

BC'S HEALTH PROFESSIONS' CULTURAL SAFETY DECLARATION & PLEDGE

It is axiomatic that all of BC residents are entitled to culturally safe, effective and respectful care. Unfortunately, BC's First Nations continue to experience systemic racism and discrimination that lead to barriers to patient access to appropriate care. This has led to broad based initiatives to bring meaningful and lasting change to the health care environment.

A declaration - the "*Declaration of Cultural Safety and Humility in Health Services Delivery for First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples in BC*" - was introduced in July 2015 to advance change by pledging the BC government to a commitment to make the BC health care environment more culturally safe for First Nations and Aboriginal People; it was signed by each of BC's Health Authorities and the Minister of Health.

More recently the Health Regulators of BC were asked to sign the declaration. The registrar of the College of Podiatric Surgeons of BC together with the registrars of every one of the rest of the province's 23 regulated health professions signed the declaration on March 1, 2017. The declaration calls for each health regulator to take steps to improve cultural safety within their profession in three main ways: 1) Creating a climate for change, 2) Engaging and enabling stakeholders, and 3) Implementing and sustaining change.

The declaration also expects the regulators to report on progress toward these commitments through annual reports outlining strategic activities and accountability measures that demonstrate how we are meeting the commitments.

There are measures that the CPS-BC can take, and report on congruent with its resources to help propagate the environment and attitudes that will encourage change among all health professionals.

1. As a start, we will report on the initiative to the registrant base and, as previously planned, invite all registrants as well as Committee members to take the Cultural Sensitivity self-assessment checklist previously provided to the Board.
2. As well, the College can follow the lead of the College of Pharmacists and point the registrants to appropriate resources including those listed on that website:
 - the online [San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety](#) course provided by the Provincial Health Services Authority as part of their professional development
 - the 12 part online [Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Webinar Action Series](#) hosted by the First Nations Health Authority and BC Patient Safety & Quality Council.
 - the resources available in the [First Nations Health Authority Cultural Humility Portal](#).
3. Allot annual CE credits for professional development activities such as those listed under 2 (refer to Registration Committee for further policy development).
4. Finalize a 3-year strategic plan that takes into account the interests and goals of the declaration.
5. Develop a CPS-BC cultural sensitivity training and resource package for registrants.
6. Adapt a College pro-inclusiveness and anti-discrimination policy (such as the one presented).

Motion: The College of Podiatric Surgeons of British Columbia commits to the 6-point plan presented by the Registrar, at the minimum, in furtherance of the commitment to help make the BC health care environment more culturally safe for our First Nations and Aboriginal People all of BC's citizens.

Motion carried/approved by the Board 170429