

## **FDHRC ANNOUNCEMENT TO STAKEHOLDERS INDIGENOUS CULTURAL SAFETY AND HUMILITY REVIEW**

October 5, 2022

The Federation of Dental Hygiene Regulators of Canada (FDHRC) has begun the work of implementation of the Entry to Practice Canadian Competencies for Dental Hygienists, published in November 2021. An important element of the new competencies is the emphasis on integration of Truth and Reconciliation recommendations. In December 2015, the Truth, and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) published its report with a list of 94 Calls to Action by different stakeholders. To correct historical and social inequities, Canadians must strive to create a safe and inclusive society in which Indigenous peoples' culture and world views are respected and valued. The competencies required to achieve this will not only support Indigenous peoples in achieving optimal health and wellness but non-Indigenous peoples as well.

As such, the Entry-to-Practice Canadian Competencies for Dental Hygienists (including their associated performance criteria and knowledge statements), reflect relevant TRC Calls to Action. The FDHRC recognizes that the process of truth and reconciliation within the profession requires more than simple inclusions in an entry-to-practice profile and has made a commitment to ongoing exploration with subject matter experts in the field.

In the spirit of this commitment, the FDHRC has just engaged a consultant to undertake a review project under which the *Entry-to-Practice Canadian Competencies for Dental Hygienists* may be reviewed through a lens of Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility, decolonization, Indigenization, as well as Anti-Racism and Indigenous rights. This plan for the review project is informed by and responds to several laws, and findings, recommendations, and calls to action or justice in public reports that have resulted from large-scale investigations. Between 10 and 16 Indigenous Subject Matter Experts with professional backgrounds in health care will be recruited to the project team to contribute learning about, reviewing, and providing observations about the national competencies. Indigenous SMEs will be sought from various regions, representing some of the incredible diversity found among and between Indigenous groups and communities that have varied histories, needs, and perspectives. The project will result in a final report containing a summary of the SME feedback and guidance for implementation of recommendations.

Another way to make room for decolonization and Indigenization within the work of the project, is to involve an Indigenous visual artist and commission a custom and meaningful

piece of Indigenous visual art. When Indigenous artists work with organizations in Canada to commemorate a goal, piece of work, project, or event, the artist has the responsibility of conveying the story, values, and culture of the organization in tandem with the beliefs and perspectives of their own culture. The piece of art then becomes a guiding image for project staff, Board and Committee members in staying true to the values of the work in discussions and decision making. This project's work will be inspired by commissioned art from Margaret August, Two-Spirit, Coast Salish artist.

*Amie Dowell, Chair*

*Federation of Dental Hygiene Regulators of Canada*

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