



Position Statement: Home birth

Rationale:

Women across Canada have chosen to give birth at home for many generations. Available scientific evidence demonstrates that planned home birth with midwives is a safe and viable option for healthy low-risk women.

Statement of Belief:

The Canadian Association of Midwives believes that women have the right to make an informed choice regarding their place of birth. Home birth should be an available option for all childbearing women in Canada.

The Canadian Association of Midwives believes that midwives are the appropriate care providers for women choosing home birth.

Position Statement:

It is the position of the Canadian Association of Midwives that regulated and funded midwifery must be available in all provinces and territories to support home birth as a safe and viable option for women in Canada.

As members of the healthcare team, midwives must have unimpeded access to emergency services and hospital care as needed.

The Canadian Association of Midwives, CAM, commends those provinces that have regulated and funded midwifery. CAM calls upon the remaining provinces and territories to review the scientific literature regarding home birth and progress to a provision of midwifery care that includes home birth.

Approved by the CAM Board of Directors March 2001