



Indigenous Nurses Day 2023

On behalf of NNPBC's Board and Councils we wish a happy Indigenous Nurses Day to all of BC's Indigenous nurses! Last year, BC broke-ground by designating a day to honour Charlotte Edith Anderson Monture, the first Indigenous person in Canada to be recognized as a registered nurse, who was born on April 10th, 1890.

Nurses are often the most frequent point of contact into the health care system for Indigenous people and are sometimes the only health professional in a small community. Indigenous nurses provide culturally safe care, rooted in traditional ways of being and are integral to ensuring that those who have been historically marginalized as a result of a colonial approach to health care are able to receive the care required. As nurses we are profoundly grateful to our Indigenous nurse colleagues who have demonstrated strength, resolve, compassion and leadership in a system that has not historically enabled cultural safe care.

This year we carry on the importance celebration of Indigenous Nurses Day. NNPBC unequivocally commits to working in ongoing allyship and to continually furthering its understanding as to how colonial power and privilege has perpetuated an inequitable social and political system. All of us at NNPBC, commit to ongoing learning and listening to one another and will work to actively foster and build capacity for Indigenous nursing leadership and engagement by advocating at the local, provincial and national levels of nursing and nurse practitioner associations and nursing professional regulatory bodies.

Happy Indigenous Nurses Day, we celebrate your work not just today but all days.

Sherri Kensall, NNPBC Board Chair on behalf of the NNPBC Board of Directors