

**June 11, 2020**

**EMALB Position Statement Against Racism**

As health care professionals, the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (EMALB) is well aware of the impact racism has on the health and well-being of our communities. Global mass demonstrations of protest and vocal demands for change highlight the insidious racial injustices that permeate our society. Recognizing and addressing such critically important issues must be done systematically and with the highest level of urgency.

The EMA Licensing Board and Branch supports peaceful protests against racial injustice and calls on all political authorities to ensure that these voices not only be heard, but to take these messages and forge them into legislative spearheads that drive a way toward justice, security, peace and equality for everyone.

Systemic racism and discrimination cannot be tolerated and silence on such issues is unacceptable. Recent events have put a glaring spotlight on the pervasive and uncomfortable truth about the harms and sometimes lethal consequences of racism and inequality. It is our duty as health care professionals to advocate for the vulnerable, the disenfranchised, and the victims of hate.

Section (c) of the EMA Regulation [Code of Ethics](#) states that an EMA must “protect and maintain the patient's safety and dignity, regardless of the patient's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation”. EMAs must hold themselves and others accountable for identifying and addressing racism and discrimination, whether it is expressed in overt or more subtle forms. The EMALB will never tolerate racism and continues to promote and enforce a professional standard that ensures the provision of safe, respectful and equal emergency health care for all.

The EMALB also recognizes that it must do more than express words of support. The Board and Branch are also committed to listening and learning from the diverse communities of the province that we serve. We acknowledge there are many individuals with experiences that involve struggle, pain and sometimes outrage about the injustices and inequalities people face on a regular basis. As the regulator of over 15,000 EMAs in the province, we will continue to strive to uphold the Code of Ethics and work with all of our stakeholders to help eliminate racism.

As British Columbians, we can also show our support for the [BC Lieutenant Governor's #DifferentTogether pledge](#) to uphold the values of diversity and inclusion and oppose racism and hate in all its forms.

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