

RM Advisory Committee of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC)

Report submitted by Gisela Becker RM, MA

The objective of the Committee is to provide a forum in which Associate Midwife Members of the SOGC can express opinions and make recommendations pertaining to issues affecting midwifery and maternity practice across the country. The committee is involved in a variety of topics pertaining maternity care and midwifery practice, including midwifery participation at the SOGC Annual Clinical Meetings; midwifery contributions to the SOGC Newsletter and other topics concerning midwifery in Canada. The Committee also promotes the profession of midwifery to physicians, medical students, other associate members and the community at large which enhances integration and communication between the health disciplines.

Dr. Eileen Hutton, RM became the first registered midwife to sit as an associate member of the SOGC Council in 2001. Ms. Hutton was elected by the midwife membership of the SOGC which had grown to greater than 50 associate midwife members. The SOGC RM Advisory Committee was formed and chaired by Ms. Eileen Hutton. Members were recruited from the midwife members of the SOGC across the country and terms of reference were developed and adopted. Most recently Ms. Kim Campbell has become chair of the committee and has replaced past chair Ms. Michelle Kryzanasuskas. Ms. Sylvie Paquette is the coordinator of the SOGC RM Advisory Committee.

The Registered Midwife Advisory Committee is made up of one (1) representative from each of the five (5) SOGC Regions (including West, Central, Ontario, Québec and Atlantic), a Canadian Association of Midwives appointed board delegate, a midwife representing the North and a chair whom is elected by the Associate Midwife Membership. There is also the provision for an ex-officio member representative for the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Consortium (CMRC) and the Canadian Association of Midwifery Educators (CAME).

The Committee provides a forum for midwives within the SOGC. The Chair of the committee holds a position on SOGC Council. The CAM board representative on the committee is appointed by the CAM board and has a liaison role between the committee and CAM. Most recently Ms. Gisela Becker who was the CAM representative for the past two years has been replaced by Ms. Emmanuelle Hébert who is the new CAM board delegate and Quebec representative. CAM members are encouraged to share their ideas and concerns with CAM and the CAM board representative.