

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT - JULY 16 2015

CULTURAL SAFETY AND HUMILITY IN HEALTH SERVICES DELIVERY FOR FIRST NATIONS AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Our Declaration of Commitment is an important step toward embedding cultural safety and humility within health services for First Nations and Aboriginal people in British Columbia. This commitment reflects the high priority we, as the designated BC First Nations and Aboriginal health system leaders, place on cultural safety and humility as essential dimensions of quality and safety within the First Nations and Aboriginal health services for which we are responsible.

This Declaration of Commitment is based on the following guiding principles of cultural safety and humility:

- Cultural humility builds mutual trust and respect and enables cultural safety.
- Cultural safety is defined by each individual client's health service experience. As such, approaches to cultural safety must be client-centred.
- Cultural safety must be understood, embraced and practiced at all levels of the health system including governance, health organizations and within individual professional practice.
- All stakeholders, including First Nations and Aboriginal individuals, elders, families, communities, and nations must be involved in co-development of action strategies and in the decision making process with a commitment to reciprocal accountability.

Strong leadership on concrete actions is essential to achieving our vision of a culturally safe health system for First Nations and Aboriginal people in our province. We, the members of the Leadership Council, will:

CREATE A CLIMATE FOR CHANGE BY:

- Articulating the pressing need to ensure cultural safety within First Nations and Aboriginal health services in BC.
- Opening an honest and convincing dialogue with all stakeholders to show that change is necessary.
- Forming a coalition of influential leaders and role models who are committed to the priority of embedding cultural humility and safety in BC health services.
- Leading the creation of the vision for a culturally safe health system and developing a strategy to achieve the vision.
- Supporting the development of workplans and implement through available resources.

ENGAGE AND ENABLE STAKEHOLDERS BY:

- Communicating the vision of culturally safe health system for First Nations and Aboriginal people in BC and the absolute need for commitment and understanding on behalf of all stakeholders, partners and clients.
- Openly and honestly addressing concerns and leading by example.
- Identifying and removing barriers to progress.
- Tracking, evaluating and visibly celebrating accomplishments.

IMPLEMENT AND SUSTAIN CHANGE BY:

- Empowering health organizations and individuals to innovate, develop cultural humility and foster a culture of cultural safety.
- Allowing organizations and individuals to raise and address problems without fear of reprisal.
- Leading and enabling successive waves of actions until cultural humility and safety are embedded within all levels of the health system.

Our signatures demonstrate our long term commitment to providing culturally safe health services for First Nations and Aboriginal people in British Columbia and to championing the process required to achieve this vision.

This Declaration of Commitment is endorsed by the BC Tripartite Committee on First Nations Health and signed by the members of the Leadership Council:

SIGNED on this date: July 16, 2015

MR. STEPHEN BROWN, DEPUTY MINISTER, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

MR. JOE GALLAGHER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY

MR. CARL ROY, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

MR. MICHAEL MARCHBANK, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FRASER HEALTH

DR. ROBERT HALPENNY, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INTERIOR HEALTH

DR. BRENDAN CARR, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ISLAND HEALTH

MS. CATHY ULRICH, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NORTHERN HEALTH

MS. MARY ACKENHUSEN, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH

