Podiatry Model (FSPM) to increase access to footcare in First Nations communities
- The Chiefs also wrote to the Premier calling for the adoption of the FSPM in Ontario
- The College continues to focus on working with system partners to increase access to care for First Nations communities and all equity seeking Ontarians

Questions?

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Thank you

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