

# Health Care: A Career For Life

## MIDWIFE

### JOB DESCRIPTION

A midwife is a person who has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery in Manitoba. She must be able to give the necessary care and advice to women during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct deliveries on her own responsibility, and to care for the infant and the mother. This care includes preventive measures, the detection of abnormal conditions in the mother and child, accessing medical assistance when necessary and taking emergency measures in the absence of medical help. The midwife will have a mechanism for consultation, referral, continued involvement and collaboration.

The midwife has an important task in health promotion, counselling, and education, not only for the woman but also for the family and the community. Midwifery practice should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood, and extend to certain areas of gynecology, family planning and child care. Midwives practice in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, health units, community health centres, birth centres and homes.

<http://www.midwives.mb.ca/>

Midwives are important for Healthy Mothers and Babies. A healthy pregnancy determines the health of a child. Midwives are leaders in facilitating healthy pregnancies by focusing on all of a woman's needs; from nutrition, activity, relationships, stress, emotions to the issues and concerns of daily living.

A normal birth is ideal for women and babies. When birth is normal, there are fewer interventions, there is less risk of infection, recovery is faster and breastfeeding is easier.

Midwives are integrated into the provincial health care system and work with other doctors, nurses and health professionals when needed to provide appropriate and holistic care. You do not need a referral to access midwifery care.

Manitoba Midwives are employed by Regional Health Authorities and are funded by the provincial government. You do not have to pay to have a midwife.

Manitoba Midwives offer woman the choice to have their baby at home, in the hospital or at a birth centre (where available).

Manitoba Midwives work in clinics and can order and interpret all routine tests and ultrasounds for healthy pregnancies and babies.

Midwives work hard to ensure you are informed and are an active decision maker for your own health care.

<http://midwivesofmanitoba.ca/what-is-a-midwife/>

**SALARY RANGE**  
**\$79,000 - \$93,000**

### **RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL COURSES**

Senior 4, English 40S,  
Math 40S (Pre-Calculus,  
Applied, or Consumer)  
Biology 30S,  
Chemistry 40S or Physics  
40S  
Home Economics/Family  
Studies.

**MB's Healthcare  
Providers Network**  
[www.mhpnetwork.ca](http://www.mhpnetwork.ca)

MB HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS  
**NETWORK**

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## EDUCATION ROUTES

Midwifery education usually takes 4 to 5 years of full time study and training. The programs in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and BC are University Baccalaureate degree programs. Midwifery education in Canada is direct entry; previous health care training or previous degrees are not required.

## EDUCATION IN CANADA

College of Midwives of Manitoba

<http://www.midwives.mb.ca/>

College of Midwives of British Columbia

<http://www.cmbc.bc.ca/>

College of Midwives of Alberta

[www.albertamidwives.org](http://www.albertamidwives.org)

Saskatchewan College of Midwives

<http://www.saskmidwives.ca/>

College of Midwives of Ontario

<http://www.cmo.on.ca/>

Ordre des sage-femmes du Quebec

<http://www.osfq.org/?lang=en>

## LINKS

The Canadian Association of Midwives

<http://www.canadianmidwives.org>

Canadian Midwifery Regulators Consortium

<http://www.cmrc-ccosf.ca>

Aboriginal Midwifery Education Program

<http://www.apps.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/phctf-fassp.nsf/WebProject/0060?OpenDocument&lang=eng&>

The International Confederation of Midwives

<http://www.internationalmidwives.org>

Midwives Association of Manitoba

<http://midwivesofmanitoba.ca/>

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