



Canadian Association of  
Nurses for the Environment

Association des infirmières et  
infirmiers pour l'environnement

From the CANE Intersectionality Sub-Committee: Happy Indigenous People's Day and an invitation to Take Action for the TRC Calls to Action

June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Dear CANE members,

We write to you today to celebrate Indigenous cultures, communities and individuals across the country as it is Indigenous People's Day.

As a board with only one board member who is of Indigenous heritage to Turtle Island, we know we have much to learn and much to work towards to right our relationships and our Canadian society. We write to you soberly in light of the recent finding of mass unmarked graves of young children in the residential schools near Tk'emlups, BC, Brandon, Manitoba, Lestock, Saskatchewan, and the many more that are yet to be uncovered. MP Mumilaaq Qaqqaq's farewell speech to the house of commons is also on our minds.

We invite you to join us in upholding the good work done by Indigenous persons, communities and organizations across these lands, from celebrating Indigenous culture and life, to ensuring health and wellness for communities, to justice for all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of these lands.

We invite you to follow and take in Indigenous centered news such as on [APTN](#) and [IndigiNews](#), scientists, elders, politicians, artists and cultural workers from the lands on which you live, and lastly, to learn the creation stories of those lands as well, as recommended by Andrea Landry of [Indigenous Motherhood](#).

Did you know about the [Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association](#)? Every year they have nominations for an indigenous nurse or midwife - if a colleague comes to mind, please submit a nomination!

Invitation to take Action to Support the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

We see the need to take action and to do our part to address the systemic racism that puts the wellness of Indigenous lives at risk in a disproportionate way still to this day.

We invite you to take action today to support nursing curricula that incorporate the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action](#).

This is all the more important in light of the findings of the findings of the 2020 [Independent Investigation into Indigenous-specific discrimination in B.C. Healthcare](#), the racism that led to the [death of Joyce Echaquan](#), the [refusal of the Québec government to recognize Joyce's principles proposed by her Atikamekw community and nation](#), denying structural racism, and the recommendations from the National Inquiry into [Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#).

We invite you to use the attached draft template ([here](#)), and refer to the example letter ([here](#)), so as to let your school, faculty and/or alma mater know how much this matters to you. The [CASN Framework of Strategies for Nursing Education to Respond to the Calls to Action of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) is a recommended read and resource.

To all of our members who are settlers, we invite you to take action as we have been clearly asked by the larger Indigenous community - so that the [Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action be fully completed](#). It is important that our nursing schools know we take notice of the work done and the work yet to do.

Please send us a copy of the letters you send, so that we may also know of the good work done!

A most sincere thank you,

Marilyne Tovar

Manitoba Representative and Chair of the Intersectionality and Truth and Reconciliation  
Commission Sub-Committee

Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment

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I acknowledge and am grateful for living on the lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Dakota, Dene, Métis, and Oji-Cree Nations.

Pronouns: she/hers