NEWS RELEASE – IAESC and the College of Midwives of Ontario Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Rama First Nation, ON – November 2, 2026

The Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council (IAESC) and the College of Midwives of Ontario (College) are proud to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

This MOU signifies a shared commitment to advancing Indigenous education, specifically the development and delivery of Indigenous Midwifery degree programs for Indigenous Institutes. In Ontario, Indigenous midwives are exempt from the requirement to be registered with the College to practice midwifery. Nevertheless, this marks an important milestone in Indigenous education, as this creates a new opportunity for IAESC and the College to work in collaboration to create mutually beneficial practices for Indigenous quality assurance processes for Indigenous Midwifery programs. These practices and processes will encompass Indigenous epistemologies, spiritual beliefs, languages, and cultures. More importantly, establishes a direct pathway to registration in Ontario for graduates of Indigenous midwifery education programs who choose to become registered and practice outside the scope of the exemption.

With this opportunity, both IAESC and the College remain committed to the promotion and maintenance of Indigenous cultural and intellectual property, and the retention and advancement of traditional knowledge and practices, as it relates to Indigenous Midwifery education.

"We extend our gratitude to the College of Midwives of Ontario for their commitment to advancing Indigenous postsecondary education. This meaningful partnership creates a new pathway for Indigenous learners and future Indigenous midwifery professionals. Indigenous midwifery programs play a vital role in preserving traditional midwifery practices, increasing access to culturally grounded midwifery care, and supporting the revitalization of midwifery in community. We hope that this partnership positively impacts Indigenous learners and communities for generations to come."

Lora Tisi
Board Chair, IAESC

"The College of Midwives of Ontario recognizes the valuable contributions Indigenous midwives make to the profession. We are proud to take another step towards ensuring Indigenous midwives have a pathway to College registration, should they choose to work as registered midwives in Ontario."

Kelly Dobbin
Registrar and CEO, College of Midwives of Ontario

The College is the regulatory body mandated to regulate the practice of midwifery in Ontario, as established by the *Regulated Health Professionals Act, 1991* and the *Midwifery Act, 1991*. The College is responsible for establishing registration requirements, setting standards of practice in the public interest, and ensuring that only those who meet the legislative requirements for registration are authorized to practice midwifery.

For additional information or media inquiries, please contact communications@iaesc.ca. Indigenous Institutes interested in the development of an Indigenous Midwifery program are encouraged to contact qa@iaesc.ca.