Status Quo is No Longer an Option

Towards a Coalition on Action Against Indigenous Specific Racism in Health Care

Meet the Speakers

Dr. Cheryl Ward

Executive Director,
Provincial Health Services Authority

Dr. Cheryl Ward is Kwakwaka'wakw and a member of the 'Namgis First Nation from northern Vancouver Island. She and her family have been living as guests on the territory of the Snuneymuxw people for the past twenty years.

Deeply committed to social justice education, decolonizing anti-racism training, and the development of Indigenous cultural safety pedagogy, Cheryl has more than twenty-five years of experience working on initiatives focusing on Indigenous cultural safety (ICS) and anti-Indigenous racism. In 2008, she joined the Indigenous Health team at British Columbia's Provincial Health Services Authority to lead the curriculum design and implementation of what would become the San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety (ICS) Training Program. Since 2010, the San'yas program has trained more than 130,000 people across Canada and continues to expand.

In 2019, Cheryl completed her doctorate in education. Her thesis, "Teaching about Race and Racism: The Indigenous Elephant in the Room", examines anti-Indigenous racism in the context of adult learning environments.

Cheryl became the Executive Director of Indigenous Health at Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) in 2019 where she is responsible for ICS organizational strategy, research and development, and systems change that addresses anti-Indigenous racism. The focus of her work is on organizational change and examining the structural barriers to ICS.

Hosted by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, in partnership with Safespace Networks and San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training. For more information, please visit bcaafc.com/events.