



INDIGENOUS HEALTH NETWORK

Serving Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand, Brant, Burlington and Norfolk

Indigenous Health Network Releases Interactive Toolkit to Address Discrimination and Encourage Partnership

NEWS

January 20, 2020

The Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Indigenous Health Network (IHN) in partnership with the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN) has created an interactive guide to support health care providers and organizations improve the health care experience for Indigenous patients and families.

Sparked by Indigenous and non-Indigenous community consultations, the Indigenous ***Allyship Toolkit: A guide to honouring culture, authentic collaboration and addressing discrimination*** was created to respond to the identified need for tangible and practical ways to embed Indigenous cultural awareness and safety principles.

The Toolkit contains a variety of resources to deepen awareness and address the systemic barriers that perpetuate discrimination and negative health care experiences for Indigenous peoples. Feedback received revealed that individuals often refrain from speaking up against discrimination out of fear or lack of understanding. Through the use of reflective exercises and practical tools, the toolkit is intended to address these barriers and empower individuals to advocate and to appropriately act upon anti-Indigenous racism.

The Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Indigenous Health Network encourages individuals and organizations to explore the themes and materials contained within the toolkit.

QUOTES

“As a founding organization of the Indigenous Health Network, seeing little to no uptake, it is good to finally see the positive movement commence. This toolkit helps to inform, teach and prepare professionals to create the positive changes needed. “First People’s” need to be given “First Priority” in all new planning within all sectors of Canadian society, government, legislation, policy, regulation, and institutions. By thinking of and acting on the principle of: “First Peoples, First Priority” society begins to even out the playing field by ensuring that no one gets left behind and that discrimination, racism, and negligence in the healthcare system are no longer tolerated.”

— Wendy Sturgeon, Indigenous Health Network, Co-Chair

“Early on in my professional career I had seen little recognition and acknowledgment of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit accessing and receiving health services. I had witnessed and felt the disparity, inequality, injustice and the lack of knowledge mainstream has had for Indigenous peoples. I believe we are living in exciting times and developing relationships of mutual respect and honouring the roles we each all contribute and advocate towards a positive shift in a good way.”

— Maggie Copeland, Indigenous Health Network, Co-Chair



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QUICK FACTS

- [Indigenous Allyship Toolkit](#)
- The Indigenous Health Network (IHN) is comprised of 21 member organizations from across the HNHB LHIN, representing on and off reserve populations.
- The HNHB LHIN IHN provides a setting for Indigenous health and social service organizations to collaborate with the HNHB LHIN and other health service providers to understand and address the health needs and issues of local Indigenous communities.
- The Indigenous Allyship Toolkit supports organizational efforts to address the health actions identified in the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Health Calls to Action Report \(2015\)](#) as outlined in items #18-24

For more information regarding the Indigenous Allyship Toolkit or the IHN visit <http://www.hnhblhin.on.ca/goalsandachievements/integrationpopulationbased/indigenoushealthandwellness/indigenoushealthnetwork.aspx>

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