



Alika Lafontaine, BSc, MD, FRCPC

Dr. Alika Lafontaine is an Aboriginal physician of Cree and Anishinaabe heritage, born and raised in Southern Saskatchewan/Treaty 4 territory. After being labeled learning-disabled as a child, his parents made the difficult decision to homeschool him and at age 16 became one of the youngest recipients of a prestigious undergraduate NSERC research grant through the University of Regina.

After completing a Bachelor of Science in chemistry, he completed his MD at the University of Saskatchewan followed by a five-year fellowship in anesthesiology. In the midst of his fellowship, Lafontaine became CBC's "Canada's Next Great Prime Minister," winning the competition with a platform focused on reconciling the Treaty relationship between Canada's Indigenous Peoples and Canadians. In addition to other awards and honours, Lafontaine remains the youngest recipient of the Indspire Award -- the highest honour Aboriginal Peoples give their own for the past 20 years -- and in 2015 he was selected as a recipient of the Canadian Medical Association Young Leaders Award (Early Career).

Through story-telling, real patient encounters and his own experience, Lafontaine lectures across Canada on the role bias, discrimination and racism has on patient care and why addressing these issues lies at the core of improving the health of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples.

Lafontaine currently serves on the boards of several non-profits, including the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada. He is an elected member of the representative forum of the Alberta Medical Association and is Medical Lead for the Aboriginal Health Program - North Zone of Alberta Health Services.