

IMNCY Community Engagement

One function of the Indigenous Maternal Newborn Child & Youth (IMNCY) Standing Committee is to support initiatives, projects and programs that actively engage with Indigenous peoples subject to Treaties 6, 7, and 8, Métis Settlements General Council and the Métis Nation of Alberta. Mothers, grandmothers, parents, and families; healers, Elders, and Traditional Knowledge Keepers; midwives, doulas, and traditional birth attendants; and those with experiences related to maternal child health are invited to reach out to IMNCY and become members on projects and initiatives that utilize co-design approaches with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit partners and organizations.

IMNCY is accountable to consistent co-design programs of work informed by community-based participatory research and action. Co-design helps ensure that the various regional ways of healing and knowing are respected, and create an inclusive acknowledgement of Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in healthcare. In partnership with the Indigenous Wellness Core (IWC), this engagement is one way in which AHS responds to the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#) (a guide for all Canadians to understand and reconcile with the facts behind the implementation of the residential school system operating across Canada between 1831 and 1996).

IMNCY engagement responds directly to call to action 18—for “federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties,”—and call to action 22, which calls upon those in Canadian healthcare systems to “recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.”¹

Every step of the way forward, the IMNCY Standing Committee promotes actionable change in collaboration with the vibrant First Nations communities and Métis settlements in Alberta. It will work in good relations with Indigenous partners to identify evidence and solutions that address systemic and service gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers and children, for better maternal child health equity and outcomes for all mothers, newborns, children, and youth in Alberta.

June 2022

¹ *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*, United Nations, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015, 2-3.

