

Truth and Reconciliation

What responsibilities do RNs have with regards to the recommendations found in the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*?

“In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation,” recommendations 18 through 24 contain the health-related calls to action. (1) Every RN is held to a standard of practice in which culturally safe care is provided. RNs, through continuing competence can begin to explore the recommendations individually and in groups to assist our health care system in moving forward with the recommendations and promoting Canadian reconciliation.

- RNs incorporate knowledge that reflects a deep understanding and respect for different ways of knowing which exhibits cultural competence and cultural humility. (2)
- RNs practice a holistic, family-centred approach ensuring culturally-safe client care. (3)
- Nurses have a responsibility to conduct themselves according to the ethical responsibilities outlined in the CNA Code of Ethics and in practice standards. This must be considered in what they do and how they interact with persons receiving care and other members of the health care team. (4)
- Nurses collaborate with other health care providers and other interested parties to maximize health benefits to persons receiving care and those with health care needs, recognizing and respecting the knowledge, skills and perspectives of all. (5)
- Nurses refrain from judging, labelling, stigmatizing and humiliating behaviours towards persons receiving care or toward other health care providers, students and each other. (6)

What are some ideas I can use with my team to create a unit culture that embraces and takes action towards reconciliation?

There are several things you may do:

- Engage the staff in exploring ideas on what might be helpful in creating a unit that is culturally competent.
- Invite an elder to a staff meeting to teach Indigenous ways of knowing.
- Watch videos and explore websites related to truth and reconciliation. Discuss your learnings as a group to deepen understanding.
- Offer a general cultural diversity education session about being aware of behaviours and how they can impact someone else.
- Invite an Indigenous nurse to share cultural beliefs regarding Indigenous health issues.
- Create a small lending library of materials people can borrow and read.
- Remind staff of organizational mission, vision and value statements that include cultural competence. Consider incorporating cultural competence into your unit’s value statements.
- Explore learning modules that offer cultural awareness.
- Contact Saskatchewan Health Authority First Nations and Metis Relations for support.
- Consider including an acknowledgement of traditional lands at the start of meetings.

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- As a unit, take action on a priority health initiative highlighted in the TRC recommendation #19 and share your progress and key learnings.
- Become familiar with research and initiatives focused on Indigenous health.

SRNA Resources

- [Code of Ethics for registered nurses \(2017\)](#)
- [Registered Nurse Practice Standards \(2019\)](#)
- [Registered Nurse Entry-Level Competencies \(2019\)](#)

External Resources

- [RNAO Nursing Best Practice Guidelines. Embracing Cultural Diversity in Health Care: Developing Cultural Competence \(2007\)](#)
- [Canadian Nurses Association \(CNA\) Position Statement: Promoting Cultural Competence in Nursing \(2018\)](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action Cultural Awareness Learning Module](#)
- [Nurses’ Professional Responsibilities in Partnering with Indigenous Peoples in Improving Health Outcomes: Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety](#)
- [Institute of Indigenous Peoples’ Health](#)

Resource Key		
Number	Resource	Reference
1	Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action	p. 2-3
2	Registered Nurse Practice Standards (2019)	Indicator 16, p. 5
3	Registered Nurse Practice Standards (2019)	Indicator 28, p. 6
4	Code of Ethics (2017)	p. 8, A1
5	Code of Ethics (2017)	p. 10, B4
6	Code of Ethics (2017)	p. 15, F3

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