

Minister of Health Hon. Carolyn Bertram

Dear Hon. Minister Currie We the undersigned have received the letter from the Reproductive Care Cordinator that the Government has no plans to regulate or fund Midwifery Services on PEI in the near future. We are very disappointed to hear this. Women on PEI deserve the same quality of care that women across Canada receive with access to Midwifery Services. PEI is the last province without Midwifery services. As is is laid out in the Health Canada Maternity Care Guidelines, women should have their choice of primary health care provider and choice of birth setting. This includes Midwives and yet women on PEI do not have this choice. We respectfully ask that all women on PEI should be able to choose Midwifery services in a safe and publicly funded system. BORN would also like to see that Doulas are part of a Family Centred Maternity Care System in PEI. We ask you to commit to including Midwifery and Doula Care into PEI's Heath Care System in 2010. Thank yourespectfully, Susana Rutherford on behalf of the Women of PEI and their Families.

	Name	From	Comments
1.	Aaron Dick	Emyvale, Canada	Stop being the last one on the block to do everything. This is for mothers and babies, the future of our province.
2.	John Morris	Charlottetown, Canada	
3.	Sharon Kinnee	Eldon, Canada	I would really support midwives and Doulas. They operate in all kinds of other places with great sucess. Having a baby is not normally a medical procedure its a natural act. Please consider helping women on the island to have a more positive birth experience. I was actually dismayed after talking to some of the younger mothers out there who dont seem to even know there are more natural, gentler ways to give birth. No medical studies have supported there being more intervention in the birth process unless warrented by risky pregnancys which all agree need to be managed in the hospital.
4.	David Daughton	Charlottetown, Canada	One of my daughter's was born in a hospital, while another was born at home under the care of a midwife. My experience with the services of a midwife was very positive and I heartily recommend the inclusion of doulas and midwives in PEI's spectrum of health care services. My aunt was a midwife (and a District Nurse) in the U.K. where she provided a safe, convenient and cost-effective obstetrical service to families for decades. Research confirms that childbirth does not benefit from being lumped in with a disease model in institutional settings.
5.	Dawn Wilson	Belfast, Canada	
6.	Andrea Stewart	Charlottetown, Canada	I would dearly like to see the professional support of midwives integrated into our health care system. Women on PEI deserve the same access to midwifery care as other women across Canada.

	Name	From	Comments
7.	Mary Lou Griffin-Jenkins	Charlottetown, Canada	Midwifery and Doula care belong in PEI's Health Care plan. PEI women and families deserve to have this option.
8.	Denise Bourgeois	Campbell's Bay, Canada	
9.	Mark Hanlon	Stratford, Canada	
10.	Kathy Wilson-Taylor	vernon river, Canada	
11.	Crystal Childs	Ottawa, Canada	
12.	Jaime Constable	Charlottetown, Canada	Please support midwifery and doula care in PEI. In ever other province women have access to these services. We should have the right to choose here as well. Having a doula was integral to the quality of my experience giving birth, and if midwifery services were available here I would have had a midwife deliver my child.
13.	Michelle MacCallum	Breadalbane, Canada	Please support midwifery and doula care. It is economically sound, family centred, safe and effective care that affords babies and moms best starts.
14.	Dawna White	Kingston, Canada	Please support midwifery and doula care in PEI.
15.	Jennifer Ridgway	Charlottetown, Canada	
16.	Lori McDonald	charlottetown, Canada	
17.	Tracey Clow	Charlottetown, Canada	
18.	Yvette Doucette	Charlottetown, Canada	Please support midwifery on PEI. Families on PEI should have options with regards to care pre, during, and post pregnancy.
19.	Alexander Reuss	Hunter River, Canada	
20.	Sherry Younker	Murray Harbour, Canada	I am currently pregnant and will be paying out of pocket for Doula care. I believe this should be government funded as it has been shown to decrease the need for costly medical interventions. Having the care of a doula will greatly increase the chance that I will be calm and fully alert immediately following birth and therefore better able to bond and breastfeed my child, giving him or her the best possible start. If I had the choice to choose the care of a midwife I would make that choice without a doubt. I believe it is both a waste of the OB's time and taxpayers money to send me, a young healthy low risk pregnant woman, to an OB. They are specialists in high risk birth and surgery., their time would be better spent treating the women who truly need their care. Perhaps if I was able to choose the care of a midwife, my OB would be able to spend more time with the women who truly need his help.

	Name	From	Comments
21.	maryanne fitzpatrick	mount stewart, Canada	I had a baby girl earlier this year, and have a great appreciation for the obstetricians and nurses who looked after me during my pregnancy and delivery. It is unfortunate, however, that the people of PEI are denied the healthcare options available in other parts of Canada. I lived in Ontario for a number of years, and there midwifery is a well-respected profession. The women of PEI deserve the same options.
22.	Sharon Wilson	New Maryland, Canada	
23.	Sara Roach-Lewis	Souris, Canada	
24.	Emma Fugate	Charlottetown, Canada	One of the reasons we emigrated here from the UK was because it seemed to be a great place to raise a family. However, I was very surprised to find that PEI doesn't support midwifery for pre and post natal care, which is standard in the UK. We haven't started our family yet but I sincerely hope that by the time we do, the PEI government will have caught up with the rest of Canada and many other western nations by giving us access to publicly funded & regulated midwives.
25.	Sharon Labchuk	Breadalbane, Canada	Let's catch up with the more progressive jurisdictions and offer improved support for women.
26.	Shanon Hartigan	Charlottetown, Canada	
27.	gail rutherford	Charlottetown, Canada	
29.	Trisha Clarkin	Charlottetown, Canada	
30.	Kelly Caseley	Charlottetown, Canada	
31.	Erin Arsenault	Charlottetown, Canada	
32.	Sarah Stewart	Charlottetown, Canada	
33.	Angela Campbell	Stanchel, Canada	
34.	Alisha Stephen	Stratford, Canada	Midwifery and Doula Care is needed in PEI :)
35.	Megan White	Charlottetown, Canada	
36.	Jill Goodwin	Charlottetown, Canada	
37.	Rebecca Bootsma	Mt. Hope, Canada	I was born and raised on PEI and now live in Ontario. I am expecting my second child and am in the care of a Midwife (same one for both pregnancies) and it was the greatest experience. The after care that I recieved was incredible <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
37.	Rebecca Bootsma	Mt. Hope, Canada	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> and I think it is something that every woman should be able to choose.
38.	Nancy Clement	Hunter River, Canada	
39.	Sylvie Arsenault	Charlottetown, Canada	
40.	Katherine Candline	Charlottetown, Canada	
41.	Danielle Macdonald	Halifax, Canada	
42.	Sandy Nicholson	Crapaud, Canada	
43.	marilyn sparring	charlottetown, Canada	As a mother and a health care provider I support and agree that Doula care and Midwifery have an important place within the Health Care system. These services should be available for all Islanders.
44.	C Trainor	Charlottetown, Canada	Midwifery and Doula care should be considered essential in the healthcare system. I know that my pregnancy experiences would have been far better if I had had access to this kind of care.
45.	Robyn Brehaut	Emyvale, Canada	The PEI government needs to do the job they've been hired to do and listen to the public that has been demanding these services for years! Time to step up to the plate and take some action.
46.	Jinny Greaves	Charlottetown, Canada	As a women in my early 30's I will be starting a family soon. I feel it is so important to have mid-wifery and doula care available to all Canadians. I live in PEI and am frustrated that it is the only province that does not offer this access to women. Child birth is a wonderful but often traumatic experience. Having a Doula or widwife can help so to ease the stress and anxiety of this experience. But it cost \$600 just to have a doula with you during labour. This is a lot of money when your family is already experiencing more expenses due to having a baby and one parent being on parental leave for 12 months. Please consider making midwifery and doula care an option for Island women.
47.	Maria O'Brien	York, Canada	
48.	Andrea Boehner	charlottetown, Canada	
49.	Kristine Martin	Cornwall, Canada	
50.	Kerry Duggan	Mt. Stewart, Canada	
51.	Cheryl Ramsay	Springhill, Canada	
52.	Courtney Myers	Charlottetown, Canada	The women of PEI deserve the right to make their own decisions around the birth of their baby whether they prefer a home or hospital birth!!!
53.	Emily Horne	Toronto, Canada	

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54.	Andy Collier	Emyvale, Canada	The facts and science backup traditional birthing methods! Progressive people should be embracing doula and midwifery as the safest route for routine birthings! It's safer, cheaper and less traumatic...
55.	Stephanie Burmeister	Charlottetown, Canada	I cannot understand how women in the year 2009 still do not have the choice of how they would like to give birth to their babies unless they do it somewhere else, Come on, P.E.I.! It's time!
56.	Amanda MacLeod Strang	Charlottetown, Canada	
57.	Amy Sprague	Halifax, Canada	I believe that every family has the right to choose what types of healthcare options they want at this important, special time in their lives. Midwives and doulas are held in high esteem across this country and others, why not in the eyes of the PEI government?
58.	Andrea McVean	Charlottetown, Canada	I have just moved back to PEI after living in Quebec and Ontario for the past 7 years and I find it unbelievable that PEI is so behind in terms of birthing options for women. I am thankful that I had my two children in another province. However, I am urging the provincial government to catch up with the rest of Canada and legislate Midwifery and Doula care in PEI's health care. Women and families deserve this.
59.	zoe brown	montreal, Canada	Dear Mr Currie, if only you could be in the throws of labour and know how important it is to have a trusting wise woman to guide you through a very necessary yet overwhelming experience. If experiencing birth the wrong hands, which unfortunately so many women do, in the hospital, the mother and baby are at greater health risks then at home with a midwife. I have delivered all three of my children at home or at a birthing centre with a midwife, and i would not for a second have changed that. Hospitals are over crowded as it is, and the staff are often impatient and over worked. Lets help alleviate the pressure from everyone involved in the birthing process by allowing these experienced trained specialists perform their duty. You don't want to deny these mothers and families their rights to natural child birth do you? Zoe
60.	Shane Coady	Charlottetown, Canada	
61.	Jill Olscamp	Charlottetown, Canada	I was very fortunate to have had the intimate, caring, and professional care of a midwife during the birth of my first child. My next pregnancy was on PEI where my only option was to pay a private doula. I would encourage the PEI Health Care system to look to all the other Canadian provinces that have adopted midwifery and doula care in to <i>(continues on next page)</i>

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61.	Jill Olscamp	Charlottetown, Canada	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> their systems. There is sound research to support all of these regulated provinces and I would very much like to see PEI step up and do the same. Island women and their families deserve to have birthing options equal to those experienced by women all across Canada.
62.	Mary Olscamp	Summerside, Canada	
63.	jane beastall	Charlottetown, Canada	Jane Beastall, Registered Midwife
64.	Jan Mollison	Charlottetown, Canada	
65.	Clare Bolton	Blacksmiths, Australia	Birthing is one of the most important "health events" in the lives of the 2 or more individuals and access to safe and fully supported choices at this time should be a fundamental part of any health care system in the developed world. The evidence from Europe, notably Netherlands, shows midwife or doula led births have less complications and better outcomes for mother and infant. Please consider this factor before forcing all mothers into a medical model of care.
66.	margaret braithwaite	mawson, Australia	
67.	Barbara Kirsch	New Minas, Canada	The choice should be with the pregnant women, not the Government. Midwifery and Doula Care are important and necessary. Access is a must!
68.	Dale r. Butt	Breadalbane, Canada	it is extremely important to allow women their choices, to give them the opportunity of choice. It seems ridiculous that PEI is so slow to realize the importance of this issue. The fact that, PEI has stated it has no plans of including Midwifery, or Doula care in our Health Care system, reeks of a government system here that is fearful of change, is stuck in personal beliefs, and is not educated enough to see beyond their sleeves. The situation is really not acceptable.
69.	Jennifer Jeffrey	Charlottetown, Canada	
70.	Paula Gallant	Charlottetown, Canada	
71.	Alida Love	Charlottetown, Canada	
72.	Lori Lopes	Charlottetown, Canada	
73.	Jennifer Campbell	Brookvale, Canada	

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74.	Astrid Schrader	Hamburg, Germany	PEI - "The Gentle Island" - laid-back and relaxed? These attributes used to attract tourists should apply even more and first of all for women, who want to give birth to their babies exactly this way! I cannot believe that this is an issue at all. Laid-back and relaxed - not backward and retarded.
75.	Brenda Jones	Charlottetown, Canada	It's disgraceful that women should even have to fight for this...childbirth is not a sickness and unless there are complications women should be giving birth at home with a trained midwife who has the time and patience to help them through it. It's a win-win situation for women and our health-care system so why is government dragging their heels?
76.	Merlin Gallant	Charlottetown, Canada	
77.	Dale Sorensen	Crapaud, Canada	
78.	Marguerite Cameron	Clyde River, Canada	
79.	Ghislaine O'Hanley	Charlottetown, Canada	
80.	Andrea Houle	st bruno, Canada	As a legislated midwife practicing in Quebec, I am greatly disappointed with this news and wish all the best to pregnant women in PEI. I hope they can one day find quality maternity care that answers their needs.
81.	Kim Murphy	Summerside, Canada	PEI needs to get with the times. Family centered hospital care is fine but you may only be there for a couple of days. Hospital care may be necessary, but for many to have the choice to get support before, during and after giving birth by these practitioners is so needed. We need choice and in this area women's voice need to be heard!!!
82.	Kelly Richard	Charlottetown, Canada	Get with the times, PEI - when I decide to have children, I want to have the same choices that women across the nation have. We need funding for midwives or doulas.
83.	Ann Chaulk	North West River, Canada	
84.	Kinsey Cheverie	Elmira, Canada	
85.	Amanda Eldershaw	Charlottetown, Canada	
86.	Vivienne Miller	Northport, Canada	I am a Scottish midwife with over 20 years experience who came to the Island 3 1/2 years ago to live and work. Unfortunately, as there is no midwifery in PEI, I have had to work as an RN. At the moment I am in LTC, and while I have found this fulfilling for the time being, I do really miss midwifery, as well as being concerned that this service is not available to families in PEI. I will do my best to spread <i>(continues on next page)</i>

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86.	Vivienne Miller	Northport, Canada	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> the word about this petition as I know there are many women who would have loved to have had the choice to have a midwife birth.
87.	Tammy Arias	Miami, FL	Every woman should have a choice. Studies have shown midwifery care safer and healthier than hospital care. Why would you take that opportunity away from somebody?
88.	Jordan Stanley	Nanaimo, Canada	Midwifery should be an integral part of every provincially funded medical system. it makes sense to give expectant mothers the choice of who will deliver their child.
89.	nicole greenland	nassau, Bahamas	
90.	Krissi Gallant	Souris, Canada	
91.	Chris Ortenburger	Bonshaw, Canada	Dear Minister Currie, Your actions as Minister and as a parent show you are interested in the health of every Islander from the very beginning. A wonderful birth and breastfeeding experience is the very best gift we can give our children for their future physical and emotional health. Please consider putting midwifery in the forefront of your health care agenda. Certainly just having legislation to regulate midwifery is very low-cost to government, as models are already in place in other provinces; please prepare a timeline for the eventual plan to have the services of midwives covered under the provincial health plan. I had four healthy pregnancies and births and would have been thrilled to have a midwife attend these births/have them at home, but without regulated Island midwives available, my choices were very limited. The health care system will save so much money, and give Island families greater choice and autonomy over these wonderful events, when midwifery is part of the system. Please make this your greatest gift to future Island children.
92.	Laura Anderson	Dartmouth, Canada	
93.	Claire Farley	kirkcaldy, United Kingdom	
94.	Debbie Barry	York, Canada	
95.	Christine Pike-Flojo	Chilliwack, Canada	Mothers deserve to have support during their pregnancy and while birthing. It is obviously a man's decision that these do not need to be mandatory. Mothers need to make their own decisions. Not politicians.
96.	doreen knight	burntisland, United Kingdom	my daughter emigrated to P.E.I. three years ago - she has 20 years experience in midwifery in the U.K. and was most concerned to learn that P.E.I. is the only province in Canada who don't have midwives. They do an absolutely vital and admirable service to the community and should be recognised.

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97.	Charlene MacDonald	Morell RR#2, Canada	<p>I believe the last six years of my life and my sons life would have been a much better experience had our birthing experience not been as traumatic.I believe that a better birthing experience would have been more likely had midwifery been an option.</p> <p>I have been studying the impact of birth trauma and have come to discover that it can have a life long impact.I can not think of any issue of greater importance than that of every individual born on PEI.</p> <p>Giving women,men and children the option to have a safe and peaceful birth is a basic human right that at this point is not available to all especially those on PEI.This is a great disservice to the residents of this province.You have the power to change this.Please use your power wisely to help.Speaking for the unborn who do not have a voice.</p>
98.	Aleida Tweten	Stratford, Canada	<p>Originally I am from Calgary and moved here to attend university 7 years ago. I met my partner, and have added to PEI's population as I have a 3 year old and am due with my second in Jan 2010. I looked into a home birth, as I am 28 and healthy, and it would cost upwards of \$4 000. We cannot justify this cost at this time, so we will be going to the QEH.</p> <p>I am jealous of my friends in Alberta who have arranged a certified midwife to attend their births. Mount Royal University actually has a Midwife program that is in conjunction with their nursing program. So, this could be a possibility to recruit more students to the island by offering a midwife program here at UPEI (at least helping fund such a program).</p> <p>Anyway, PEI is always the last it seems in obtaining what the rest of the country already has (public transit, kindergarten moved into the public school system, for example). It is a small wonder why this province is regarded as "behind the times" and "backwards". Lets hope that offering legislated midwifery care will help put PEI on par with other provinces regarding birthing options.</p>
99.	Allison Rothmel	Charlottetown, Canada	<p>Midwives provide pre- and post-natal care. They attend low-risk births!! Of the 5% of pregnancies that are deemed high-risk a doctor is called in. I hired a midwife for both of my children over twenty years ago now! I am shocked that PEI is still debating the pro's and con's to the health-care system!!!</p>
100.	Joanne Fisher	Brantford, Canada	<p>This is somethingI would have loved when I was having my children.</p> <p>PEI Moms to be should have the freedom to choose how they want to have their Babies.</p>

	Name	From	Comments
101.	Rosalind Waters	Georgetown, Canada	I have two daughters, both born with the assistance of a mid-wife. One in PEI and the other in Toronto. The support provided was wonderful and professional. My eldest daughter's birth would most definitely have been done with a Caesarian if I had not had a mid-wife present. PEI really needs to get up to date and include midwifery in the health care system.
102.	Michelle Cottreau	Charlottetown, Canada	My husband and I were living in the Hamilton, ON area when our children were born. Midwives were not yet fully autonomous but the decision to go with a midwife through a "shared care" arrangement for our first daughter was easy. The contrast between the Doctor visits (quick hurry up and get out) vs. the Midwife (take your time and lets talk about everything) visits was startling and I am proud to say that my eldest was delivered solely by a midwife 1 month after the Ontario legislation came through in 1994. It was a truly wonderful experience. Things went so well for the birth of my second daughter that the student midwife did all the work. I hope that the women of PEI will have the option to choose a midwife in the near future. I urge the PEI government to consider this as a viable and valuable alternative to expensive specialists for natural low risk births.
103.	Michelle Barton	Charlottetown, Canada	This issue is VERY important to many women on PEI. Please rethink your decision to do nothing right now.
104.	Gail Costic	Bushkill, PA	
105.	Raquel Rosa	Alexandria, VA	
106.	Andrea Simpson	Halifax, Canada	
107.	Emily Jelliffe	Charlottetown, Canada	Please, support midwifery and doula care in P.E.I. I recently had a baby, and it was the most valuable experience of my life. I am not sure it would have been so relaxed and successful if I did not have my doula's guidance and support. (and if I hadn't travelled to Summerside where I was provided with a birth supporting environment.) I live in Charlottetown and would like to have my next baby at home with the support of a midwife. I hope by the time this comes to be, our government will be on board!
108.	Millefiore Clarkes	Charlottetown, Canada	Please support Midwifery and Doula Care in PEI - help mothers and their new babies experience a more natural and comforting form of childbirth.
109.	D. Melanie Walsh-Fraser	Stratford, Canada	Midwifery and doula care is a very important health service that PEI women are being denied. Please reconsider your position in the matter so that PEI women will not be at a disadvantage.

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110.	Kevin Burke	Charlottetown, Canada	
111.	Korina Murphy	nine mile creek, Canada	
112.	Christinne Bell	cornwall, Canada	By having Midwives and Doulas present during their birth experience, Islanders have already included them in the healthcare system. Not officially recognizing Midwifery and Doula care, leaves the Department of Health out of an important conversation.
113.	Vaughn Jelliffe	Cornwall, Canada	
114.	Cynthia King-Dunsford	Stratford, Canada	
115.	Ann Sherman	Charlottetown, Canada	Dear Minister Currie: When I had my second child I was attended by a midwife from Haiti who had recently immigrated to Canada. She was wonderful and helped me through a difficult delivery in hospital. I strongly support midwifery care and would like to see it available as part of PEI's health care services.
116.	Julia Sauve	Victoria by the Sea, Canada	
117.	Sandra Horne	charlottetown, Canada	
118.	Conor Leggott	Charlottetown, Canada	I was delivered by a midwife in Ontario twenty years ago. My mum has nothing but great things to say about the care she experienced from all the midwives who attended her. It is absurd to not accept midwifery as part of PEI health care.
119.	Jessica Piec	Winnipeg, Canada	
120.	PAT MURRAY	STRATFORD, Canada	WITHOUT THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF A MIDWIFE I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE A VAGINAL BIRTH OF OUR DAUGHTER. PLACING EVEN MORE OF A STRAIN ON OUR ALREADY OVER BURDEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.
121.	colleen murphy	Charlottetown, Canada	
122.	David Murphy	Cornwall, Canada	I have worked in areas where Midwifery is an accepted medical practice and I would expect if the minister checked statistics it would support the use and cost effectiveness. David
123.	Sylvia Ridgway	Crapaud, Canada	
124.	Gillian Mahen	Tyne Valley, Canada	Please. This just makes sense.
125.	Pan Wendt	Millvale, Canada	
126.	harmony wagner	Charlottetown, Canada	

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127.	Gail Wallace	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	
128.	Shelby Perry	summerside, Canada	
129.	holly mcgee	Charlottetown, Canada	
130.	Allison Bain	Quebe, Canada	Hi there, I had two child under the care of midwives. Both were natural childbirth`s and the care I received was truly exceptional. I feel that Island women should have access to this care.
131.	Richard Hollister	Tucson, AZ	
132.	Amanda Cudmore	Emyvale, Canada	
133.	Howell Jones	Gander, Canada	
134.	Trina O'Brien Leggott	Charlottetown, Canada	I chose the services of midwives, and a home birth, for the birth of our second child - a normal, healthy birth which midwives are fully trained and experienced to assist. All women should have that option and PEI must not be the last holdout in Canada. The savings for health care and the documented satisfaction of women and their families across Canada and around the world who avail themselves of the services of midwives should be endorsement enough for this government. I strongly encourage this government to legislate the provision of midwifery services and bring Island health care truly into the 21st century.
135.	Denise Reiser	Charlottetown, Canada	In the early 80's I had both of my daughters with midwives. Their births were the best experience of my life and started their lives in a strong, loving way. However, I had to overcome objections, fear tactics, and manipulations by my doctors during prenatal care.
136.	Donna Debruhl	Indianapolis, IN	
137.	Neha Mueller	Indianapolis, IN	
138.	Shannon Mitton	summersdie, Canada	
139.	Susan Columbia	Emsdale, Canada	As a resigned registered midwife here in Ontario, where I practiced for 25 years, both in and out of province, including PEI, I have faith that the government will recognize this important choice for women in Canada.
140.	C Rains-Henderson	Huntsville, Canada	
141.	stephnee gibson	zanesville, OH	pregnant women are treated like they have an illness by doctors. Childbirth is a normal healthy part of life and should be handled in that manner. Women should have a choice in the care they recieve and not be forced into all sorts of intervention that is not needed or wanted. women need support trust and a postive relationship with the <i>(continues on next page)</i>

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141.	stephnee gibson	zanesville, OH	<p><i>(continued from previous page)</i></p> <p>person that helps with the birth of their child, not worry about surgery when they are perfectly healthy or worry about what is going to be ordered about their body and baby without their consent. Give women and families the ability to choose their birth attendant.</p> <p>My first child was born by c-section, the doctor believed she was too big and I could possible paralyze her arms for life by giving birth naturally. When I was expecting my second child they wanted to force me to have another c-section only for the reason I had a previous one. They tried to scare me with uterian rupture and death but instead I moved to another state where I could attempt a vaginal birth after cesearian(vbac) I had a normal labor and delivery. my first child weighed 9lbs and my second child weighed 3oz shy of 9lbs. I was forced into major surgery which cost more emotionally and financially. I feel my doctor was ready to go home and wanted to cut me open and get it over with so he could be in bed by midnight, he had no relationship with me, he had to look at my chart to recall my name, that is not what women need in such a time as labor. I am thankful for my doctor who delivered my second child, she was a backup doctor for midwives for 20 years in chicago illinois. she respected my birth plan and treated me with respect, gave me link a link to a local doula and created childbirth education classes in the community that she attended and taught herself. I am pregnant with my 3rd child and am having home water birth with the assistance of a midwife, it is unfair that all women and families donot have this choice.</p>
142.	ALPHA AWAY NO POST PLS	Freeland, Germany	
143.	Colleen MacKay	Charlottetown, Canada	
144.	David Pendergast	charlottetown, Canada	<p>Once again, PEI remains behind the times, even as most other Canadian provinces have moved forward with providing midwife care for expecting mothers. Let's please realise the tremendous advantages of this type of care, for mothers and babies.</p>
145.	Tara Walsh	Charlottetown, Canada	<p>I was born and raised in PEI but moved to Manitoba as a career choice. While I was there I had the absolute privilege of having the care of a midwife for the birth of both my children!! The is nothing that compares to the quality care you recieve from midwives. My family has moved back to PEI, needless to say my family is complete, one strong reason for this is the lack of midwifery care in PEI. I can't imagine having a baby without the care of a midwife. PEI so badly needs to allow women to access</p> <p><i>(continues on next page)</i></p>

	Name	From	Comments
145.	Tara Walsh	Charlottetown, Canada	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> birthing options of their choice. Accessibility to quality maternity care in PEI is lacking.
146.	Susan McGinn	Newmarket, Canada	I strongly believe PEI must allow women to choose the care they want for pregnancy and childbirth. I had a wonderful doula assist with the birth of my first son. Her support and guidance was invaluable. With my twins I was not able to access midwifery care but had my fabulous MD sister act as my doula. Let's remember, healthy low-risk pregnancies do not generally need much intervention. Let's give PEI's women the same choices as women in the rest of Canada
147.	Leslie Bardal	Niverville, Canada	I had midwives for both of my children, one being a home-birth...and then had the honour of attending my best-friend's home-birth. She recently moved home to PEI and I can only pray that one day PEI will step up and approve/support midwifery and doula services like the rest of Canada!!!
148.	Jody Walsh	Charlottetown, Canada	My wife and I had a midwife for both of our children's pregnancies/births and they made the experience exceptionally smooth and family centered. I have and will continue midwifery to everyone. It would be an excellent service to bring to PEI.
149.	Kellyanne Roche	Charlottetown, Canada	
150.	Brandy Livingstone-Krueger	Fort St John, Canada	
151.	Jacqueline Marsland	Burlington, Canada	My husband and I sometimes consider moving back to the Island to start our family. One of the main reasons why we're reluctant to do so before having children is because we are certain that we would like to have a midwife. It would be wonderful if PEI could get with the times!
152.	Lori Jameson	Charlottetown, Canada	
153.	Karen Roche	belfast, Canada	As a grandmother of 3 I got to experience the births of 2 in my daughters home while she was living in Winnipeg. The experience was more than I can express. More women deserve a choice of where and how to birth their babies .
154.	Nathalie Pambrun	Winnipeg, Canada	I am a midwife and have had my babies with midwives. The care recieved is personal, honors women and our passages. All women who want midwifery care should be able to access it. Midwifery has been shown to decrease adverse pregnancy outcomes for women.
155.	Rachel White	Edmonton, Canada	Children should be born in a peaceful, loving, quiet environment where they can be affirmed with love throughout the whole process of birth. This process can <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
155.	Rachel White	Edmonton, Canada	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> save healthcare many dollars and should be encouraged and supported exponentially.
156.	Jo Jory	Head of Cardigan, Canada	I personally know of several women who have chosen the option of unassisted homebirths in lieu of OB care followed by delivery at the QEH. I myself am one of those women. I, like most of the other women I know who have gone the unassisted route, felt stuck between a rock and a hard place with the hospital being the only option for delivery when I moved to the island in 2005. I was initially shocked to learn that a midwife would not be an option, unless I paid to have one drive in from New Brunswick or Nova Scotia, and hopefully get to me in time. With the PROVEN safety of midwife-assisted deliveries, both at home and in established birthing centers, and the PROVEN cut in cost to our health care system, it is COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE that Prince Edward Island does not take the steps involved in legislating midwifery and offering the unsurpassed maternal care of midwives to it's residents. UNACCEPTABLE...
157.	Randall Messett	Ottawa, Canada	
158.	Carla Atherton	Saskatoon, Canada	Women helping women through midwives and doulas is the most safe, peaceful, empowering way for a woman to give birth. Let's return the power to these women and assert their right to a peaceful event free of interference, harsh lights, doubt, and fear. Women should be able to choose the way in which they give birth - whether it be in a hospital, a birthing centre, or their own bedroom. Autonomy should be the number one factor when dealing with patients' rights. Only she will know what is best for her.
159.	Beverly Darlene Bresee	Kanata, Canada	
160.	Marcie Macari	Fergus, Canada	The right to low-risk, women-centered pregnancy and birth care is a woman's right. To refuse to cover midwifery care, which provides better outcomes in low-mid risk pregnancies (thereby reducing the financial costs associated), would be a grave mistake. Obstetrics, with all it's amazing discoveries has also increased the mortality and C-section rates to a ridiculous degree. (Thereby costing the province more money). Support women and give them coverage!
161.	angelica crawford	lake city, IA	
162.	melanie Ollmann	Enterprise, AL	I would be the smartest act that PEI could do
163.	Clinton Herring	Murray Harbour, Canada	

	Name	From	Comments
164.	Mary Lissel	Saskatoon, Canada	Very important petition. This has to do with women and children's health care. Basic human rights.
165.	Nancy Langley	belfast, Canada	
166.	Kristen McMahon	Stanstead, Canada	We should be in the most comfortable place as possible which is our home, so please sign this is a valued field full of caring people.
167.	John Barclay	Toronto, Canada	My wife and I used a midwife for our daughter and couldn't have had a better experience. Everything about the medical profession was made better by our contact with a trained and caring professional whose concern was birth, not medical practice.
168.	Pam Scott	Belle River, Canada	I am an expectant mother living in a rural area of PEI and my husband works overseas. When our first son was born, we were living in BC and we obtained the services of a doula because my husband was going to be away on the due date. Not only was the doula extremely attentive to my needs during delivery, but afterward she came to my home to prepare meals, help with housework, and generally give me a needed break until my husband returned. I wish there were more doulas available in PEI as my husband won't be home for the birth of our second child, and I really need the help, especially at delivery. Having someone there who will take care of the mother emotionally and physically is so important. Pam Scott
169.	Sarah Galaise	Borden, Canada	
170.	Sherri MacWilliams	Charlottetown, Canada	The value of midwifery and doula care - as well as the staggering cost savings to our health care system - has been reasearched and proven, again and again. Let's create an environment that empowers Island families to make real choices about childbirth.
171.	Lana Frid	charlottetown, Canada	PEI needs to get up to speed with the rest of the country. Past colleagues of mine in Onatrio were shocked to hear that midwives could not practice in PEI.
172.	Liam Whitty	Charlottetown, Canada	When my wife and I moved back to PEI we were surprised and disappointed to see that PEI is still clinging to outdated views regarding birthing options. Please do what you can to give Islanders the option of having midwife-directed births. This is really important to many people on PEI! Thank you.
173.	Henriette Matthijssen	Boyle,, Canada	
174.	Ashley Buchan	Winnipeg, Canada	I had the pleasure of being with a dear friend while she had both of her babies at home, under the care and gentle guidance of midwives. As a medical professional myself, I can appreciate the vast knowledge base they have, and as <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
174.	Ashley Buchan	Winnipeg, Canada	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> a woman, I appreciated their gentle, calming, empowering ways. Should I myself ever be blessed with children, they will be brought into this world with midwives. The PEI government needs to provide this service. Save all those extra hospital beds for people who are actually sick!
175.	Laura MacPherson	Tea Hill, Canada	Dear Government of PEI, Midwives and doulas are an integral part of a health care system that focuses on the needs of the individuals it exists to serve. Midwives and doulas are fully publicly funded in other provinces in Canada and it's time PEI recognized midwives and doulas as professionals who are essential to the health care system. It's time to return midwives to the important and respected role they once held in Canada, and create access to these services for Island families. Thank you for your support!
176.	mary foley	Cork, Ireland	
177.	Karina Vannieuwenhuyzen	obb, Canada	I moved to PEI from BC. In BC I had a midwife hospital birth. It was an amazing experience. PEI needs to allow women the right to have a more natural birth choice. They need to welcome midwives and doulas into the hospital setting and support women who wish to have midwife homebirths. Read the stats, There is no higher mother/baby deaths/problems than hospital births. The people who are making these current rules are generally men, why do they get to choose how women give birth? Check out the cesarean and intervention (induction/vacuum/ forceps/ episiotomy) stats. they are all almost in half with a midwife delivery. There is something here! A womans body is meant to give birth and midwives allow it to ask naturally to do what it needs to do. Doctors are over busy already, why not try and lighten thier load and give the people what they are asking for? Is there a website that I can find that has contact info for the people fighting for this so I can help get more involved? Please email me... thanks! blondecanadian@msn.com
178.	Erica MacKay	Charlottetown, Canada	
179.	Grace-Anne Goehring	stanley bridge, Canada	
180.	Nancy MacPherson	Charlottetown, Canada	Dear PEI Government, As a medical student covering midwifery and doula will improve the health and well-being of PEI mothers. Covering midwives and doulas makes sense for improved health of mothers an babies. Research has demonstrated implementing this policy will improve outcomes in delivery meaning less interventions such as C-sections and <i>(continues on next page)</i>

	Name	From	Comments
180.	Nancy MacPherson	Charlottetown, Canada	<p><i>(continued from previous page)</i></p> <p>improve breastfeeding rates. This will actually decrease the costs associated with childbirth, pre- and post-natal care.</p> <p>Thanks for thinking of women, Warm regards, Nancy MacPherson Nancy</p>
181.	Kimberlee Dingwell	Stratford, Canada	<p>I had midwifery care in Ontario for my pregnancy and birth with my son. It was the most incredible experience I have ever had. The obstetric care in PEI is years behind the times and the dismal breastfeeding rates are but a symptom of the complete LACK of support that new mothers get when they desire a more natural approach to pregnancy and motherhood. Pregnancy and birth here is high-intervention and extremely medicalized when - for the vast majority of women - this is entirely unnecessary. Midwives have lower mortality and morbidity rates (even when adjusted for the fact that they take on only low risk cases), lower c-section rates, higher breastfeeding rates, and cost the province less! They save money across the board - vaginal (hospital or home) deliveries cost less for the system, breastfeeding reduces illnesses in children resulting in less lost work for parents and fewer doctor visits for babies. The province stands to gain SO much from having midwives - there is nothing to lose besides breaking down the old boys' club of costly, interventionist maternal care!</p> <p>Women deserve a choice. Give us a choice. I have to see an obstetrician with my current pregnancy and I can already tell the difference. I feel like I'm being herded in and out of that office like some farm animal, and they treat this as though understanding of the nature of pregnancy is some privileged gift for medical personnel only. This model of care is atrocious, give us a choice, PLEASE!</p>
182.	Sarah McIntosh	Charlottetown, Canada	
183.	Marni fenton	Cornwall, Canada	
184.	Rosemarie Barraza	Los Angeles, CA	
185.	Cora MacIntyre	Montague, Canada	<p>My best friend lives in Ontario and had the opportunity to have a Midwife see her through her pregnancy and deliver her two babies. She received weekly care after her deliveries and enjoyed the closeness that she felt to her midwife. I wish I had the opportunity to have such a great experience here on PEI. I really think it's valuable to have Midwives recognized in our province. It will not only cut down on our OB/GYN's workloads but it will also provide more consistent pre and post-natal care for women.</p>

	Name	From	Comments
186.	Jacintha Deboer	Hampshire, Canada	
187.	Terra Perry	Charlottetown, Canada	
188.	Katrina Durdle	Charlottetown, Canada	
189.	Rachel Vanderknyff	Winsloe, Canada	I recently moved to PEI from B.C. I made sure we didn't move before my son was born because I was scarred of having the same horrible experience that I had with the birth of my daughter. I did my research and felt confident in deciding to try a midwife. I had a wonderful experience in every way possible. I had heard so many horrible birth stories and had one myself with the birth of our daughter in 2007. My labour and home birth with our son in 2009 was so different from the first experience. The midwives provide you with great professional assistance and help you to educate yourself. They provide educational DVD's books and other materials, their time, and the care and support that is so essential for a positive birth experience. I feel a great deal of disappointment in the government of PEI for not allowing Midwives to practice here. This should not be a government's choice but a people's choice.... a mother's choice. We should be given the same choices available in all the other provinces of Canada. I can't believe the government of PEI hasn't already brought in Midwives to help with the shortage of healthcare providers in this province. Doctors and Midwives should work together providing the best healthcare a support that each expectant anticipates and deserves.
190.	Christine Gordon Manley	Cornwall, Canada	I was fortunate enough to have a midwife for the birth of my daughter in Ontario in 2008. Now that I have moved back to PEI, I would very much like to have that option should we decide to have a second child. I had my daughter in a hospital under the supervision of a midwife. My pre- and post-natal care was above and beyond and my team of midwives really made me feel important and valued. Please bring this needed service to PEI. Doctors are overworked; midwives can help.
191.	Rob MacDonald	Charlottetown, Canada	
192.	Raven Nichols	Charlottetown, Canada	
193.	Katalin Lindmayer	Budapest, Hungary	