

July 4, 2023

Melissa Sheehy-Richard, MLA  
Chair, Standing Committee on Community Services  
c/o Tamer Nusseibeh, Legislative Committee Office  
1700 Granville St.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, One Government Place  
P.O. Box 1617  
Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Dear Ms. Melissa Sheehy-Richard,

I am responding to correspondence dated May 30, 2023, from the Legislative Committee Clerk for the Standing Committee on Community Services. The Committee requested the Department of Health and Wellness provide a response to the following inquiries. Please find below the Department's responses.

Q1. MLA Maguire inquired about the time frame of the feasibility study.

A1. Nova Scotia is collaborating with New Brunswick (NB) and Prince Edward Island (PEI) in a Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) led contracted service, to conduct a feasibility study that will explore the fiscal sustainability of a midwifery education program in Atlantic Canada. The contract for the feasibility study has been awarded and the estimated timeline is six months to completion.

Q2. MLA Maguire asked for the number of midwives hired in the past two years.

A2. In the last two years, there have been eight midwives hired at IWK and Nova Scotia Health. IWK has hired three midwives and Nova Scotia Health has hired five midwives.

Q3. MLA Maguire asked how many midwives are needed to provide midwifery services to the 173 pregnant women who requested to services and did not receive it (inquiry amended as per clarification email to Tamer Nusseibeh on June 1, 2023).

A3. It is estimated that an additional 5.5 FTE would be required to address the current IWK waitlist of 173 pregnant women.

Q4. MLA Clark asked for the overall budget of the midwifery program.

A4. The overall budget for the midwifery program at the IWK and NSH is outlined in the table below:

| <b>Fiscal Year</b> | <b>Budget</b> |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 2019/20            | \$1,635,200   |
| 2020/21            | \$2,347,200   |
| 2021/22            | \$2,347,200   |
| 2022/23            | \$2,347,200   |
| 2023/24            | \$2,347,200   |

Q5. MLA Leblanc inquired why Nova Scotia no longer took the lead on the feasibility study.

A5. To simplify logistics, Newfoundland and Labrador agreed to solely fund the feasibility study and Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island are contributing in-kind resources.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Tanya Penney  
Senior Executive Director, Clinical  
Department of Health and Wellness