

To: Doctors Nova Scotia

Re: Creation of a Section of Physicians for Indigenous Health

We are writing today to request the creation of a Section of Physicians for Indigenous Health. Indigenous Health is increasingly being seen as a specialized focus of primary care and medicine, in general. Indigenous peoples in Canada face unique health challenges. In order to face these challenges, physicians working with Indigenous populations require special knowledge and experience. Further, there are many cultural safety issues that a physician must consider while working with Indigenous patients. Finally, a familiarity with the social determinants of health is essential when working in Indigenous health. By creating this Section, we hope to create a forum where physicians can share knowledge, experience and training in these areas. We hope that this will then lead to better health care delivery to this priority population. While knowledge sharing would be the initial goals of the Section, we would also hope that, in future, the Section would also have the potential to expand to advocacy and/ or research.

The Section will be open to all physicians who hold a membership with Doctors NS and have an interest in Indigenous health. This would primarily include physicians working directly with Indigenous Nova Scotians as well as DNS members who work with Indigenous populations outside Nova Scotia (e.g. physicians working in “the North”). However, working directly with Indigenous populations need not be a mandatory requirement to join. We can foresee great value in a wide spectrum of membership ranging from medical students interested in learning more about Indigenous health to retired members who have a career of experience with Indigenous populations.

Dr. Timothy Holland has volunteered as an interim chair.

Dr. Tiffany O’Donnell has volunteered as an interim secretary.

We have attached a list of 11 members of Doctors Nova Scotia who have signed as sponsors of the Section of Physicians for Indigenous Health.

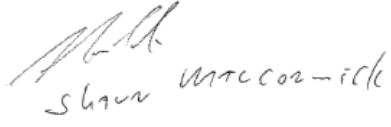
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tim Holland'.

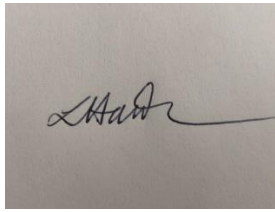
Tim Holland

A handwritten signature in a stylized, blocky font, appearing to read 'DM'.

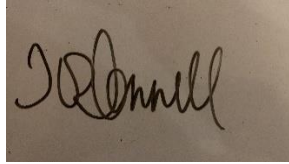
David Martell

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Shaun MacCormick'.

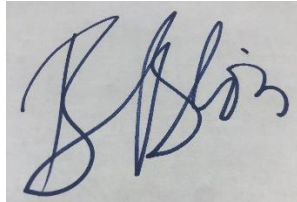
Shaun MacCormick



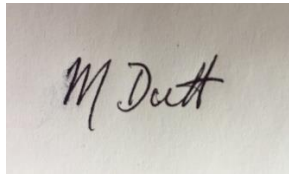
Leisha Hawker



Tiffany O'Donnell



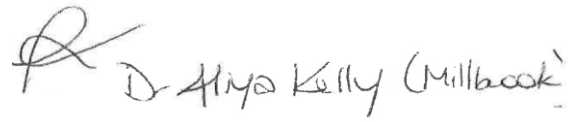
Beau Blois



Monika Dutt



Hali Bauld



Aliya Kelly



Cathy Felderhof



Aruna Dhara