

December 2020

On November 30, 2020 Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond released [her report](#) highlighting numerous systemic instances of system racism in BC health care. [NNPBC's response](#) articulated our commitment as an organization to not only support the recommendations outlined, but to act on them. The NNPBC Board was clear, accepting any less than a complete eradication of incredibly damaging systemic racism is unacceptable.

As we all continue to reflect on the report, we consider its first recommendation: "That the B.C. government apologize for Indigenous-specific racism in the health care system, setting the tone for similar apologies throughout the health system, and affirm its responsibility to direct and implement a comprehensive system-wide approach to addressing the problem, including standardized language and definitions, and clear roles and responsibilities for health authorities, regulatory bodies, associations and unions, and educational institutions."

On November 30, 2020, Minister of Health, Adrian Dix issued an apology to those who have experienced racism in accessing health care services. This served as an important step in moving these recommendations forward.

NNPBC, as the professional association representing nurses of all designations, offers a profound and sincere apology to those of Indigenous and Métis heritage for any mistreatment perpetuated against them by any nursing professional when accessing health care services. We have heard your stories and acknowledge that systemic racism has had a devastatingly negative impact on Indigenous health outcomes. Affecting change requires commitment, constant action and a mindfulness that ensures that we always consider the impact of our words and actions. We reaffirm our commitment to supporting lasting change in the nursing profession.

Sincerely,

NNPBC Board of Directors