



Happy Indigenous Nurses Day

Statement by Laurie Dokis ARNBC Regional Director: First Nations

Anin,

On behalf of ARNBC as the Regional Director: First Nations, I would like to wish Indigenous nurses across British Columbia a very happy Indigenous Nurses Day!

Often unrecognized by Western health care systems, Indigenous nursing knowledge has contributed to the health and well-being of our communities through the integrated use of our traditional knowledge and healing practices with our nursing education. Prior to colonization, Indigenous peoples across B.C. enjoyed good health and prosperity in large part because of their ability to access traditional healers who addressed the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health of individuals, families and communities. Indigenous nurses today continue to play an integral part in providing culturally safe, competent and ethical health care to British Columbians and it is critical to remain committed to valuing and respecting our Indigenous ways of knowing.

Indigenous Nurses Day is a time to highlight the unique contributions of Indigenous nurses to health care. This year's theme for National Nursing Week is #YESthisisnursing and in keeping with the theme, we want to honour the sacred Indigenous knowledge and traditions that Indigenous nurses bring to their practice to support the health and well-being of British Columbians in every community and health care setting.

Today we celebrate our strength, our resilience, our advocacy, our heritage and our dedication to the peoples we serve. My wish is for all of us is to take time and show appreciation to ourselves, our colleagues and our support systems so that we may lift each other up in strength and unity.

I wish you all a Happy Nursing Week and a Happy Indigenous Nurses Day!

Meegwich,
Laurie Dokis