

Indigenous Health Collaborative Space



Edith Monture 1890 - 1996

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario Collaborative Spaces embody equity, diversity and inclusion — fostering belonging and advancing community-centred health for all through dialogue, partnership, evidence and advocacy.

The Indigenous Health Collaborative Space honours First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, recognizing their lived and living experiences, leadership and enduring contributions to health and healing.

This space is named in honour of Charlotte “Edith” Anderson Monture, the first Indigenous registered nurse in Canada. Born on April 10, 1890, on the Six Nations of the Grand River, she was the youngest of eight children of John and Mary Anderson. Although her formal schooling ended at grade 8, and family caregiving responsibilities were expected of her, Edith was determined to pursue nursing. At a time when the Indian Act restricted access to higher education for Indigenous Peoples, she sought training in the United States, enrolling in a nursing program in New Rochelle, New York, where she graduated at the top of her class.

After early work in a private boys' school, Edith enlisted as a war nurse in 1917, serving in a hospital in France during the First World War. She documented her experiences of the war in a private diary. Following her marriage to Claybran Monture in 1920 and the raising of their four children, she returned to nursing in 1946 at Lady Willingdon Hospital in Ohsweken, where she practised until her retirement in the late 1950s. She devoted her life to serving the Six Nations community, often as both nurse and midwife, providing care across generations.

Edith Monture's life stands as a testament to perseverance, leadership and service. She died on April 4, 1996, just days before her 106th birthday. Indigenous Nurses Day is marked each year on April 10 in her honour, recognizing her legacy and the ongoing contributions of Indigenous nurses to health and wellbeing.



Edith Monture

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