

Welcome to Nunavik!

Urgent request for midwives

Inukjuak: July 2010

August 2010

Oct 2-11th 2010

mid-December to mid-January 2010/11

Salluit: September 1st – November 9th 2010

December 7th - January 12th 2010/11

PUV: September 2010 & October 2010

2 or more weeks

Inuulitsivik is still looking for:

- a) Experienced midwives to serve on a regular rotating team of mentor/instructor midwives for each of its 3 maternity sites.**

We hope to establish 3 teams, each consisting of 3-5 midwives who can commit to giving 2-6 months per year for the next two to three years in one of the three village maternities. This is to provide improved continuity and to expand our midwifery education program. These midwives will be expected to serve as mentor/instructors to the student midwives. They will communicate with each other throughout the year on the progress of each student, submit reports, and, together with the local midwives, continue to develop the education program according to the ongoing needs of the students and their communities.

- b) Replacement midwives (approximately 4 to 8 week intervals) for all three villages maternities beginning January 2010.**

These midwives will replace both local and southern midwifery staff who are on leave. They will be expected to fully participate in the functioning of the maternity in which they work, and, according to their experience, to participate in the ongoing education of students and staff.

Minimum Requirements:

- An open mind, teaching skills and a capacity to listen are a must
- A good working ability in English (the second language of the local staff)
Ability to speak and write French is an asset
- Registration with the OSFQ- new reciprocity and payment agreements are available for midwives registered in provinces outside of Quebec
- Current Obstetric Emergency Skills (ESW, ALSO, ALARM, or MORE)
- Updated Neonatal Resuscitation certification (including intubation)
- Northern and/or cross-cultural experience is an asset

About Inuulitsivik Maternity :

Nunavik midwives have been providing complete maternity, well-woman and well-baby care to the Inuit communities of the Hudson Bay Coast since 1986. Experienced local midwives and midwifery students provide services in Inuitut. Midwifery education is based on a community-centered apprenticeship model, which strives to combine both traditional and modern ways of knowing and learning. In the fall of 2008, the Quebec Ministry of Health together with the Order of Quebec Midwives (OSFQ) granted recognition to Inuulitsivik's Midwifery Education Program and its traditional learning pathways, offering full licensure to its graduates. Midwives from across Canada, the United States, Greenland, Scandinavia, France, England, Germany, and the Middle East have participated in the education program. The WHO, ICM, CAM, NAHO, and the SOGC have identified Inuulitsivik's combined midwifery service and education program as an appropriate and realistic model for aboriginal and remote communities.

Each village maternity was initiated by and continues to take direction from the people of its community. Prior to the creation of these services, two generations of women were separated from their families and sent to Moose Factory (Ontario) to have their babies with people who did not share their language or cultural background. The effects of these evacuations were devastating not only for the families, but for the entire community. Now, most women on the Hudson Coast give birth to their babies in their own communities, their own culture and language, and with family and friends.

The Inuulitsivik Health Centre Maternity in Puvirnituk has been serving women and families for over twenty three years. It is located in a wing of the Health Centre and serves its own village population and that of the smaller villages that do not yet have midwives. Puvirnituk midwives also receive and provide care during birth for women whose medical and social situations require additional or more specialized care than can easily be given in the more remote villages. The Inukjuak Maternity opened in 1996, and the maternity in Salluit began training students in 2004. These maternities are located in the CLSC (nursing stations) and serve the women and families of their respective villages. Women who have a normal pregnancy and birth history have the opportunity to stay in their village to have their babies.

The reality of a remote northern region requires a larger scope of practice in both emergency care and community health than in southern midwifery practices. Midwives work in collaboration with medical and nursing staff and community service workers.

Working in the North is both challenging and rewarding. It is an opportunity to support the Inuit community in their efforts to regain autonomy for defining health and health care, and to reclaim birth as a normal and important community event.

If you are interested and available, please contact us!

For information or to send your CV, contact:

Catherine Mason - catmason@gmail.com - 514-273-4846