

## **SRCHC in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and Dedicated to Truth and Reconciliation**

During Community Health Wellbeing Week, on September 30 — Truth and Reconciliation Day — an event was held to acknowledge the current state of Indigenous health. We must recognize that the health of Indigenous peoples is inextricably linked to government policies, including residential schools, and we will work to build trust with community members. Alongside Les Harper, our Indigenous health promoter, and other providers, we have begun to monitor health outcomes to identify gaps and improve health care quality for the Indigenous community. With this information, we continue to call on government to seek opportunities and provide sustainable funding for Indigenous programs and services which address the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual harm caused by residential schools and colonization.

We recognize the value of Indigenous healing practices and we will continue to work closely with the Indigenous community to learn how to use them in our programs and services. We will also continue to maintain our community partnerships with Indigenous health organizations to ensure that traditional healing in primary care models is being practiced in a respectful, responsive manner, directed by Indigenous communities and traditional healers. In addition, many of our staff have participated in San'Yas Indigenous Cultural Training. We hope to have all staff trained, and continue to promote it with our partners.

As part of broader strategic plans both within our organization and the health care system, SRCHC hopes to assist in establishing reconciliation plans. Beyond truth and reconciliation, our goal is to advocate for and contribute to a national Indigenous health strategy.