

# BRINGING BIRTH BACK

Education, advocacy & partnership initiative to increase access to Indigenous Midwifery

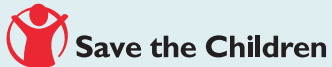
## PROGRAM GOAL

To increase access to Indigenous midwifery to improve the health of Indigenous babies, families and communities.

Transforming the experience of birth is central to intergenerational healing for Indigenous families and infants. Many Indigenous children are born far from their communities and do not receive culturally safe care at birth. Few Indigenous families in Canada have access to culturally safe midwifery care near their home communities.



Feast for International Indigenous Midwives at ICM



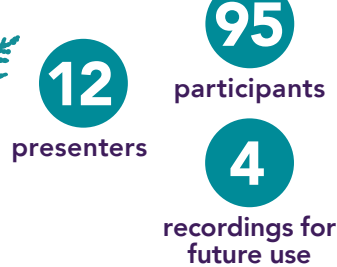
## INSPIRING STEPS

- The Atlantic region now has an Indigenous midwife
- Two community members of Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach went to receive breastfeeding support training and now run a breastfeeding support group
- Alberta Health Services now recognizes the importance of bringing midwifery back to Wood Buffalo Region
- Taykwa Tagamou Nation expanded their sexual health learning through the Native Youth Sexual Health Network's Sexy Health Carnival, in partnership with Ininev Friendship Centre.
- Whapmagoostui First Nation and Kuujuarapik are closing gaps between maternal and perinatal care for Cree and Inuit families.
- University of British Columbia has created an Indigenous Student Coordinator position to increase support for Indigenous midwifery students
- Meetings with Indigenous Services Canada and Minister Jane Philpott and her staff
- Canadian provincial and territorial midwifery associations are reaching out to NACM for advice and to form meaningful collaborations
- Stakeholders across Canada have met through NACM advocacy work and are now working together
- Communities are motivated to integrate the ceremony of birth back to their land and nations, and to restore Indigenous midwives and midwifery as the primary source of reproductive knowledge

## CULTURAL STRENGTH & CULTURAL SAFETY



### WEBINARS



### PILOT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



Six pairs/groups (15 participants) maintained contact by phone, email, text, and social media. Topics included: work-life balance, clinical case reviews, preparing for placement, interprofessional relationships, career planning

## SUSTAINABILITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Steps towards 80 relationships including:



### HEALTH EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

- BREASTFEEDING**
- BODY LITERACY
- BODY SOVEREIGNTY
- BONDING**
- PREGNANCY AND BIRTH
- BABY CARE**
- HEALTHY SEXUALITY