Dr. Michael Murray
Senior Medical Director, IHA
2180 Ethel Street, Kelowna BC
V1Y 3A1

Dear Dr. Michael Murray,

As Royal Inland Hospital is planning a reconstruction and expansion in the near future, I want to bring the need of a birth center in Kamloops to your attention.

I am a healthy woman who lives in a rural community outside of Kamloops and would like to have the option of a normal birth outside of a hospital setting. If Kamloops were to have a birth center, women like myself would be admitted in an early stage of labor without having to make the drive into town at a later stage with the possibility of a roadside birth. Most roadside births and other complications happen to women who live 1-2 hours driving distance from the hospital, and since Kamloops is a central place for many small communities, a birth center would be a huge benefit!

For women like myself, who would love to have a midwife attended homebirth but live too far away, a birth center staffed with midwives would solve this problem. We would also not be unnecessarily exposed to germs in the same way that we would be in a hospital, thus reducing the risk of infection.

I would love to use natural pain relieving methods such as a birthing pool and a birth center would give low risk women options for a safe drug free labor and delivery. This in turn would save money, hospital beds, and staff resources for high risk obstetrical patients and those that need hospital medical care.

It would be wonderful if Kamloops could be a leader and example for birth centers in BC! Birth centers have been successful in other provinces such as Alberta, Québec and Manitoba. Birth centers have a lower rate of C-sections, operative deliveries and other interventions, while having the same rate of perinatal outcomes as hospitals.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request. I hope that the people of Kamloops and the surrounding areas will be able to have same rights as other Canadians do in their options regarding normal birth.

Sincerely,

cc Joanna Nemrava, Head of Midwifery, RIH
cc: Ann Crawford, Head of Nursing, Maternal Child Health, RIH
cc: Deb Chaplain, Director Health Services, Patient Care, RIH

311 Columbia Street, Kamloops, BC V2C 2T1