



## **Truth BEFORE Reconciliation Webinar Series- Starting September 2021**

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released the final report on Truth and Reconciliation, which was constituted and created by the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The Commission spent six years traveling across Canada and hearing from over 6,000 witnesses who had been taken from their families as children and placed in residential schools. In 2021, many of the Calls to Action have not been fulfilled by Governments, and many Canadians remain ignorant to the truths told in the report. "Getting to the truth is hard but getting to reconciliation will be harder" (TRC, 2015).

In June 2021 the discovery of the mass grave of murdered children in the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation (and subsequent discoveries across Canada) has elevated awareness. The unthinkable horror of hearing of these children buried in an unmarked grave, having been forcibly taken away from their families and loved ones fills us with great sorrow. Sadly, we also know it is not an isolated incident. While this has been a sad discovery, it is not shocking. We know the impact of Canada's residential school system has caused trauma, pain and death for an unthinkable number of Indigenous people and has impacted subsequent generations as well. Canada's history of colonization, residential schools and racism must be acknowledged. As Dr. Bonnie Henry noted, this did not happen to the Indigenous people of our province, it was done to them as a result of racism and colonization.

Nurses have a foundational responsibility to practice nursing ethically, provide safe and competent care and interact with people in all sectors, across all domains of practice from first to last breath. As professionals, nurses have the humble opportunity to learn from the experiences of Indigenous people in health care. It is the responsibility of all Canadians to work to eradicate the conditions that perpetuate systemic racism. NNPBC believes that it is imperative to act on these truths and our work begins with an educational webinar series.

### **Goals**

- To provide a space to raise Indigenous voices with learning towards TRUTH.
- To elevate Indigenous voices in our community and create a space of learning for people on their own journeys towards anti-racism.
- To uphold the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the In Plain Sight Report.
- To provide necessary and foundational educational resources for nurses.

### **Target Start Date**

- September 2021, to be held monthly.