Midwifery Council of New Brunswick
Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes
du Nouveau-Brunswick

2025-2026 Annual Report

25 June 2026

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick | Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick
P.O. Box 20315, King's Place PO, Fredericton NB E3B 0N7 | registrar@midwiferycnb.ca

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick
Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

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Midwifery Council of New Brunswick
Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Vision, Mission, and Mandate

The Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick (MCNB, COSFNB, the Council) is a body corporate established under the *Midwifery Act*. The head office is in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

The Council is the governing and regulatory body that oversees the registration and practice of midwifery in New Brunswick. It operates at arm's-length from the Government of New Brunswick. The Council protects the public by setting policies and standards of professional practice for Registered Midwives to deliver safe, ethical, and effective care.

VISION	The people of New Brunswick have access to comprehensive, high quality midwifery care provided by regulated midwives.
MISSION	To serve the public interest by regulating and advancing safe, professional midwifery care throughout the province of New Brunswick.
MANDATE	Per the *Midwifery Act*, a) to regulate the practice of midwifery, b) to establish, maintain and promote standards of the practice of midwifery, c) to establish, maintain, develop and promote standards of professional ethics in the practice of midwifery.

Land Acknowledgment

The Midwifery Council respectfully acknowledges that New Brunswick is situated on the unceded and unsurrendered traditional territory of the Wolastoqey, Mi'gmaw, and Peskotomuhkati peoples. This land is subject to the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" made between these nations and the British Crown in 1725.

The Midwifery Council acknowledges that colonization and systemic racism in the Canadian health care system removed midwifery from Indigenous communities, with devastating results. The Council is committed to meaningfully embedding truth and reconciliation into its work, and to support returning birth to Indigenous communities.

Executive Summary

This is the tenth annual report for the Midwifery Council and captures the work and activities of the Council between **April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026**.

The primary activities of the MCNB were:

- registration of midwives.
- continued involvement with the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC) and committees.
- continued collaboration and engagement with the New Brunswick Health Professions Regulatory Network (NBHPRN).
- engagement with the Department of Health pertaining to the Midwifery Advisory Committee and proposed amendments to the *Midwifery Act* and *Regulations*.
- recruitment of a new Executive Director/Registrar and transitioning leadership.

The operations of the Midwifery Council were financed in full by a Grant from the New Brunswick Department of Health.

Registered Midwives in New Brunswick

As of March 31, 2026:

Registration Category	#
Active Practice	3
Non-Active Practice	2
Total	**5**

Governance

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Per the *Midwifery Act,* the Midwifery Council is composed of seven members appointed by the Minister of Health. As of March 2026, this includes two registered midwives, one member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick, one member of the Nurses Association of New Brunswick (College of Nursing of New Brunswick), one member of the New Brunswick College of Pharmacists, one employee of the Department of Health, and one lay person who has never practised midwifery.

Member	Representation	Term
Emma Cline	Nurses Association of NB (College of Nursing of NB) *Term ending Nov 2026.*	1st
Dr. Shannon Laity	College of Physicians and Surgeons of NB *Term renewed Oct 2025.*	2nd
Nathanael Patriquin	Department of Health	1st
Ursula Rinne	Registered Midwife *Term ending Nov 2026.*	1st
Bruce Robinson (Chair)	Public Member	2nd
Taylor White	NB College of Pharmacists *Term ending Nov 2026.*	1st
Brittany Stairs	Registered Midwife	2nd

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Midwifery Council met 6 times this year, including the Annual General Meeting in July 2025. Council meetings ran an average length of 52 minutes.

STAFFING

The Council employs one individual to serve in the dual role of Executive Director/Registrar on a part-time basis (0.56 FTE).

- *Executive Director:* responsible for the administrative and financial business of the Council, including strategic planning, financial management, communications, preparation of meeting packages, and producing minutes.
- *Registrar:* responsible for the registration and complaint processes.

Legislation, By-laws, and Policies

LEGISLATION

The Midwifery Council of New Brunswick is legislated by the *Midwifery Act* and *New Brunswick Regulation 2010-113* under the Act.

BY-LAWS

The business of the Council is further governed by the *By-Laws*, last amended June 17, 2020.

POLICIES

The following policies have been adopted by Council and are currently in effect:

- *Attendance and Honorarium for Council Members* (revised Nov. 30, 2021)
- *Categories of Registration* (revised Jun. 2, 2021)
- *Confidentiality* (adopted Dec. 11, 2019)
- *Conflict of Interest* (adopted Jun. 17, 2020)
- *Continuing Competency and Professional Development* (revised Apr. 17, 2025)
- *Core Competencies for Midwives* (revised Jun. 2, 2021)
- *Display of Certificate of Registration* (reviewed Aug. 15, 2018)
- *Fee Schedule* (revised Jun. 2, 2021)
- *Informed Choice* (adopted Dec. 14, 2016)
- *Initial Registration* (revised Dec. 11, 2019)
- *Interprovincial Emergency Transfers* (adopted Sep. 11, 2019)
- *New Brunswick Midwifery Model of Care* (revised Mar. 23, 2017)
- *New Registrants* (revised Jan. 14, 2025)
- *Non-Active Practice Category of Registration* (adopted Dec. 12, 2018)
- *Position Description – Council Member* (revised Jan. 27, 2023)
- *Private or Independent Midwifery Practice* (adopted Sep. 17, 2025)
- *Second Attendants* (revised Apr. 17, 2025)
- *Temporary Register – Conditional Registration* (revised Feb. 23, 2022)
- *Use of Titles* (reviewed Aug. 15, 2018)

OTHER

The practice of midwifery and operations of the Council are further informed by a Code of Ethics, Schedules for Ordering, guidelines, position statements, and standards, all of which are publicly available on the Council's website.

Activities of the Council

INTERNAL

- Transitioning MCNB leadership with recruitment and onboarding of new Executive Director/Registrar.
- Term renewal for one Council member.
- Adoption of *Private or Independent Midwifery Practice* policy, September 17, 2025.
- Revision of *Continuing Competency and Professional Development* policy, April 17, 2025.
- Revision of *Second Attendants* policy, April 17, 2025.
- Revision of *Role and Duty of Second Attendants* guidelines, April 17, 2025.
- The day-to-day administration of the Council includes financial management, meeting preparation and support, responding to inquiries, scheduling & coordination, preparation of reports, records management, website maintenance, tracking deadlines, and strategic planning.

LOCAL/PROVINCIAL

- Attendance at the GNB Primary Care Symposium.
- Attendance at the GNB Health & Long-Term Care Workforce Retention Summit.
- Member of the Department of Health's Midwifery Advisory Committee.
- Member of the New Brunswick Health Profession Regulators Network (NBHPRN).
- Meetings with provincial initiatives including the Prescription Monitoring Program, Digital Referral program, and provincial health plan.
    - Completion of data privacy and security e-courses per eHealthNB.
- Meeting with the Minister of Health, and policy engagement with GNB regarding amendments to the *Midwifery Act* and *Regulations*.
    - Attendance at the Legislative Assembly of NB for introduction of Bill 25.
- Engagement with Policy and Executive Council Office regarding MCNB's categorization under Agencies, Boards and Commissions, and honorarium for Council members.
- "Fredericton Midwifery Demonstration Site Summary Evaluation Report" posted to website.

NATIONAL

- Member of the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC) with Registrar as a director on the CMRC Board.
    - Registrar as member of CMRC Registration Affairs Committee.
    - Registrar as member of the CMRC Pathways for Indigenous Midwifery Committee.
    - Participation in strategic planning sessions.
- Attendance at Canadian Network of Agencies for Regulation (CNAR) conference and regulatory workshop in Calgary, Alberta.
- Attendance at National Council of Indigenous Midwives (NCIM) Forum.
- Engagement with the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) regarding workforce planning data collection, including signing a new data sharing agreement.
    - Revision of registration forms for improved data collection.
- Engagement with the Canadian Health Workforce Network (CHWN) regarding their minimum data standard project for midwifery.

Council Timeline

2007-2024: INTRODUCING MIDWIFERY TO NEW BRUNSWICK

In May 2007, then Minister of Health, Hon. Michael Murphy, announced the province's intention to integrate midwifery services in the health care system. Factors supporting this decision included:

- A desire to enhance access to quality primary maternity care for NB women;
- Increasing interest in midwifery services by NB women;
- Increasing C-section rates and low breastfeeding rates;
- Declining numbers of family physicians practicing obstetrical care; and
- Increasing recruitment challenges for ob/gyn specialists.

The *Midwifery Act* was introduced in May 2008 and received Royal Assent on June 18, 2008. It "established a body corporate to be known as the Midwifery Council of New Brunswick." The Act came into effect in 2010, and the Midwifery Council was created under and operated by the Department of Health.

Midwifery became recognized as a regulated publicly funded health profession in NB. However, government funding was suspended in 2013, and Council activities were halted, then reinstated with a new platform commitment in 2014. In 2016, the Midwifery Council began the infrastructure work to become a self-regulating body operating at an arm's length from Government.

New Brunswick's first registered midwives were hired in the spring of 2017, and a midwifery practice site opened at the Fredericton Downtown Community Health Centre in October 2017. The practice moved to the Fredericton Midwifery Centre in March 2018 and remains the sole practice site as of 2026.

In 2021, the Department of Health contracted Atlantic Evaluation Group to conduct an independent, external program evaluation. A report was expected in mid-2022 but not provided to the Midwifery Council. The Council was called before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in September 2023 and reported no action towards the expansion of midwifery services.

The 2024-25 provincial budget included "$562,000 to expand midwifery services in Fredericton and add services in two other communities," and the Department of Health created an intersectional Midwifery Advisory Committee tasked with analysing issues related to the expansion of services. The full report of the midwifery program evaluation was received by the Council in August 2024 and was noted to be positive. Key recommendations included "increasing the number of midwives," and "implement a staged Midwifery Program expansion across New Brunswick." However, no expansion has occurred as of March 2026.

As indicated in the 2024-2025 MCNB annual report, an Atlantic midwifery education program feasibility study was undertaken by external stakeholders. The Council continues to await the report with great interest.

2024-2026: NEW MOMENTUM FOR MIDWIFERY IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Following a provincial election in fall 2024, the mandate letter to the new Minister of Health, Hon. John Dornan, included the direction to "expand midwifery services and allocating funding to support training and education." The 2025-26 provincial budget included another commitment to midwifery, "An additional $150,000 to help break down barriers to midwifery training and certification and support the profession's growth to address the high demand for services." The Department of Health subsequently consulted with MCNB related to Act amendments. Work and communications on this topic continued with the Department throughout 2025.

Meanwhile at the federal level, in January 2025, Canada's then Minister of Health, Mark Holland, announced that provincial and territorial health plans must cover "Physician-Equivalent Services" including primary care by midwives as of April 1, 2026. As of March 2026, MCNB has not received information regarding how implementation of the Canada Health Act Services Policy will be operationalized in relation to midwifery in New Brunswick.

A significant operational milestone occurred for MCNB in November 2025 as Kandise Brown succeeded Kelly Ebbett in the role of Executive Director/Registrar. It would be difficult to overstate the impact of Ms. Ebbett's leadership and contributions to midwifery in New Brunswick since 2016, and the Council is grateful for her years of service.

Bill 25, "An Act to Amend the Midwifery Act," was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on March 18, 2026, with the support of MCNB. The bill addresses several challenges identified in previous annual reports, including the need for more public members on Council, the ability to provide preceptorships for midwifery students in the province, and aligning the midwifery scope of practice in New Brunswick with national competencies.

Persisting challenges previously identified include:

- the lack of flexibility afforded under a public act (rather than a private act as other health regulators) to respond as midwifery care evolves to meet community needs.
- the lack of access to local midwifery education programs for New Brunswickers.
- insufficient staffed positions/practice sites to meet demand for midwifery services.
- returning birth practices to Indigenous communities.

The data on midwifery care "consistently demonstrates high levels of satisfaction" and "clients of the Fredericton Midwifery Centre were so overwhelmingly positive about their experiences of midwifery care… [and] emphasize the expertise of midwives" (MacDougall and Johnston, 2021). Midwives provide quality care to New Brunswickers. Increasing access to this care is an essential step in stabilizing New Brunswick's health care system.

MCNB is encouraged by recent developments and remains committed to supporting the Department of Health's efforts to expand midwifery practice across New Brunswick.

Committees of the Council

The Council has four committees established by the *Midwifery Act*: Registration Appeal, Therapeutics, Complaints, and Discipline Committees. The Council may strike further committees as needed to achieve strategic objectives.

THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE

Mandate:	Established per the *Midwifery Act* to recommend: (a) the classifications of drugs, blood products and vaccines a midwife may prescribe and administer, and (b) the screening and diagnostic tests a midwife may order and interpret.
Members:	Ashley Kaye, Chair (RM) Jem Deguire (RM, non-active) Dr. Shannon Laity (OB/GYN) Taylor White (Pharmacist) Kandise Brown (Registrar), Secretary – incoming Nov 2025 *Dr. Louise Plant (Family Practice) – outgoing Nov 2025* *Kelly Ebbett (Registrar), Secretary – outgoing Nov 2025*
Meetings:	The Therapeutics Committee met on August 28, 2025, and November 18, 2025, to review and revise the Schedules for Ordering. This process is ongoing.
Notes:	A vacancy exists for "a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick who practices family medicine" following the completion of Dr. Plant's term.

REGISTRATION APPEAL COMMITTEE

Mandate:	Established per the *Midwifery Act* to review and make the final decision on any appeal by an applicant who has been denied registration.
Members:	Brittany Stairs (RM) Bruce Robinson (Public Member) Taylor White (Pharmacist)
Meetings:	No appeals were received. The Registration Appeal Committee did not need to convene this year.

COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

Mandate:	Established per the *Midwifery Act* to review complaints made per sections 39-41 of the Act, if the conduct or actions complained of may constitute professional misconduct, incompetence, or incapacity.
Members:	A roster of persons willing to serve on this committee and approved by Council, is kept by the Registrar to ensure procedural fairness.
Meetings:	No complaints were received. The Complaints Committee did not need to convene this year.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

Mandate:	Established per the *Midwifery Act* to receive and review allegations of professional misconduct, incompetence, or incapacity of a member that have been referred by the Complaints Committee, and to provide direction to the Registrar regarding the member's registration.
Members:	A roster of persons willing to serve on this committee and approved by Council, is kept by the Registrar to ensure procedural fairness.
Meetings:	No complaints were received. The Discipline Committee did not need to convene this year.

HIRING COMMITTEE

Mandate:	To make a recommendation regarding candidates for the position of Executive Director/Registrar for approval by the Council.
Members:	Bruce Robinson, Chair (Public Member) Nathanael Patriquin (Department of Health representative) Ursula Rinne (RM) *Kelly Ebbett (Executive Director/Registrar) – non-voting member*
Meetings:	The Hiring Committee met on August 20 and September 10, 2025, to review applications and make a recommendation to Council.

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick
Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

2025-2026 Financial Statements

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Compiled Financial Information
March 31, 2026

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick
Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Compiled Financial Information

As at March 31, 2026

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N&B
NICHOLSON & BEAUMONT
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To Board of directors of Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the statement of financial position of Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick as at March 31, 2026, the statements of changes in net assets and operations for the year then ended, and Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information ("financial information").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, *Compilation Engagements*, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

We did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Nicholson & Beaumont

Fredericton, NB
June 8, 2026

Chartered Professional Accountants

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Revenue		
Grants	$ 110,480	$ 99,976
Registration and application fees	1,842	1,800
Interest income	1,177	1,439
	113,499	103,215
Expenses		
Amortization	195	279
Conferences	3,673	-
Dues and fees	1,725	1,725
Honoraria	5,875	3,112
Insurance	4,636	4,489
Interest and bank charges	125	122
Office expenses	6,261	5,695
Professional fees	19,424	19,586
Salaries and wages	70,552	55,726
Travel	5,892	2,317
	118,358	93,051
Excess of revenues over expenses	(4,859)	10,164
Surplus - Beginning of year	21,491	11,327
Surplus - End of year	$ 16,632	$ 21,491

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2026

	2026	2025
Assets		
Current		
Cash	$ 16,574	$ 23,448
Investments	3,000	3,000
Accounts receivable	-	404
Prepaids	3,646	3,558
	23,220	30,410
Property and equipment - Note 3	455	650
Total assets	$ 23,675	$ 31,060
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts payable and accruals	$ 5,243	$ 7,877
Deferred revenue	1,800	1,692
Total liabilities	7,043	9,569
Net Assets		
Surplus	16,632	21,491
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 23,675	$ 31,060

Director

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

Notes to Compiled Financial Information

For the Year Ended March 31, 2026

1. Purpose of the organization

The Midwifery Council was established as per the Midwifery Act. Its purpose is to regulate the practice of Registered Midwives in the province of New Brunswick. The organization is registered as a not-for-profit organization under the Income Tax Act, and as such, is exempt from income taxes.

2. Basis of accounting

The basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the statement of financial position of the Midwifery Council of New Brunswick/Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick as at March 31, 2026 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended is the historical cost basis and reflects cash transactions with the addition of:

- Accounts receivable less an allowance for doubtful accounts;
- Property, plant and equipment recorded at historical cost and amortized on a declining balance basis;
- Accounts payable and accrued liabilities;
- Investments recorded at cost
- Prepaid expenses

3. Property, plant and equipment

	Original cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value 2026	Net book value 2025
Computer hardware	$ 3,214	$ 2,759	$ 455	$ 650

Midwifery Council of New Brunswick
Conseil de l'Ordre des sages-femmes du Nouveau-Brunswick

2027-28 Annual Budget Proposal

	2025-2026 Actual	2026-2027 Budget	2027-2028 Proposed Budget
Salary (inc. CPP)	$66,977.08	$57,880.00	$59,050.00
Travel	$7,219.53	$7,000.00	$7,000.00
CMRC Fee	$1,725.00	$1,900.00	$2,500.00
Conferences	$1,732.50	$3,000.00	$3,000.00
Honoraria	$5,875.00	$8,000.00	$8,000.00
Legal	$17,178.72	$15,000.00	$15,000.00
Rent of Office Space	$2,400.00	$2,400.00	$2,400.00
Equipment Replacement	$0.00	$500.00	$500.00
Supplies	$1,203.59	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
Utilities + Bank Fees	$1,378.27	$1,600.00	$1,600.00
PO Box	$363.40	$350.00	$350.00
Accountant	$4,945.00	$5,000.00	$5,300.00
Translation	$355.21	$2,100.00	$2,100.00
HIROC	$4,746.00	$4,800.00	$5,000.00
Communications	$483.00	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	$1,120.70	$1,000.00	$1,000.00
TOTAL	**$117,703.00**	**$112,530.00**	**$114,800.00**