

Midwives

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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Midwives [NOC 2021: 31303/ NOC 2016: 3124]

Midwives may also be called:

- Nurse-Midwife
- Licensed midwife
- Registered midwife
- Childbirth assistant

1. What Would I Do?

Midwives provide full-course care to women and their babies during the pre- and post-natal period.

As a midwife, your duties can include:

- provide primary, full-course care to women and their babies during pregnancy, labour, birth and the post-natal period including monitoring the health of mother and baby
- provide advice to the mother on diet, exercise and breastfeeding
- manage labour and spontaneous normal deliveries
- care for, assess and monitor the health of newborns and refer infants to appropriate medical services as required
- provide advice and guidance regarding care for newborns and young infants

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile** for nurse practitioners, physician assistants and **midwives**
<https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/allied-primary-health-practitioners>
- **Midwifery as a Career, Midwives Association of BC**
<https://www.bcmidwives.com/midwifery-a-career.html>
- **Career Cruising** database (Profile for 'Midwife')
Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising>

2. Am I Suited For This Job?

Midwives should be:

- *caring and compassionate*
- *decisive*
- *good with people*

You should have:

- *good physical stamina as the work can be physically and mentally tiring*
- *good judgement*

Midwives work long hours with irregular schedules that can disrupt personal plans. You must ensure that you provide call coverage 24 hours a day 7 days a week. This may mean very long periods of time providing care with little time off.

You may conduct prenatal visits in client's homes and hospitals. This can include a great deal of local travel.

Sources:

- *WorkBC Career Profile & Career Cruising*

3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

In British Columbia, the median annual salary for allied primary health practitioners (including midwives) is \$95,458.

Midwives are independent contractors and must establish and maintain their own community practices. You assume responsibility for all aspects of running an office including establishing and maintaining the physical clinic space as well as managing employees. According to the Midwives Association of BC, full time midwives earn around \$80,000-\$90,000 in taxable income after expenses.

Sources:

- WorkBC Career Profile
- Midwives Association of BC

4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

There are 394 registered midwives in British Columbia, responsible for delivering 25% of births in the province. Many regions of the Province report a shortage of qualified midwives.

Allied Primary Health Practitioners [including midwives]

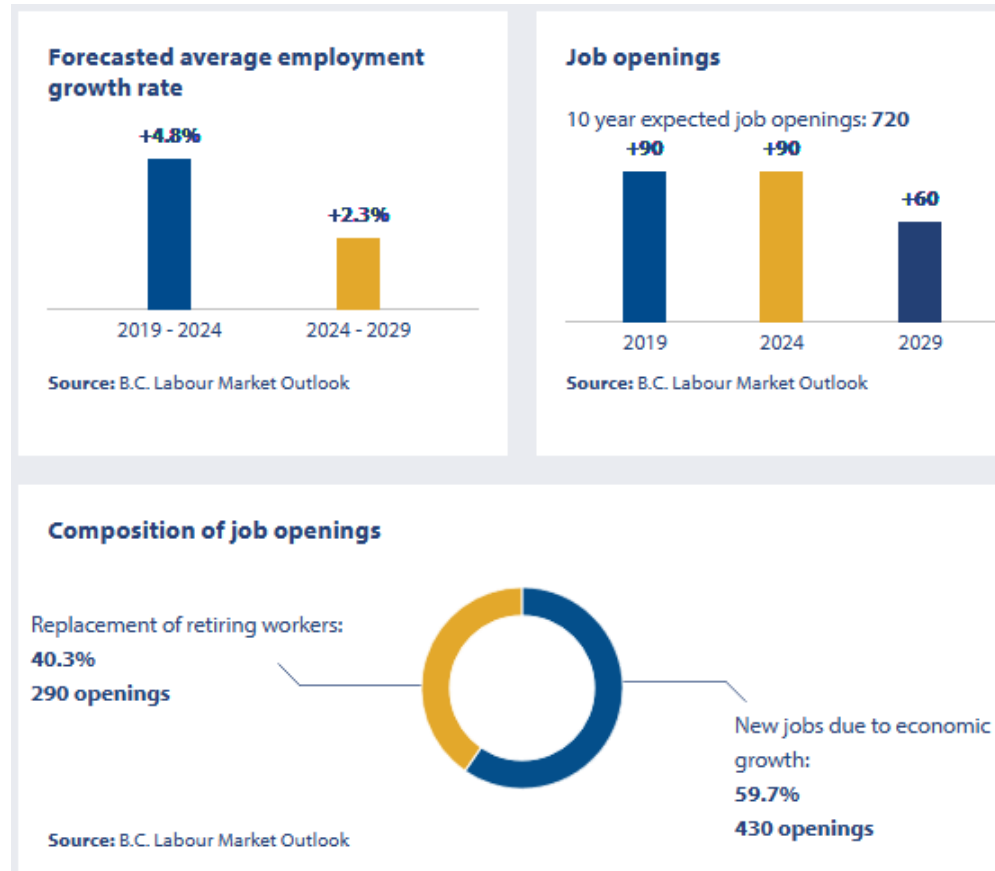


Chart from WorkBC

Sources:

- WorkBC
- Canadian Midwives <https://canadianmidwives.org/about-midwifery/>

5. How do I become a Midwife?

To practice as a midwife in BC, you must be registered with the *British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives of British Columbia* and be a member of the *Midwives Association of BC*.

In order to apply for registration, you must fulfill these requirements:

- graduate from a Midwifery four year full time undergraduate degree program approved by the BC College of Nurses and Midwives
https://www.bccnm.ca/Public/BecomingAMidwife/Pages/study_to_be_a_midwife.aspx
- successfully complete the Canadian Midwifery Registration Examination
<http://cmrc-ccosf.ca/registration-exam>
- complete the BC Jurisprudence Examination

OR

- be currently registered as a Midwife in another Canadian jurisdiction

Internationally educated midwives

All internationally educated midwives who want to practice midwifery in British Columbia must first:

- complete the UBC's Internationally Educated Midwifery Bridging Program
<https://iembp.midwifery.ubc.ca/>
- seek registration with the BC College of Nurses and Midwives

For further information, see:

- **BC College of Nurses and Midwives**
https://www.bccnm.ca/RM/Applications/how_to_apply/Pages/Default.aspx
- **Internationally Educated Applicants**
https://www.bccnm.ca/RM/Applications/how_to_apply/Pages/InternationalEM.aspx
- **Canadian Midwifery Regulatory Council** <http://cmrc-ccosf.ca/node/2>
- **Midwives Association of British Columbia** <https://www.bcmidwives.com>

6. How Do I Find A Job?

Where would I work?

Midwives work in:

- *community health clinics*
- *midwifery clinics located in hospitals*
- *privately owned clinics run by midwives*
- *birth centres: midwife-run health centres that offer a home-like delivery environment as an alternative to delivering at a hospital or delivering at home*

Finding Advertised Jobs

Jobs are advertised in a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines and online job sites.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and, in *The Province* on Sundays.

Online Job Postings

- **Canadian Association of Midwives, CAM**
<https://canadianmidwives.org/job-opportunities/>
- **Midwives Association of BC**
<https://www.bcmidwives.com/cgi/page.cgi/job-postings.html>
- **Indeed.ca**
<https://ca.indeed.com/Midwifery-jobs>

Finding "Hidden Jobs"

Many job vacancies are not advertised. The resources below will help you *with finding jobs in this "hidden" job market.*

Using Directories to Create a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers who are in the health care sector. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring. The following sources list registered midwives in BC.

- **Midwives in Victoria** – Midwife Directory
<https://midwivesinvictoria.ca/midwife-directory/>
- **Midwives Association of BC**
<https://www.bcmidwives.com/find-a-midwife.html>
- **Reference Canada**
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "midwife" or "midwives" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button. Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

NOTE: *You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).*

Networking, Volunteering and Temporary Agencies

Many positions are filled by people who have been recommended by someone they know. Networking, working as a volunteer or registering with a temporary employment agency are good ways of helping you find jobs and meet people in your industry.

Networking and the Hidden Job Market:

When looking for work, be sure to talk to friends, relatives and neighbours. They may know someone who is hiring! Working as a volunteer, attending events, and joining clubs and associations are good ways to gain "Canadian experience." They are also good ways to meet people to learn about the local job market.

Volunteer opportunities

- **Volunteer BC**
<https://volunteerbc.bc.ca/>
- **GoVolunteer.ca**
<https://govolunteer.ca/>

Volunteering in Health Care Facilities

The following organizations accept volunteers in hospitals, residential care facilities, adult day centres, and other community settings.

- **Vancouver Coastal Health**
<https://www.vch.ca/en/about-us/get-involved/volunteer>
- **Fraser Health Authority**
<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/about-us/volunteer-opportunities#.Yh5xyUzgE2w>
- **Providence Health Care**
<https://www.providencehealthcare.org/volunteers>

Volunteering in Community Organizations and Recreation Centres

Many public community organizations and recreation centres offer fitness and other prenatal programs for pregnant women – contact your local community organization to see if they are accepting volunteers, for example:

- **Vancouver Prenatal Classes**
<http://pregnancyvancouver.ca/resources/prenatal-classes/>

For additional tips see:

- **Networking for Employment**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/getting-canadian-work-experience>

7. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your experience.

Use the library catalogue <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

For more information see:

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>

8. Where Can This Job Lead?

With experience, you might progress to running your own practice. You may also move into teaching or training.

Source: Career Cruising

9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives**
<https://www.bccnm.ca>
- **Midwives Association of BC**
<https://www.bcmidwives.com/>
- **Canadian Association of Midwives**
<https://canadianmidwives.org/>
- **Learn More About Working in BC and Canada**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/learn-more-about-working-in-bc-and-canada>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic>.



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