



National Indigenous Peoples Day 2026

Statement from the President

On National Indigenous Peoples Day, we wish our Indigenous colleagues a meaningful and joyful day of celebration, and honour the strength, wisdom, cultures, and leadership of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples across the country.

Today is not only a celebration, but also a reminder of the responsibility healthcare institutions and medical education systems carry in addressing the harms of colonialism and ongoing structural racism that continue to impact Indigenous Peoples and communities.

Indigenous Peoples continue to experience racism and inequities within healthcare systems and medical training environments. As resident doctors learn and provide care within these systems, we all share a responsibility to listen, learn, advocate, and contribute to meaningful change.

This work is grounded in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action on health, which continue to call for accountability, systemic change, and action to address anti-Indigenous racism and inequities within healthcare and medical education.

We are also grateful for the leadership of Indigenous physicians, educators, learners, and organizations, including the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada (IPAC) and the National Circle for Indigenous Medical Education (NCIME). The Indigenous Physician Wellness and Joy in Work Calls to Action further challenge medical education and healthcare systems to create environments where Indigenous learners and physicians are respected, supported, and able to thrive.

As part of this ongoing work, RDoC continues to learn from and support efforts to address anti-Indigenous racism within medical training and healthcare systems. This includes advocating for safer and more culturally respectful learning environments, and supporting residents in their role in accreditation and systems change work as new standards addressing anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism come into effect in 2026. It also includes working alongside Indigenous-led organizations and initiatives through ongoing support and partnership.

We are committed to listening to and learning from Indigenous residents and communities so their experiences, perspectives, and leadership help shape healthier training environments and more equitable systems of care.

We also recognize the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems and traditional healing practices, and the need for healthcare systems and medical education to respect and meaningfully engage with these ways of knowing and healing.

This work is ongoing and requires humility, accountability, relationship-building, and sustained commitment.

Today, we encourage residents, programs, and institutions to take time to learn from, celebrate, and honour Indigenous Peoples, communities, cultures, healing practices, ceremonies, and cultural events, and to reflect on the responsibility we each share in fostering safer, more respectful, and more equitable healthcare and training environments.

Strengthening residency training and improving care for patients and communities requires ongoing commitment, relationship-building, and collective action.



Dr. Dammy Bello
RDoC President 2026-27