

Hastings Prince Edward Ontario Health Team (HPE OHT)

Truth and Reconciliation Statement

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada states that without truth, justice is not served, healing cannot happen, and there can be no genuine reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. It is with this in mind that Hastings Prince Edward OHT acknowledges harmful aspects of the health care system's history with Indigenous peoples as a first step on the path of reconciliation.

The partnership of agencies that comprise the Hastings Prince Edward OHT:

- Stand for Truth and Reconciliation
- Acknowledge that Indigenous people have suffered under colonial and postcolonial policies
- Work to implement wholistic care, and recognize and address health inequities
- Call for an end to the systemic inequities faced by Indigenous Communities
- Call upon the government to work on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action
- Adopt the 5 principles of reconciliation defined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as we actively engage in the process of establishing and maintaining respectful relations with Indigenous people, groups and agencies in Hastings Prince Edward. These principles are:
 - political will
 - joint leadership
 - trust building
 - accountability, and
 - transparency.

As an entity, Hastings Prince Edward OHT has much to learn about the experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada, as well as how the diverse cultures, educational backgrounds, and histories of our staff shape the care we deliver. For the past 18 months we have engaged Indigenous partners to direct us in this learning and growth, and in the coming years will continue to work with partners to identify, prioritize, and implement improvements to ensure accessible, culturally appropriate services for Indigenous people.

Actions to date:

- Land acknowledgement training for 30 persons at OHT partner organizations, including Board members.
- San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety online training for all OHT Backbone staff.
- Renewed Land acknowledgement and practices implemented at Stewardship and Collaborative meetings – May 2024.



Our actions to March 2026 will include:

- Developing a Land acknowledgment Policy as well as supporting materials to ensure understanding of the history and rationale behind it.
- Presenting the health-related Calls to Action to the Stewardship group, Primary Care Council, and the Patient, Client and Partner Council.
- Formally acknowledging the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day and National Indigenous Peoples Day, and calling on others to join us.
- Encouraging organizations to provide Cultural Safety Training to staff, especially those who are client/patient facing.
- To promote and bring awareness of Joyce's Principle, which aims to guarantee Indigenous people the right of equitable access to all social and health services.

This statement was endorsed by the Stewardship Group, on October 21, 2024.

September 2024

References

Adapted from the Hospital for Sick Kids Indigenous Health Strategy

<https://www.sickkids.ca/en/care-services/indigenous-health/>

[Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: 94 Calls to Action](#)

Adapted from The Office of Joyce's Principle

[Joyce's Principle \(principedejoyce.com\)](http://principedejoyce.com)

Adapted from the REACH Community Health Centre

[TRC - Health Care](#)