

– MRCNS Council Meeting –
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 19, 2024; 1:00pm-3:00pm (Atlantic)
ONLINE

MRCNS Council Members in Attendance:

T. Pickart RM, Chair	P. Anderson
T. Crawford RN, Vice-Chair	M. Lamson RM
J.K. Wallace, Treasurer	
A. Houstoun MD	

Regrets:

J. Kearns

Staff in Attendance:

J. Wright, Registrar/ED	J. Neil, Executive Assistant
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0. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions (no attachment) (T.Pickart)

The meeting was called to order by T.Pickart, at 1:05 p.m.

The Chair, T.Pickart welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mianh Lamson, our newest board member was introduced to the other Council Members. Each Council member gave a short introduction regarding their role, career and council experience so that M.Lamson could have a better understanding of her new colleagues.

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

P.Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

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

No objections. **Approved.**

2. Approval of September 17, 2024 MRCNS Council Meeting Minutes (ATCH 2) (T.Pickart)

Members reviewed the minutes from the Sept 17, 2024 Council meeting.

A.Houstoun made a motion to approve the minutes as presented / with edits.

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

No objections. **Approved.**

3. Financial Update (J.Wright)

J.Wright continues to submit monthly reports to the Executive Ctee. All financial statements are in order.

The government was late submitting their second installment of funding but the issue has been resolved.

4. QA Survey Pilot Update (J.Wright)

The government issued MRCNS \$10,000 to fund the pilot survey. We hired Matt Lafond to assist.

Responses were submitted to government by M. Lafond on behalf of MRCNS on Oct 31, 2024.

MRCNS was compliant in many categories, or in many cases, items will be addressed during/after amalgamation as a new regulatory body. The Council should be proud of the results of our survey, especially for a small regulatory body.

The government may issue a report of the results, which will be shared with the Council in the future upon receipt. No actions are expected to arise from the survey, regardless of the results.

5. Abortion Pill / Delegation Policy (J.Wright)

Motion (1. P.Anderson) and (2. A.Houstoun) is on the table (sent via email on October 30, 2024), and the discussion was continued in-person. There was opportunity for questions and comments, but ultimately there was agreement to approve the new policy.

Midwives will be informed so that they can start to take the required training as soon as possible.

Motion 1: The MRCNS approves the new policy on ***POLICY ON PRESCRIBING, ORDERING AND ADMINISTERING MIFEPRISTONE/MISOPROSTOL UNDER DELEGATION*** with edits to add or “Equivalent Course Approved by the Council” under the current MRCNS Approved Certifications section.

Moved by: P.Anderson **Seconded by:** A.Houstoun
Unanimous. No objections. **Approved.**

Action: J. Neil to post the new policy on our website under the Resource Library section. J.Wright will inform the registrants via email and in our next newsletter.

6. What is a “Normal” pregnancy? (J.Wright)

J.Wright led a discussion with the Council referencing the CMRC audit of definitions for a “normal” pregnancy from other provinces and territories.

MRCNS does not currently have a definition in the *Midwifery Act*. A definition of normal can clarify roles between midwives and physicians/consultants. This helps the public, healthcare providers and midwives understand their scope and will be relevant as we develop regulations/bylaws under the new RHPA.

- The Council agrees to consider a formal definition of “normal pregnancy”
- Suggestion is to adopt Ontario’s definition, in part or in whole.

Action: J.Wright will draft a definition of “normal” pregnancy based on the Ontario model and present to Council.

7. Policy Directives from NS Government (J.Wright)

Pursuant to section 10 of the new *RHPA General Regulations*, the council agrees to adopt

- **Requirements for Sexual Misconduct Standards**

The Council must adopt the policies and J.Wright must write a practice standard to accompany the policy. The deadline is 30 days after Dec 3.

Pursuant to section 9 of the new *RHPA General Regulations*, the council agrees to adopt

- **Minimum Requirements for Mandatory Standard for Maintaining Information on Digital Platform**

The deadline is 6 months following amalgamation, so there is less urgency as issues will be addressed as a single regulatory body.

Action: J.Wright will draft a practice standard to share with the Council for feedback prior to the deadline. We may ask for assistance from Matt Lafond on the matter. Hopefully there is time for public consultation - post to web, etc.

8. CMRC Update (J.Wright)

J.Wright and J.Neil attended the CMRC director’s meeting in Ottawa ON Oct 6-7, 2024. It was a wonderful meeting of ideas and updates from each of the provinces and territories. It should be noted that the Executive Director of CMRC Tracy Murphy, is retiring at the end of the year. The recruitment process to replace her is in progress.

Points of Interest/Discussion from the annual in-person meeting:

- Indigenous Midwifery
- Abortion Pill
- Desire for harmonised Scope of Practice across Provinces and Territories

- Strategic Planning for CMRC (Committee formed, J.Wright is a member)
- Seeking a grant to help fund a study of International Standards for Midwife Accreditation

J.Wright also provided an update on the status of amalgamation with the College of Nursing. The NSCN board has been preoccupied with the recruitment process to replace outgoing CEO Sue Smith. Bradley Cooper has been hired as a consultant to assist with the amalgamation process.

9. Confirm 2025 Quarterly Meeting Schedule (T.Pickart)

The Council agrees to maintain a minimum of 4 meetings per year.

- 3rd Tuesday - Feb, May, Sept, Nov
- Length: 2 hours - 1:00-3:00pm

The Council has agreed to the 2025 quarterly meeting schedule:

- Tue February 18, 2024 (This meeting may be hybrid, and joined by NSCN Board members)
- Tue May 20, 2024
- Tue September 16, 2024
- Tue November 18, 2024

Action: J. Neil will email Google Calendar invites to all Council members for 2025 meeting dates.

10. Other (T.Pickart)

There was no other business to discuss at this time.

11. Closing (T.Pickart)

The meeting was adjourned early at 2:20pm by the Chair, T.Pickart.

Important Dates to Remember:

- December 25, 2024 - Christmas Day
- January 1, 2025 - New Year's Day
- February 1, 2025 - Licence Renewal Opens for 2025-26