

## **Position Statement**

As nurses within GAIHN-McGill, we welcome the foundational recommendations on justice, health and education in the landmark Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action report and we strongly support the Provost's Task Force on Indigenous studies & Indigenous education.

Our practice is strongly grounded in strength-based nursing care, primary health care philosophy of social justice, equity, and principles of health promotion, public participation and accessibility.

We approve the two core themes of the Task force: recognition of Indigenous history, contemporary presence and ways of knowing and learning; and reconciliation through education and institutional efforts aimed at redressing historical legacies of injustice and restoring relationships with Indigenous peoples.

We commend the courage and strength of the survivors of residential schools and their families as they contribute their experiences and expertise to educate the Canadian population and are part of a process of national reconciliation.

We acknowledge the health impact of historical and political policies on the current gap in health indicators for Indigenous communities across Canada.

We value the important opportunities for wide reaching, positive system change and commit to address identified health inequities through the development of sustainable multilevel diverse partnerships.

As the largest group of healthcare providers within the Canadian healthcare system, we believe it is our professional and ethical responsibility to respond, advocate, collaborate and advance equitable health for every Indigenous nation through strong leadership and coalitions.

In response to the Provost's Task Force, findings and Calls to Action issued by the commission, the Ingram School of Nursing and GAIHN-McGill commit to the following actions:

### **Recruitment Policy**

We will build a plan to improve and promote equitable access to nursing education and enhance the presence and success of Indigenous students at the ISON.

### **Educational Development**

We commit to consult with first nation and Indigenous populations to shape and evaluate our strategic development of new curricula, so that they will optimally address recommendations identified within the Truth and Reconciliation Report – namely intercultural competency/culturally safe practice.

We commit to the integration of requirements throughout the course content. Students will be introduced to the history and legacy of the residential schools, key documents related to

Indigenous health, an introduction to Indigenous healing practices, culturally safe practice standards and guidelines.

Students will be given opportunities to apply, and be evaluated on, their knowledge throughout their practicum experiences.

### **Learning Environments**

We will pro-actively recruit and develop ethically reciprocal clinical placements within first nations communities and in partnership with Indigenous organisations to support the development of intercultural competencies and promote our graduates to become nursing leaders in the delivery of culturally safe care for our first nations communities and nations.

### **Social Accountability goal for 2016/17 academic year**

GAIHN-McGill commit to Indigenous health and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls for Action during the 2016/17 academic year and will prepare and present at least two events to educate health professionals to integrate the recommendations of the commission for universities, these events will also be a fundraiser for different local and national native and indigenous community organizations.