



CHNC Statement: Confronting Racism

June 11, 2020

Recent events have been emotional. Now is not the time to hesitate on speaking up. The Community Health Nurses of Canada's vision is to advance practice excellence and to provide leadership to promote the health of people in Canada¹. This means the health of all. To promote the health of all means that we must call out racism, oppression, and violence, and bring these issues to the forefront as threats to health and well-being.

The impact of racism on the health of Canadians is not new. Whether overt or inadvertent, racism poses a health risk for individuals and for the population². Canadian research demonstrates that there are health disparities rooted in racism and explains how inequities are also rooted in biases in the provision of health care³. Community health nurses, as experienced health professionals, understand racism as a social determinant of health and practice cultural humility through self-reflection and lifelong learning to redress health inequity and provide culturally safe care.

CHNC believes social justice and health equity are central to all five domains of community health nursing: clinical care, policy, research, administration/leadership and education. CHNC's strategic priorities include advocating for social and political issues related to health and advancing principles and practice toward health equity.

We stand in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, and racialized people across Canada. We will continue to strive to push and support policies that address implicit biases and systematic racism that affect the health of people in Canada.

1. Community Health Nurses of Canada. (2020). Vision. <https://www.chnc.ca/en/vision-mission-statement-values>
2. Canadian Public Health Association. (2018). Racism and Public Health. Canadian Public Health Association, Policy and Advocacy, Policy and Position Statements. Retrieved from <https://www.cpha.ca/racism-and-public-health>
3. Nestel, S. (2012). Colour Coded Health Care: The impact of race and racism on Canadians' health. Toronto, ON, Wellesley Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Colour-Coded-Health-Care-Sheryl-Nestel.pdf>