



## College of **Speech and Hearing** Health Professionals of BC

Regulator of Audiologists, Hearing Instrument  
Practitioners and Speech-Language Pathologists

### **CSHHPBC Commits to a Safer Health System for First Nations and Aboriginal People**



On March 1, 2017, CSHHPBC Registrar & CEO Cameron Cowper was one of 23 BC health regulation leaders who pledged their support in making the health system more culturally safe for First Nations and Aboriginal people by signing the Declaration of Commitment to Cultural Safety and Humility.

The declaration, an initiative endorsed by the First Nations Health Authority (FHNA) and the Ministry of Health, commits

CSHHPBC and other health regulators to take action and develop processes that will embed culturally safe practices within all levels of health professional regulation.

The declaration has three main pillars: creating a climate for change; engaging and enabling stakeholders; and implementing and sustaining change. It builds on the already transformative and well-received San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety training offered by the Provincial Health Services



Authority (PHSA), and is based on the guiding principle that all partners, including First Nations and aboriginal 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. This also means individuals are able to voice their perspectives, ask questions, and be respected by the health care professional on their beliefs, behaviours and values.

Speech and hearing health professionals are in a unique position to affect real change within the system; to consider how their practices can help support positive health outcomes for aboriginal peoples and to speak up and advocate when they see discrimination or bias. Change requires awareness, education, and acknowledgement. The regulatory colleges join the health authorities in creating an expectation of change among all health professionals, so that all indigenous and aboriginal persons will experience the culturally competent, safe and effective care they deserve.

In taking this important step, regulatory colleges have acknowledged the problem of racism in health care and can lead with a vision of what is expected of health professionals. Hardwiring this work in the provincial health system will take time but initial strides are promising and there is enthusiasm across the country for this work that is being led in BC.

In the coming months, the BC Health Regulators (BCHR) will collectively review how cultural safety and humility can be better integrated into quality assurance programs, complaints processes, and post-secondary programs. BCHR will also pursue formal training for board members on cultural safety and humility and how these concepts should impact regulatory approaches. This work is being done in partnership with the FNHA.

More information on the provincial work in cultural humility and cultural safety can be found on the [FNHA website](#).

### **Cultural Competency, Safety, and Humility Resources**

Are you interested in learning more about cultural competency, safety, and humility? Please see below for links to available resources:

#### [San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety](#)

[Training](#): A facilitated, online training program offered by the Provincial Health Services Authority designed to strengthen the skills of health professionals who work with Aboriginal people.

#### [Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility](#)

[Webinar Action Series](#): FNHA and the BC Patient Safety & Quality Council have partnered to provide a series of 12 webinar events over the course of a year to encourage BC health care professionals to learn, engage in self-reflection and create positive change. Webinars currently available include:

- Leading a Framework for Cultural Safety and Humility with FNHA CEO Joe Gallagher
- Learning and Advancing the Recommendations of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission
- The Importance of Story to Cultural Safety Webinar
- Intergenerational Trauma and Institutional Avoidance
- Pursuing Cultural Safety
- Cultural Humility and Nursing in BC
- Cultural Safety: Respect and Dignity in Relationships, Indigenous Peoples and the Health Care System
- Racism as a Determinant of Health