

September 30, 2021

Statement on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The College would like to humbly acknowledge and reflect on Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which commemorates the history and ongoing trauma of Canada's colonial past and residential school system. The College is also commemorating Orange Shirt Day, which honours the Indigenous children who were sent to residential schools.

The discovery of the remains of 215 children at a former residential school in Kamloops earlier this year highlights how much [the College still has to learn](#) about the impact of Canada's colonial past. It further highlights how much the College still has to do to fulfill the commitment of addressing Indigenous-specific racism in the health-care system.

As such, in addition to being encouraged to wear orange, College employees are attending a webinar today offered by the Indigenous Cultural Safety Collaborative Learning series. The webinar will introduce employees to conceptual structures which underpin and support cultural safety, and discuss how resistance manifests at an organizational level. College employees are also being provided with educational resources so that they can learn and reflect on their personal truth and reconciliation journeys. The College encourages registrants to acknowledge this important day in their practice, with their staff and their patients, in a way that feels appropriate to them.

For its part, the College Board resolved in October 2020 to add cultural safety and humility as [a core pillar](#) of its 2021–2024 strategic plan. Since then, the College has begun to act on several priorities to support that pillar. This includes the hiring of a complaints navigator who is trained in trauma-informed care to ensure Indigenous people feel safe and supported when taking part in the complaints process.

This past July, consultation on the development of a cultural safety and humility standard was completed with the general public, registrants at large as well as registrants and members of the public from the Indigenous community. A rebranding process was launched in August with a key goal of replacing the College crest, a distinctly colonial symbol, with a new visual identity that reflects the College's current-day values of inclusivity and accessibility.

The College will continue to build on this work alongside registrants, other [BC health regulators](#) and [partners](#), and the Indigenous community so that systemic racism in the health-care system will eventually be eliminated.