



### **Safe Access to Abortion Services**

This month, the provincial Ministry of Health took a new step forward in supporting reproductive choice and protecting care providers who support choice.

On Oct. 4, 2017, the ministry announced the [Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017](#), which, if passed, would create safe access zones around clinics and facilities that offer abortion services, as well as the homes and offices of health professionals and staff who provide these services. Safe access zones would prohibit activity, including protesting, that would intimidate or interfere with individuals accessing abortion services.

Midwives support clients' right to choose and recognize this legislation is an important step in protecting care providers who provide choice. The AOM participated in consultations with the Ministry of the Attorney General during the *Act's* development and AOM President Elizabeth Brandeis was on hand Oct. 4 for the announcement.

Though midwives are not currently listed in the *Act*, the ministry recognizes that other care providers, including midwives, could be providing abortion services in the future and has therefore created a clause that allows new providers to be added without cabinet approval.



AOM President, Elizabeth Brandeis (centre) with MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris (left) and MPP Yasir Naqvi at the Oct. 4 safe access zone announcement.