

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2011

**THE BOUCHER INSTITUTE OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE TO OFFER
CANADA'S FIRST NATUROPATHIC MIDWIFERY PROGRAM**

NEW WESTMINSTER--The Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine is excited to announce our commitment to offer Canada's first naturopathic midwifery program beginning in the fall of 2011.

Chair of Women's and Children's Health at the Boucher Institute, Dr. Cathy Carlson-Rink, has begun development of individual certificate courses in naturopathic therapeutics in obstetrics, gynaecology and paediatrics. These certificate credits will be applied to the completion of the comprehensive midwifery program when accreditation is achieved.

The first of these certificate courses is scheduled to be offered in the fall of 2011.

"We are thrilled to be moving forward with this initiative," said Boucher Institute President, Dr. Patricia Wolfe. "Helping women to naturally prepare for and accomplish childbirth, and supporting them as new mothers to make the best health choices for themselves and their babies, is a profound and effective way to promote wellness extending into the next generation."

The development of this important post-graduate program holds to the Boucher Institute's firm commitment to advance naturopathic knowledge and skills. Midwifery is an intrinsically holistic practice, combining an understanding of the physical, emotional, environmental, social and cultural aspects of a woman's reproductive health experience. Much like naturopathic medicine, midwifery is collaborative by nature and promotes health and wellness among women, babies and families.

The regulated practice of midwifery in British Columbia is relatively new, with the first group of midwives receiving registration through the **College of Midwives of British Columbia** in 1998.

According to the Midwives Association of B.C. (the professional body representing midwives and the practice of midwifery in British Columbia), there are now 200 registered midwives in B.C. who deliver 10 per cent of the roughly 40,000 babies born in the province each year.

Keeping in line with our educational philosophy and organizational values, we intend to employ a collaborative approach to providing this program and welcome inquiries from both interested partners and prospective students.

For more information on this exciting program, please contact the Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine's Continuing Education Department at **ceinfo@binm.org** (attn: Dr. Carlson-Rink).
