

Midwifery comes to universities

by Lilac Cana and Clive Thompson
 Canadian University Press

Ontario will be the first Canadian province to offer a bachelor's degree in Midwifery.

Colleges and Universities Minister Richard Allen said universities that educate health professionals will be asked to develop proposals for the bachelor's program. Joint or multi-site programs will be encouraged to respond to the diverse needs and challenges of Ontario's population. The program is expected to start in 1993.

According to Elaine Hykawy, health ministry university relations executive, there are ten institutions considered in the implementation of the program.

"These are universities which currently have either med-schools, nursing degrees or other health science programs," Hykawy said.

York University, having no such programs, has not been included in these developments.

Meanwhile, a program will be created through Toronto's Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences to integrate Ontario's practiced midwives into the health care system. The Institute will assess their clinical skills and knowledge and provide upgrading for those who need only a short time to meet the new provincial standards.

"One-year pre-registry courses will be offered, starting in 1992, for current practicing midwives (already around 50 to 60 in Ontario right now), said Hykawy.

Helen McDonald, midwifery coordinator for the Ministry of Health and a midwife, said regulating the profession will give midwives a sense of security.

"People who are practicing as midwives in Ontario are those who have formal midwife education from another country or are self-taught, either entirely by themselves or in the apprenticeship of another midwife. The education standards are extremely uneven," she said.

Approximately 3,000 women a year in Ontario use midwives to de-

liver their babies, and many of them are home births, she added.

"Regulation will provide choice of care-giver and increase the range of places of birth," she said.

The proposed bachelor's program, according to Elaine Hykawy, will allow students with high school degrees and anyone with prior relevant education and experience (including nurses and physiotherapists) to apply for admission.

An external panel composed of educators, recognized experts in midwifery, health practitioners and consumers will review proposals from the 10 universities, and a decision on the location of the program will be made next week.

McDonald said she expects the program will start out small, graduating between 30 and 40 students a year.

"I anticipate that people who are interested in this program will be those that have been interested in midwifery for a long time," she said.

But what concerns Hana El-Alfy, coordinator at the York Women's Centre, is that during the process of legalization, not everyone would be easily streamlined into the new system. "There are large communities - for example those of Native women who have always practiced [midwifery] without 'formal' training, and who have not always had the opportunities nor the inclination to pursue traditional education. If licensing would be required in the future, everyone concerned should have access to the training involved, including those who are situated in areas outside the universities, and those who may need financial assistance," El-Alfy said. She also added that overall, the program "makes a lot of sense. It would give women who prefer to have more natural childbirths a greater element of choice."

The practice of midwifery spans through the centuries, and has been legalized in most of Europe, and in Australia and New Zealand. In Canada, the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia are expected to follow Ontario in re-introducing midwifery into their health care systems, Elaine Hykawy said.

Proposal concerns Native women

by Clive Thompson
 Canadian University Press

Toronto — The Ontario government's proposal to regulate midwifery is alarming native midwives, who say the plan will erode their control over a cornerstone of native culture.

The province is developing legislation to make midwifery a certified, self-regulating profession taught at a university.

Government officials say the legislation will give women an alternative to standard hospital birth, and ensure health standards are met. Once the Midwifery Act is passed, any uncertified midwives can be criminally charged for delivering babies.

But some native midwives oppose the legislation, saying they don't want to be forced to play by the medical establishment's rules and standards.

"In our culture, birth is a spiritual event involving the whole family," said Carol Terry, an Ojibway woman who has had two children delivered at home by midwives. "It can't just leave our control. Someone once joked that it's the idea that maybe if we're born right maybe we'll get it all right."

Terry is a member of Equay-Wuk, an organization of 33 Ontario native women's groups that has demanded the government exempt native midwives from the legislation.

The proposed health standards could be stiff enough to criminalize native midwives' practices in isolated regions, where there isn't a backup hospital nearby, said Jesse Russell, a Metis woman and policy analyst on native issues for the government.

"If the Ontario government sets standards that say you have to have running water, that would eliminate the midwives at those [isolated] reserves."

Native women are also concerned about the difficulty of transportation and access to the teaching program from the reserves.

The government is consulting native midwives, but hasn't decided how native concerns will be addressed in the Midwifery Act, said Helen

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TRANSCRIPTS

Due to increased production, printing and mailing costs, the price of individual undergraduate transcripts will be \$8.00, effective January 1, 1992.

Orders for transcripts reflecting Spring grades or convocation data will be honoured at the current rate if payment is received by December 20, 1991.

Transcript requests are processed at the Registrar's Office, C130 West Office Building, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Office of the Registrar
 November 1991

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE FACULTY OF ARTS, EDUCATION, FINE ARTS AND SCIENCE

Please note the following changes to the Examination Schedule published October 30, 1991

ADDITIONS

AS/SC/COSC 3121 03A	Wed. Dec. 18/91	8:30am-10:30am	Curtis E
AS/HIST 3710 06A	Thu. Dec. 19/91	12noon-3:00pm	Curtis J
AS/SC/MATH 3241 03A	Wed. Dec. 18/91	8:30am-10:30am	Curtis E
AS/PHED 4010 03A (Lab)	Tue. Dec. 10/91	3:30pm-5:30pm	Stedman A
ED/CMYR 2400 03A, B	Wed. Dec. 18/91	12noon-3:00pm	Tait Upper Gym
FA/THFA 4270A 03	Fri. Dec. 13/91	12noon-3:00pm	Admin Studies 030

CANCELLATIONS

AS/GEOG 3110 06A	Thu. Dec. 19/91	3:30pm-5:30pm	Stedman A, D
AS/HIST 3120 06A	Wed. Dec. 18/91	8:30am-10:30am	Curtis H
AS/HUMA 1110 06A	Thu. Dec. 19/91	12noon-3:00pm	Curtis I
AS/HUMA 2850 06A	Thu. Dec. 12/91	8:30am-10:30am	Curtis B
SC/EATS 1010 03	Mon. Dec. 16/91	12noon-2:00pm	Curtis L

CHANGES

AS/SC/COSC 1020 03A, B, C	Wed. Dec. 11/91	8:30am-11:30am	Tait Upper Gym, Tait 316
AS/SC/COSC 2031 03	Tue. Dec. 10/91	3:30pm-5:30pm	Curtis K
AS/SC/COSC 3121 03A	Wed. Dec. 18/91	8:30am-10:30am	Ross North 203
AS/ECON 1000 03C	Tue. Dec. 10/91	8:30am-11:30am	Curtis I, L
AS/ECON 3140 03B	Tue. Dec. 12/91	12noon-2:00pm	Curtis D
AS/ECON 3140 03C	Thu. Dec. 12/91	12noon-3:00pm	Curtis K
AS/HIST 2100 06A	Tue. Dec. 17/91	12noon-2:00pm	Curtis D, F
AS/SC/MATH 1000 03A, B	Thu. Dec. 12/91	3:30pm-6:30pm	Vanier Dining Hall
AS/SC/MATH 1120 03	Fri. Dec. 20/91	8:30am-11:30am	Tait Upper Gym
A, B, C, D, E			Tait 316, 401
AS/SC/MATH 1300 03	Mon. Dec. 16/91	3:30pm-6:30pm	Tait Upper Gym
B, C, D, E, G, H			Tait 316, 401
AS/SC/PSYC 1010 06N	Wed. Dec. 18/91	8:30am-11:30am	Tait Upper Gym
			Tait 316
AS/SC/PSYC 3140 03	Thu. Dec. 12/91	3:30pm-6:30pm	Curtis B
AS/SOCI 3810 06A, B	Mon. Dec. 16/91	8:30am-11:30am	Tait Upper Gym
			Tait 316, 401
AS/SOSC 2310 06A	Tue. Dec. 17/91	3:30pm-6:30pm	Tait Upper Gym
			Tait 316, 401
FA/VISA 3560 03	Tue. Dec. 10/91	9:30am-11:30am	Ross South 201
SC/BIOI 1010 06	Thu. Dec. 19/91	8:30am-10:30am	Tait Upper Gym
			Tait 316, 401
SC/CHEM 1010 06 (LAB)	Thu. Dec. 12/91	12noon-1:00pm	Curtis I, L, F
SC/CHEM 4020 03	Fri. Dec. 13/91	12noon-3:00pm	Ross North 203
SC/COSC 4111 03	Tue. Dec. 10/91	12noon-2:00pm	Petrie 312A
SC/NATS 1610 06	Thu. Dec. 19/91	3:30pm-5:30pm	Tait Upper Gym
			Tait 316, 401
SC/PHYS 1410 06	Tue. Dec. 17/91	8:30am-10:30am	Tait Upper Gym
			Tait 316, 401