

CMRC Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action

The Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC) recognizes that, through the process of colonization, birth and birth knowledge was taken from Indigenous communities. We recognize the importance of culturally grounded care and Indigenous birth and midwifery traditions. CMRC encourages its members (provincial/territorial midwifery regulatory authorities) to review and act on relevant TRC recommendations, particularly numbers 22, 23, 24 and 33.

The CMRC will:

- Work collaboratively with stakeholders/partners such as the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives (NACM) to advance and support actions to address the TRC recommendations;
- Include knowledge and skills regarding Indigenous health and cultural safety in the *Canadian Competencies for Midwives*;
- Expect Canadian undergraduate midwifery education programs to include curriculum on cultural safety and humility and to strengthen the recruitment of Indigenous students and teachers in the national midwifery education programs; and,
- Identify and encourage continuing education in Indigenous awareness and cultural safety for CMRC staff and member organizations.

Call to Action 22: We call upon those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by the Aboriginal patients.

Call to Action 23: We call upon all levels of government to: (i) increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field; (ii) ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities; (iii) provide cultural competency training for all health-care professionals.

Call to Action 24: We call upon medical and nursing schools in Canada to require all students to take a course dealing with Aboriginal health issues, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, and Indigenous teachings and practices. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Call to Action 33: We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to recognize as a high priority the need to address and prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and to develop, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, FASD preventive programs that can be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner.