

CMRC STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT: RECONCILIATION AND INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

To help meaningfully embed reconciliation in all aspects of its work, the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC, the Council) makes the following commitments:

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

CMRC accepts the definition of truth and reconciliation¹ from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. The Council recognizes that truth and reconciliation is an ongoing and evolving process and that every interaction with Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples is an opportunity to advance truth and reconciliation. CMRC further recognizes that truth and reconciliation will be distinct to the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. CMRC believes it is essential to integrate reconciliation into its work.

CALLS TO ACTION

CMRC values the 94 Calls to Action identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, and specifically advocates for the health-related Calls to Action (18-24 and 55). CMRC encourages its members to do the same.

AUTONOMY OF FIRST NATIONS, INUIT, AND MÉTIS PEOPLES AND A DISTINCTIONS-BASED APPROACH

CMRC respects that cultural practices and traditions, traditional lands, medicines and resources are essential to the health and well-being of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. CMRC recognizes the individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination and the highest attainable standard of mental and physical well-being. CMRC advocates for the inclusion of holistic perspectives supporting the protection and promotion of health, safety and well-being of Indigenous peoples.

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

CMRC believes in upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by understanding and upholding those rights, recognizing the impacts of settler colonialism, practising cultural safety and humility, addressing Indigenous-specific racism, and supporting CMRC members to create regulatory pathways for Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

¹Reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country. In order for that to happen, there has to be awareness of the past, an acknowledgment of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the causes, and action to change behaviour. (*Honouring the Truth, Reconciliation for the Future Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*, The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015, p.6)



MEANINGFUL COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

CMRC actively seeks and implements advice from Indigenous peoples and organizations, including the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives (NACM). CMRC is committed to working in a manner that is inclusive of all partners, such as on the CMRC Sub-committee for Paths to Indigenous Midwifery, and the Council believes in transparent communication. CMRC recognizes the importance of reciprocity and trust in all its relationships and is committed to shared responsibility, accountability and stewardship when working with partners. CMRC recognizes the importance of culturally safe engagement and is committed to working in a way that respects partners' internal governance structures and timelines.

INCLUSION

CMRC respects and values inclusion in all aspects of its work. It is committed to being an inclusive organization that respects dignity and human rights. The Council recognizes the significant health inequities that exist between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. CMRC promotes and advocates for participation from people with diverse perspectives, such as on the CMRE Working Groups, that will lead to improved decision-making processes and outcomes.

FIRST NATIONS, INUIT, AND MÉTIS PEOPLES, AND KNOWLEDGE-HOLDERS

CMRC is committed to working with Indigenous peoples to incorporate Indigenous knowledge, wisdom and experiences into its work. CMRC values the input and feedback received from NACM and Indigenous midwives on the *Canadian Competencies for Midwives*, particularly the new section on Ending Anti-Indigenous Racism. The Council respects that the duty to consult for Indigenous peoples and organizations is greater than in broader society, and it is committed to actively consulting with Indigenous peoples, and adopting appropriate timelines to ensure meaningful consultation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This statement has been adapted with permission from the Canadian Public Health Association.

CMRC supports the Canadian Association of Midwives' position statement on [Combating Anti-Indigenous Racism](#).

Approved May 2022 by CMRC Board