



The College of  
Physicians and Surgeons  
of Newfoundland and Labrador

# INDIGENOUS PHYSICIAN SURVEY

## Notice to College Members

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November 18, 2019

One of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was to increase the number of Indigenous people working in the health care field. To this end, the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada sent the following correspondence to the College. The College strongly recommends that Indigenous Physicians, Fellows, Residents, and Medical Students complete the referenced survey as soon as possible.

*Greetings from the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada,*

*We are seeking your assistance in sharing a brief but important survey among Indigenous physicians, residents and medical students in your province or territory.*

*One of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was to increase the number of Indigenous people working in the health care field and to ensure retention of Indigenous health care workers in Indigenous communities. We know the importance of increasing these numbers for providing culturally safe and trauma informed care. Although various efforts are underway, to our knowledge, there are no reports outlining the number of Indigenous Physicians and health care workers in Canada, and the extent to which they are working with Indigenous People or in Indigenous Communities.*

*For the first time, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia has collected ethnicity data on physicians and was able to report the number of Physicians who identified as Indigenous; this data will be released at a future date. We are not aware of any physician associations in other provinces or territories collecting Indigenous identification information. Until that happens across the country or at the national level, using our network through the*

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## The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador

*Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada (IPAC) is one of the best ways to get a baseline understanding of the profile of Indigenous physicians, fellows, residents, and medical students we currently have in Canada. We are also interested in the extent to which Indigenous physicians are working with Indigenous people and/or in Indigenous communities.*

*We have 183 responses to date. We want to ensure that all Indigenous Physicians, residents and medical students, throughout Canada, are aware of this survey. Provinces and territories that we need extra help reaching are: New Brunswick, North West Territories, Nunavut, PEI, the Yukon Territories, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland.*

*To that end, we have two requests of you:*

- 1. If you are an Indigenous Physician, Fellow, Resident or Medical Student, please complete the brief [Survey](#)*
- 2. Please share this email with any Indigenous Physicians, Residents, Fellows or Medical Students in Canada whom you believe may not be members of IPAC and encourage their participation in the survey.*
- 3. If you are able to share on any online medical communities, please use the attached graphic and the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XNMW7LC>*

*In peace and partnership,*

**Melanie Osmack**



Indigenous  
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