

Enlighten

News from the CNPBC



September 2021



The First National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30, 2021, marks Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation "to commemorate the history and ongoing trauma caused by residential schools and to honour those who were lost and the survivors, families and communities who continue to grieve."

We acknowledge the atrocities of the residential school system, and we share in the sorrow and outrage expressed by First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples, and all Canadians.

We are accountable to a broader call to action to eliminate anti-Indigenous racism across

Canadian society. As a health regulator, we have a leadership role in creating more culturally safe experiences and supportive healthcare environments for Indigenous people accessing the services provided by our registrants.

About Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The designation of the annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) fulfills a recommendation made by the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#). In 2015 the Commission issued [94 calls to action](#) as part of its mandate to inform Canadians about what happened in residential schools from the 1930s through to the 1980s.

Working Together Towards Cultural Safety and Humility in Healthcare

Today, [Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in BC health care](#) persists through bias shown by individual health care professionals, as well as health system structures and practices that disadvantage Indigenous Peoples.

We are committed to working with partners on shared initiatives that will support all regulated health professionals in delivering care with a greater focus on Cultural Safety and Humility. BC Health Regulators (BCHR), the organization that brings BC health regulators together to improve regulatory practice, has to date accomplished the following:

- [Declaration of Commitment](#)
- [Cultural Safety Task Force](#)
- [Indigenous Cultural Safety & Humility Education Toolkit](#)

We recognize that learning more about Cultural Safety and Humility, and using this knowledge to change practice, is an ongoing journey. We are grateful for partnerships with the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and other organizations, providing support by sharing resources, providing educational opportunities, and offering counsel.

Finally, The Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC) has released a statement in recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As a FMRAC member, the College fully endorses [their statement](#).

An Important Statement on COVID-19 Misinformation

The College has a mandate to serve and protect all British Columbians, ensuring that registrants deliver qualified, safe, and ethical care to their patients and clients in the course of dealing with patients in the context of COVID-19.

The vast majority of BC's healthcare providers do just that. They follow and support public health orders to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

The College is, however, concerned about the spread of misinformation regarding COVID-19 and immunization by some regulated health professionals that could potentially jeopardize the safety of patients and the public. This includes sharing of misinformation that is anti-vaccine, anti-mask wearing, anti-physical distancing—anything that undermines public health orders and guidance. We also have concerns about regulated health professionals promoting or sharing information about COVID-19 treatments that are not supported by accepted scientific evidence.

As regulated health professionals, CNPBC registrants occupy a position of public trust due to your knowledge and training in the profession. Your ethical and professional responsibility is to provide information and advice that is factual, backed by science, and directly related to your professional designation/scope of practice as naturopathic doctors. This responsibility extends to professional and personal opinions and statements about COVID-19 that you share with others, including on social media, online and in traditional media.

Unethical and unprofessional conduct by regulated health professionals, such as the spread of misinformation about COVID-19 and immunization, constitutes a danger to the public. Regulatory colleges, including CNPBC, have the authority to take disciplinary action in these cases.

When a patient/client asks for your advice or opinion on COVID-19 immunization or any medical or health concern related to COVID-19, we expect you to provide them with advice that is:

- within your scope of practice

- in line with provincial public health guidance
- grounded in science and best practices.

You can direct patients/clients to a trusted source for more information or an assessment of their personal situation.

In BC, the recommended source of COVID-19 immunization information for your patients/clients is the [BC Centre for Disease Control \(BCCDC\) website](#). [The Immunize BC website](#) also has FAQs for patients.



Amendment to Prescription Drug List (PDL): Tramadol

Health Canada has issued a [notice of intent](#) to add tramadol to Schedule 1 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) and to the *Narcotic Control Regulations*. This change will take effect on March 31, 2022. Registrants are reminded that drugs and other substances listed under Schedule 1 of the CDSA are not authorized for prescribing or use by naturopathic doctors in BC per the [College's Standards, Limits and Conditions for Prescribing, Dispensing and Compounding Drugs, Appendix E](#). This means that

tramadol will not long be authorized for prescribing or use by registrants as of March 31, 2022.

Welcome to the 2021 Board of Directors

The College would like to again thank outgoing Board Members Dr. Rebecca Pitfield, who also served as Chair, Kajal Hayer, and Barry Long for their dedicated service to the profession.

We are also pleased to note the appointment of new Members. Each new Board Member brings us a wealth of experience and unique expertise that makes them great assets to the Board and our public safety mandate. Here is your 2021 Board of Directors:

Dr. Kelly Fujibayashi, ND
Board Chair, Naturopathic Physician

Dr. Alison Vandekerkhove, ND
Board Vice-Chair, Naturopathic Physician

Dr. Cathy Carlson-Rink, ND
Board Member, Naturopathic Physician

Dr. Sanjay Mohan Ram, ND
Board Member, Naturopathic Physician

Jocelyn Stanton
Board Member

Dena Jocelyn Bryan, B.A., L.L.B.
Public Member

Dianna Rose Robertson
Public Member

Join a Board Committee. We Can't Do It Without You!

Much of the Board's most important work is done by and through Committees, each of which is focused on a key area of the College's mandate and makes recommendations for Board consideration. Serving on a Committee is a great way to learn how the College functions, meet colleagues, and put skills and experience to valuable use.

The College currently has 11 Committees and each one is always on the lookout for new Members. It's really very rewarding. If you think it might be for you, just email registrar@cnpbc.bc.ca.



A Note from the Registrar/CEO

Fall is upon us and with the change of seasons comes a time for reflection. The year has certainly been filled with more challenges and changes than most of us would have ever anticipated.

Health and healthcare have never been more on the radar of both the public and the government, British Columbians count on regulated health professionals more than ever and many health professionals are feeling the pressures of the pandemic. I believe we

would all like to know when things will be more balanced. Time will tell.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued hard work over the summer months. For staff working from home, Zoom calls and team meetings have become the norm.

For Board and Committee Members, meeting virtually can be a time saver but that invaluable human contact has surely been missed. Be well.



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