



The Voice of BC Dentists

BCDA Statement

September 28, 2022

BCDA Statement on Truth and Reconciliation

In recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, the British Columbia Dental Association (BCDA) reaffirms its commitment to cultural safety and humility within the healthcare system and our communities. BCDA recognizes that inequalities in oral health and other health disparities continue to exist for Indigenous peoples as a result of colonialism and structural racism.

“The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. It is a day to learn about history, listen to the stories of survivors, and reflect on how each of us can play a part in reconciliation. The report [In Plain Sight](#), by Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, describes findings of widespread systemic racism against Indigenous peoples in the BC healthcare system. We dentists, as oral healthcare providers, play an important role in advancing reconciliation, addressing disparities in access to dental care and fostering culturally safe care into our practice.” said Dr. David Lim, BCDA President.

Funded by the Government of BC, BCDA is developing a cultural safety and humility training course for all BC oral health professionals in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority. This course will focus on Indigenous awareness training and practical strategies to provide respectful and culturally-safe care in the dentistry setting. In addition, BCDA has created a thoughtful collection of educational resources on cultural safety to aid the profession in meeting this challenge. We encourage our members to review and share these resources with their dental staff and participate in various educational and cultural events.

BCDA is committed to developing and sharing programs and resources that will improve Indigenous peoples’ access to dental care and overall health outcomes. BCDA, its members and staff will continue to listen, learn and take concrete actions toward truth and reconciliation and work to build a respectful relationship with Indigenous peoples. We understand that these are just the first steps in the journey, and this is a path we are committed to staying on.

About the British Columbia Dental Association

The British Columbia Dental Association is the recognized voice of dentistry in this province, advocating on behalf of over 3,600 members to promote oral health for all British Columbians.