



# DECLARATION of COMMITMENT

## Declaration of Commitment to Advance Cultural Safety and Humility in Health and Wellness Services and Organizations

The overarching goal of this declaration is to identify current and future opportunities to identify and reduce the systemic barriers and harms that Indigenous Peoples experience, raise awareness about existing systemic discrimination which may prevail within our institutions despite efforts to address them, and address inequities in outcomes for Indigenous Peoples.

Through this declaration of commitment, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Health Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) endorse the First Nations Health Authority's (FNHA) work to address racial discrimination experienced by First Nations in accessing services in BC. This declaration also describes how the FNHA and the parties will work together to advance shared priorities which are grounded in the following guiding principles:

- Cultural humility builds mutual trust and respect and enables cultural safety.
- Cultural safety is defined by each individual client's service experience.
- Cultural safety must be understood, embraced, and practiced at all levels of the system including governance, within organizations, and within individual professional practice.
- All partners, including Indigenous 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 the vision of a culturally safe system for Indigenous Peoples in BC and across Canada. ISC, Health Canada and PHAC will demonstrate leadership to encourage, endorse and/or support:

- the understanding of the need to embed cultural safety and humility within Indigenous services and within health services generally;
- the importance of building processes of governance and shared decision-making with Nations in achieving cultural safety through the incorporation of cultural humility;

- the promotion of cultural safety and humility for public servants and health professionals;
- the ongoing work of the FNHA, the Province of BC, and other health system partners, in advancing cultural safety and humility in health services in BC;
- the understanding that this work lays a foundation for systemic change to increase cultural humility and safety, thereby reducing barriers to access and improving health outcomes;
- the sharing in the lessons learned and opportunities this work presents for possible adaption and/or application in other regions of the country by First Nations outside of BC;
- the exchange of knowledge regarding cultural safety and humility, accreditation, and quality improvement initiatives and the sharing of lessons learned across the country;
- the development and implementation of a Cultural Safety and Humility Standard which can be applied across the health system in BC with a goal of increasing access to culturally safe and appropriate services for First Nations individuals and families, resulting in improved health and wellness outcomes;
- the development of new and established partnerships with service providers and provinces necessary to advance this work; and,
- the development of an action plan to guide collaborative efforts to influence the broader health system and advance cultural safety and humility for First Nations in BC. This action plan will be supported by a working group comprised of representatives of the FNHA, ISC, PHAC and Health Canada. Based on the learnings generated, this Declaration may evolve and be updated through time.

**SIGNED THIS THIRD DAY OF APRIL, 2019**

Mr. Joe Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer  
First Nations Health Authority



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

Mr. Jean-François Tremblay, Deputy Minister of Indigenous Services



Indigenous Services  
Canada

Services aux  
Autochtones Canada

Mr. Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister of Health Canada



Health Canada  
Santé Canada

Dr. Theresa Tam, Interim President of the Public Health Agency of Canada



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada