BACKGROUND

- The Indian Residential School System (IRSS) was a Canadian government initiative which promoted the cultural assimilation of Indigenous peoples in Canadian society. Over 120 years, 150,000 Indigenous children and youth were removed from their traditional communities and relocated to residential schools.
- IRSS survivors represent a lost generation of childhood trauma and experience of intergenerational childhood trauma.
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada was established to document the testimonies and experiences of survivors of the IRSS and the impacts of cultural assimilation and colonialism. In 2015, the TRC published 94 calls to action. Among the most relevant was the call to action that “...develop a social accountability framework for Indigenous cultural safety and anti-racism training.”
- In 2020, the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences (RFHS) issued its policy on the “Disruption of All Forms of Racism,” including systemic racism. All learners, faculty, and staff are expected to work in an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment.
- Despite efforts to promote Indigenous cultural safety practices and anti-racism policies for undergraduate and post-graduate learners, there remain gaps in training for faculty, leading to the potential for a hidden curriculum of ongoing institutional racism and the perpetuation of racial inequities in health care.

GOAL

- To develop a social accountability framework for Indigenous cultural safety and anti-racism policies in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, College of Medicine, RFHS.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- We dedicate this work to the IRSS survivors of Canada. Megwich.