

NOTICE

On March 20, 2012 the Government of Ontario announced its intention to create two Birth Centres in the Province.

The Birth Centres will be established and operated as Independent Health Facilities pursuant to the *Independent Health Facilities Act*, R.S.O. 1990. Persons interested in applying to establish and operate a Birth Centre may obtain an Application Form and Application Guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's website at:

www.ontario.ca/birthcentre

Completed Application Forms and all supporting documents must be submitted to the Director of Independent Health Facilities no later than **5:00 p.m. on September 4, 2012**. Applications and documents received after this deadline will not be assessed or considered.

The Birth Centres will:

- provide an option, outside the hospital or home setting, for women anticipating low-risk pregnancies and births to obtain pre-natal, labour, birth, post-partum and newborn care
- be midwife-led
- offer services to at least 300 women and their infants per year
- be operated by a not-for-profit corporation
- provide inter-professional education and clinical placements for maternity care providers and students
- provide services to diverse populations
- participate in ongoing evaluation of quality, efficiency and cost-effectiveness