

# Nova Scotia Community Midwives

Maren Dietze, RM, BA

I came to midwifery through the births of my first two children. During both those pregnancies I was cared for by midwives, first in the Netherlands and then in Maine, USA. I met midwives working under very different circumstances. I was a dancer at the time and was fascinated by the powers that unfold during labour and birth. With my background of teaching dance and movement, and working with women and their bodies, learning to be a midwife seemed to me a logical progression.

I studied midwifery at Oxford Brookes University, UK, attending a 4-year direct-entry course from 1996 to 2000. As a midwife I am now registered in the UK as well as in Québec.

I have worked in a variety of settings:

- as a community midwife in Oxfordshire, UK, I cared for childbearing women and their babies throughout pregnancy, birth and after the birth;
- as a hospital midwife I worked on a high-risk ward as well as the labour ward of a large regional referral centre
- as independant midwife I have attended homebirths in rural Maine, USA, as well as Nova Scotia
- in the past year I have mainly worked as senior midwife in two Inuit communities in remote health centres of Nunavik, Québec.

I regularly attend courses to keep my knowledge and skills current, e.g. ALSO obstetric emergencies (Jan'03), neonatal resuscitation (Apr'03), and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (Oct'03).

I was born and grew up in Germany. I have three children and we now live in Lunenburg on the South Shore. I speak English, French and German.