

## Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.

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Women's Health Clinic  
A-419 Graham Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB.  
R3C 0M3

To Whom it May Concern:

The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba supports the Women's Health Clinic's proposal for a community based maternity and birth centre in Winnipeg. This is a proposal that has been very much directed by the community, birthing women and their families and service providers. The vision is an holistic one and will offer women options that currently don't exist in Winnipeg. The research that was done to prepare this proposal included looking at models from other countries, such as the UK, where such birthing centres are very much supported and have been in existence now for several years.

We feel this proposal is well developed, has included an extensive community consultation, and will result in a much needed facility to meet the needs of birthing women, including pre and post natal care. It will provide an out-of-hospital facility for low-risk, midwifery-attended birth. The Centre will be a safe and efficient addition to the health care services system if operated with a carefully selected population, and an integrated collaborative maternity care program.

The proposal notes the need for using the site as well for professional education and training. More midwives are needed in Manitoba, and the Centre could be a place where some of the skills could be taught and practiced. The concept of co locating a family practice clinic, possibly in conjunction with the University of Manitoba's Department of Family Medicine will assist with building collaboration with the existing medical community.

We appreciate the inclusion of the targets of 50% of the midwifery clients to be from the designated target populations (single, adolescents, immigrants/newcomers, Aboriginal, socially isolated, poor and others at-risk). This will give these babies a healthy start in life, and needed supports to mothers.

The Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc. has several resolutions supporting gender sensitive health care, and midwifery services (including midwifery education).

We support this proposal by the Women's Health Clinic and urge the government to look at the next step of implementation.

Sincerely,

Mary Scott  
President

Provincial Council of Women of Manitoba, Inc.  
Honourary Patroness Her Honour, Ms Lenore Berscheid  
In Federation with the National Council of Women of Canada [www.ncwc.ca](http://www.ncwc.ca)