

– MRCNS Council Meeting –
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 18, 2025; 12:00pm-2:00pm (Atlantic)
ONLINE

MRCNS Council Members in Attendance:

T. Crawford RN, Acting Chair	M. Lamson RM
J.K. Wallace, Treasurer	P. Anderson
J. Kearns	A. Houstoun MD

Staff in Attendance:

J. Wright, Registrar/ED	J. Neil, Executive Assistant
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Guests:

Debi Peverill

Regrets:

T. Pickart RM

0. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions (no attachment) (T.Crawford)

The meeting was called to order by T.Crawford at 12:01 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda (ATCH 1) (T.Crawford)

T. Crawford offered a motion to approve the agenda with edits to reorder the topic items for Debi Peverill to present immediately following approval.

Moved by: A.Houstoun **Seconded by:** P.Anderson

No objections. **Approved.**

2. Financial Update (ATCH 4) (T.Crawford)

Debi Peverill presented a revised draft of the 2024-25 financial audit following a recent NS government decision that affects funding for MRCNS.

The newly amended funding agreement with the province of Nova Scotia states that any portion of the grant used to pay a 30K legal retainer to McInnis Cooper for fees related to amalgamation by the Council can be designated as a reserve account to carry out regulatory processes or to respond to legal proceedings. Therefore the Council has designated \$62,324 for 2025 (2024 \$25,000) as the legal and regulatory fund.

D.Peverill also noted that for 2026 we will need to make a note regarding the spending of the fund next year and revision of the financial audit.

T.Crawford offered a motion to approve the revised financial audit as presented by D.Peverill.

Moved by: P.Anderson **Seconded by:** A.Houstoun

No objections. **Approved.**

ACTION: Re-issue the 2024 MRCNS Annual Report with the approved revised financial summary.

3. Approval of July 29, 2025 MRCNS Council Meeting Minutes (ATCH 2) (T.Crawford)

Council reviewed the minutes from the July 29, 2025 Council meeting. Our last meeting on Sept 16, 2026 did not meet quorum and therefore the approval was tabled until this meeting.

T.Crawford offered a motion to approve the last meeting minutes as presented.

Moved by: P.Anderson **Seconded by:** J.Kearns

No objections. **Approved.**

4. Correspondence (ATCH 3) (J.Wright)

Council reviewed a letter received from Kathleen DeCoste at Health and Human Resources regarding the newly amended funding agreement with the province of Nova Scotia. The letter was addressed by Debi Peverill during her financial update and presentation of the revised audit.

5. Committee Updates

None.

6. Old Business

None.

7. New Business (J.Wright)

Legislative Language / DHW Survey

J.Wright confirmed that MRCNS will not write the final legislative language, the government of Nova Scotia will. The survey for profession specific regulation proposals must be returned by November 24, 2025. The DHW survey basically asks what does the regulator want included or excluded, and why. J.Wright presented the responses for MRCNS which included the removal of lists, scope, license classifications, etc as has been previously discussed.

The new classes of licensing under RHPA will be: (1) Practising or (2) Conditional.

All of our current subcategories (such as “non-clinical”, “non-practising”) would be considered “Conditional” under the new Act.

There was some discussion and clarification around private practice confirming the responsibilities of registered midwives working in alternative arrangements versus responsibilities of “the setting”.

Future state goals for Indigenous midwives and possible pathways to registration have also been part of discussions, with J.Wright raising the subject at every opportunity.

Bylaws will be written by MacInnes Cooper once we submit what we want. We have been told that the Bylaws under RHPA will be substantial in comparison to under our current *Midwifery Act*. This sounds daunting but the Board will have more power to adapt in the future under this structure without requiring government approval or legislative changes. Council discussed the responses so far for MRCNS and are satisfied with the leadership J.Wright is taking to ensure midwives are positioned well.

8. Strategic Direction Update: Monitoring and Oversight (J.Wright)

Update on Amalgamation with NSCN

J.Wright informed the Council that job descriptions for MRCNS staff who will be offered employment with the new multi-profession regulator have been discussed with Doug Bungay (CEO of NSCN). Currently, there is an expectation that J.Wright will move into a senior leadership role with a focus on midwifery, while J.Neil would join the project management team with a focus on integrating midwifery operations into current NSCN systems. Funding for both roles has been ongoing, but we do not anticipate any issues.

J.Wright has already begun attending senior leadership meetings regularly and this shall continue until new roles are established under the new regulator.

With regards to funding the new multi-profession regulator, NSCN and MRCNS have submitted a proposal to DHW with diminishing funding support year-over-year for the first 5 years. No response has been received for DHW at the time of this meeting.

A few of the challenges identified that will have a direct impact on our registrants and require careful consideration during amalgamation is:

- the alignment of the licensing year with the Nurses (for registration & renewal), and
- the billing of HST for professional licensing fees.

Currently, MRCNS does not charge, collect or remit HST due to the small number of registrants and the NSCN licensing year begins in October while MRCNS is April 1st.

J.Kearns requested access to a communication plan from NSCN to understand the transition better as a public member.

Scheduling of 2026 Council Meeting Schedule

The Council determined meeting dates for the first two quarters of 2026:

- Tuesday, February 10, 2026 - 1:00pm-4:00pm
- Tuesday, April 28, 2026 - 1:00pm-4:00pm

Other meetings may be scheduled in response to activities related to amalgamation with NSCN (ex. Dissolution of this Council) and the planned launch of the new multi-profession regulator in June 2026 with a new Board.

9. Executive Director / Registrar Update (J.Wright)

J.Wright provided an update following the annual CMRC meeting in-person which took place Oct 22-23, 2025 in Calgary, AB. Many issues and initiatives were discussed at the meeting amongst provincial regulators. The top concern across Canada is retention of the midwifery workforce. It has been shared that many midwives who enter the profession are not staying beyond 5 years. There could be a number of factors contributing to this trend. M.Lamson spoke to this topic, relating personal experiences of colleagues that have chosen to leave midwifery.

One full day was dedicated to strategic planning for the CMRC, and was facilitated by a third party. The organization is now being led by a new executive director, Jamie Robinson. Jamie is enthusiastic about the role and is looking forward to obtaining further funding that can be put towards research regarding “the state of midwifery” in Canada, the CMRE (exam) and other projects that could benefit the CMRC.

There was also some discussion and agreement about improving the branding of CMRC and other ways to exercise our expertise in a way that can impact public policy.

10. Scheduled Policy Review (T.Crawford)

The following policies were reviewed and discussed by the Council as per the review schedule:

POLICY: QA Program for Midwives

J.Wright is working with D.Bungay from NSCN to consider options to update the QA Program with pooled resources and research. This factor may push any potential changes to after amalgamation. Discussion is ongoing.

POLICY: Clinical Experience Requirements

At the request of Council, J.Wright conducted an audit with other Canadian jurisdictions to compare clinical experience requirements. The requirements are very different from province to province. There does not appear to be consensus on best practice.

At our July meeting, it was suggested we reduce our current 5 year requirement to 3 years. This adjustment would then match the term of our QA Program. It should be noted that Ontario has changed from a 3 year to a 2 year period. J.Wright continues to research and have discussions with predominantly BC and ON Registrars.

The goal of the Council is to revise this policy to be flexible but robust. While considering making changes to the [Clinical Experience Requirements](#), Council should also consider that this relates to another policy, [Clinical Experience Shortfalls](#).

No decision has been made at this time.

POLICY: Definition of “Postpartum”

The Council approved a draft policy to interpret the definition of “postpartum” as it applies to the existing *Midwifery Act*.

The clarification of this definition was necessary for several reasons:

1. To address the ambiguity and inconsistencies arising from the current interpretations of the term “postpartum”.
2. To address the ambiguity and inconsistencies arising the current interpretation of the word ‘baby’ in the Act.
3. To provide essential flexibility and support evidence-based midwifery practice.
4. To ensure a smooth and consistent transition to the new scope of practice, which expands care up to 12 months post-birth.

Interpretation of “post-partum period” as contained in Section 2(h)(i) (ii) of the *Midwifery Act*, shall be the period of time ranging up to 12 months following birth.

The Council interprets the word baby contained in Section 2(h)(i) (i) of the *Act* as: an infant, a child under the age of 1 year; more specifically, a newborn baby.

T.Crawford offered a motion to approve the [Policy For Interpretation Of “Postpartum”](#) as presented.

Moved by: P.Anderson **Seconded by:** A.Houstoun

No objections. **Approved.**

ACTION: Post PDF of approved policy to mrcns.ca under Resource Library / [Policies](#) as well as [Useful Tools and Guides for Midwives](#)

11. Other (T.Crawford)

12. Closing (T.Crawford)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.