BRITISH COLUMBIA

Overview
Midwives in British Columbia (BC) are self-employed autonomous health providers. Midwives work in community, hospital, and home settings. In 2012, there were 200 midwives working across the province. Midwifery services are funded through the BC Medical Plan.

Regulation
Midwives are regulated under the Midwives Regulation, the Health Professions Act, and the College of Midwives of British Columbia (CMBC) Bylaws. Since 1998, midwives must register with the CMBC in order to practice. There are three routes to registration: graduation from an approved education program; registration in another province; and completion of a program for internationally educated midwives (Multi-jurisdictional Midwifery Bridging Project; MMBP).

The Midwives Regulation defines Aboriginal Midwifery to include the blending of both traditional and contemporary practices. There is a registration exemption clause for Aboriginal midwives, which applies only to Aboriginal midwives that were practicing within Aboriginal communities prior to legislation. There are College bylaw provisions for developing an Aboriginal category of registration; however, no such category is currently in place.

Association
The Midwives Association of British Columbia (MABC) promotes the profession of midwifery and represents the interests of midwives in BC. The MABC has an active Aboriginal committee, which has met with Aboriginal health leaders to increase access to midwives and midwifery education for Aboriginal women and their families.
Funding
Midwives are autonomous health providers in contract with the Ministry of Health Services. Midwives are paid per course of care.

Education
The University of British Columbia (UBC) has a four-year baccalaureate program. The program accepts 20 students each year, with select seats reserved for qualifying Aboriginal students. Applicants may self-identify as Aboriginal on their university application or by separate contact.

Contacts and websites to visit for more information:

College of Midwives of British Columbia
Suite 207, 1682 West 7th Avenue
Vancouver BC V6J 4S6
604-742-2230
Email: information@cmbH.c.ca
Website: www.cmbc.bc.ca

Midwives Association of British Columbia
#204-636 W. Broadway
Vancouver BC V5Z 1G2
604-736-5976
Website: www.bcmidwives.com

University of British Columbia Midwifery Program
B54-2194 Health Services Mall
Vancouver BC V6T 1Z3
604-822-0352
Email: info@midwifery.ubc.ca
Website: www.midwifery.ubc.ca