



Letter of Intent

RNAO and First Nation Leadership

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) and the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), have agreed to begin working together to urge federal, provincial, and local governments to address the mental, physical, social and economic inequities experienced by First Nations communities, caused by a history of discriminatory policies that have created crisis levels of mental health challenges, addictions, suicides, and overall poor health. Upon review of this letter, a resolution for a formal Statement of Partnership will be presented at the June 2016 All Ontario Chiefs Conference.

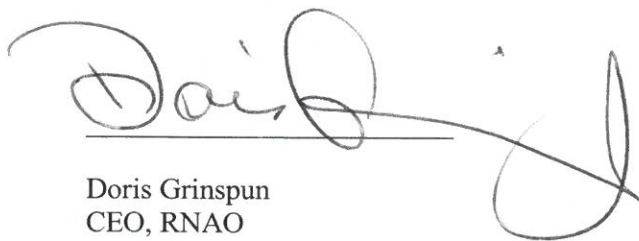
RNAO and COO have identified key priorities where immediate, substantive and sustained action must be taken to improve the lives of First Nations people:

- Action on suicide, mental health, and addiction
- Action on improving social and environmental determinants of health
- Action on improving health services

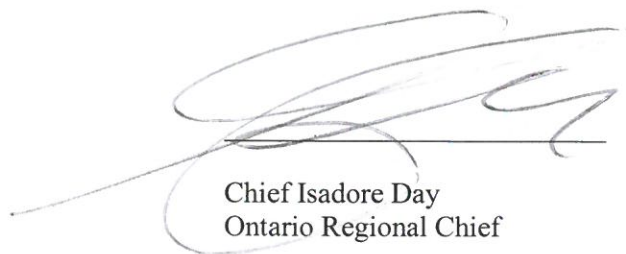
Working with First Nations and their organizations, and with support from our members, RNAO will commit to improving the delivery of high quality and culturally safe nursing services as critical components of an accessible, equitable, and holistic health system. This includes advocacy for the implementation from RNAO's *Rural, Remote and Northern Nursing Workforce Report* as well as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's *Calls to Action* report.

We honourably acknowledge the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for charting a path, and are eager to work in partnership with First Nations as we move forward. In the spirit of true fellowship and commitment, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, and nursing students walk this journey of truth and reconciliation with Ontario First Nations. We are early in our journey, and vow to be steadfast companions along the way.

We commit to listen, learn, and act in ways that build respectful relationships so we can be better nurses, neighbours, and human beings. Ontario will be stronger if all its residents have equal access to health.



Doris Grinspun
CEO, RNAO



Chief Isadore Day
Ontario Regional Chief