



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New partnership with Quinte Midwives announced

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tuesday, February 16, 2016—Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is pleased to welcome Quinte Midwives to its maternal/child care team.

One of several local midwifery groups active at NHH, the new relationship with the Quinte-based practice is expected to further broaden midwifery options for women living immediately east of NHH.

Close to 500 babies were welcomed at NHH in the last fiscal year (2014/15). Midwifery is an important part of the care provided by the hospital's interdisciplinary team which includes midwives, family physicians, obstetricians, anesthesiologists, registered nurses and allied health professionals.

NHH's maternal/child care suite is equipped with six labour and delivery beds, each in their own private and home-like suite, a Caesarean-section operating room and advanced fetal and patient monitoring. A baby safety system provides 24-hour security following the baby's birth, while a prenatal admission clinic helps mothers-to-be and their families become acquainted with the hospital and their health care team before baby's arrival.

Liza Van De Hoef, one of three Quinte Midwives now practicing at NHH, confirmed that many of her clients in communities east of NHH have been looking forward to the opportunity to access in-hospital midwifery care at the hospital.

"Campbellford, Warkworth, Brighton, Hastings, Colborne, Wooler... these are just some of the communities where we expect women to most benefit from this new relationship," said Van De Hoef. "They want to select a local midwife as their primary caregiver for their baby's birth. Some prefer to deliver in their home, but most—approximately 75 per cent of our clients—either by request or for clinical reasons, prefer a hospital birth, which provides the added security of delivering in a health care setting, should there be any complications. We're really excited about the opportunity to support these women with the fantastic team here at NHH."

"We are very pleased to welcome Quinte Midwives to our NHH team," said Helen Brenner, NHH's Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Executive. "Midwives have been an integral part of the NHH team for over a decade. We are very proud of our patient-centred approach to child birth and we look forward to working with Quinte Midwives and all our partners to further grow this important service for our community."

No physician referral is required to access the care of a midwife in Ontario, but arrangements must be made directly with the care practitioner and as early in the pregnancy as possible.

For more information on midwifery in Ontario or Quinte Midwives please see the related links below.

Related links:

For more information on midwifery in Ontario, see the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website at: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/midwife/>

For information on Quinte Midwives, including contact details, see their website at: <http://quintemidwives.ca/>

For details on NHH's maternal/child care program, see the hospital's website at: <http://www.nhh.ca/Patients/PatientCareServices/AcuteCare/MaternalChildCare.aspx>

Media contact: Jennifer Gillard, jgillard@nhh.ca or 905-377-7757.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, NHH delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, obstetrical care and palliative care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care and rehabilitation. Mental health care, chemotherapy, dialysis and 16 other ambulatory care clinics are offered on an outpatient basis through partnerships with regional centres and nearby specialists. NHH offers a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and mammography. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs approximately 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

- END -