

For Immediate Release

## **FREEDOM FOR BIRTH – GLOBAL FILM LAUNCH**

### **Contact:**

**Jackie Hollohan (Halifax)      Phone: 209-4198**

**Dawn Hare (Valley)              Phone: 678-2446**

On September 20, the Midwifery Coalition of Nova Scotia (MCNS) and Valley Families for Midwifery (VFM) will host screenings of ***Freedom For Birth*** a new documentary that reframes childbirth as the most pressing global Human Rights issue today. Described by the filmmakers as “the biggest event in the history of birth activism”, ***Freedom For Birth*** will be screened simultaneously in 1,000 locations in over 50 countries in 17 different languages.

The MCNS screenings will be held at the Johanna B. Oosterveld Centre at 2103 Gotingen Street, at 1PM and again at 7PM.

The VFM screenings will be held at the Berwick Library (236 Commercial Street, Berwick) at 2pm and at Studio Z in the Al Whittle Theatre (450 Main Street) in Wolfville at 7pm.

***Freedom For Birth*** is a 60 minute documentary made by British filmmakers Toni Harman and Alex Wakeford. It features a Who's Who of leading birth experts and international Human Rights lawyers all calling for radical change to the world's maternity systems.

Toni Harman, one of the filmmakers says, “With the release of ***Freedom For Birth***, we hope millions of women become aware of their legal rights and so our film has the potential to spark a revolution in maternity care across the world. In fact, we are calling this the Mothers' Revolution.”

Jackie Hollohan, spokesperson for the Midwifery Coalition of Nova Scotia, says, “The MCNS believes that midwifery is an important part of maternity care and is a choice that should be available to all families in Nova Scotia. We remain concerned that nearly four years after midwifery was legalized in NS, it remains available in only three sites and that even at those sites, demand exceeds supply.”

The Midwifery Coalition of Nova Scotia (MCNS) believes that midwifery provides the highest standard of care for mothers, babies and families. For nearly 30 years, the Midwifery Coalition of Nova Scotia has been working to have midwifery accepted as a regulated health profession. Our goal is for midwifery services to be available to all women in Nova Scotia.

Valley Families for Midwifery is a group of Annapolis Valley women and families who also believe that all Nova Scotians deserve access to the high quality maternity care that can be provided by midwifery care services. Since Provincial regulations came into effect in 2009, the Annapolis Valley (in addition to many other districts in the Province) has experienced a complete gap in midwifery service and the group is dedicated to working toward reinstating this model of maternity care.

Additional Notes

Additional information about ***Freedom For Birth*** can be found on the website:  
<http://freedomforbirth.com>

Contact Information:

Toni Harman, Producer/Director, ***Freedom For Birth***  
[info@altofilms.com](mailto:info@altofilms.com) +44 (0) 1273 747837 Website: <http://freedomforbirth.com>  
High resolution still images available on request.