



Interior Health

Statement on Racism, from the Interior Health Board of Directors

The Interior Health Board of Directors is committed to being open and accountable. In the spirit of this openness and accountability, we acknowledge that widespread racism and discrimination against First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples exists in the B.C. health-care system across all regions, including the Interior Health region. Through this acknowledgement, we hold space for the specific experiences and disproportionate impact of Indigenous-specific racism on First Nations, Métis and Inuit children, women and girls.

With great humility, we acknowledge our insufficient action over many years, in addressing the impacts of systemic racism and righting past wrongs.

We take responsibility for our own actions and words, understanding that cultural humility requires our ongoing commitment to honouring each person's unique experience and perspective.

As the Board of Directors, we are responsible for overseeing operations and working with Interior Health management teams to establish the overall strategic direction for the organization. Going forward, in carrying out each of these duties, we are committed to eliminating systemic racism within the health-care system and to setting high standards of excellence in the delivery of culturally safe and inclusive health services. We will be unrelenting in our efforts to ensure people feel culturally safe each time they interact with our health system. Racism has no place in our facilities, programs and services or our society.

We respectfully acknowledge that Interior Health operates on the traditional unceded territories of the Dakelh Dene, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwepemc, St'at'imc, Syilx and Tsilhqot'in Nations.

We acknowledge and recognize the legacy of colonization and the negative impact it has had on all Indigenous People including the peoples and visitors of the Dakelh Dene, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwepemc, St'at'imc, Syilx and Tsilhqot'in Nations, the 15 Métis Chartered Communities of the Interior and the Inuit.

We commit to respecting and reconciling this long history of injustice.

To the generations of people who have lived these experiences, and those who continue to experience harm when seeking care in the Interior Health system, we apologize.

To all of the clients, employees and physicians within Interior Health who have experienced racism, we apologize to you as well.

We value compassion, seeking to understand, listening and showing kindness as we treat all people with respect. We will work with Indigenous and other partners to build Interior Health services that honour these values.

We are committed to the health and wellness of each person who considers the Interior their home.

We are committed to doing better and working together in an open and accountable manner to implement and deliver safe, inclusive and welcoming health services for all.

Interior Health
Board of Directors
www.interiorhealth.ca

July 2021