BACKGROUND

- In Plain Sight Recommendation 18
  That the B.C. government require all university and college
degree and diploma programs for health professionals in B.C. to
implement mandatory strategies and targets to identify, recruit
and encourage Indigenous enrolment and graduation, including
increasing the safety of the learning environment for Indigenous
students.
- UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan
  Increase recruitment and retention of Indigenous students
- FOD Strategic Plan
  Attract, engage and retain historically excluded populations

OBJECTIVE

Establish a working group within the faculty of dentistry to include
faculty, staff, and community representation, with the main purpose to increase the enrollment and graduation of
Indigenous oral healthcare providers.

DENTISTRY INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP (DIWG)

DIWG MISSION
Facilitate, form, and maintain partnerships between UBC Faculty
of Dentistry and Indigenous communities in BC and beyond, that
may lead to Indigenous students’ increased interest in dentistry
as a career choice, and increased admissions of Indigenous
students into academic programs at the UBC Faculty of
Dentistry.

DIWG GOALS
- Establish trust and working relationships with Indigenous
  communities
- Reach out to Indigenous students in the community, starting at
  secondary school level, to introduce dentistry and dental
  hygiene as a career choice
- Establish funding to support pipeline programs for prospective
  Indigenous students
- Conduct training for faculty, staff and students to increase
  awareness of Indigenous people’s culture and support within
  the educational setting
- Create mentorship programs for Indigenous dentistry students
  (DHDP, DMD, and Grad levels)
- Advocate for, and assist Indigenous oral health students with
  obtaining financial support from community and corporate
  partners

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

- Continue to build trust in the community
- Establish student support structure for FOD Indigenous
  learners
- Implement curricular changes to incorporate appropriate
  Indigenous content
- Engage faculty, staff and students to foster an inclusive and
  respectful environment
- Mentorship program enhancement
- Ambassadors project enhancement
- Tuition grants
- Summer program on campus
- RBC initiatives
- Government and university advocacy
- Establish metrics and benchmarks
- Develop programs’ tracking and outcomes assessment
  process

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REFERENCES

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
  https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-
  indigenous-peoples.html
- In plain sight https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/51/2020/11/In-Plain-Sight-Full-
  Report.pdf
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action
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- UBC Indigenous Strategic Plan https://indigenous.ubc.ca/indigenous-engagement/indigenous-
  strategic-plan/?login
- TRC 23/24 report card and FOM response to 23/24
- FOD Strategic Plan
- QH8/g/Addressing Indigenous health workforce inequities: a literature review exploring ‘best’
  practice for recruitment into tertiary health programmes
- Curtis, Elana; DiBaise, Gottlieb;  and Delaney, Laura;  Brian;  and the entire ELAM 2021 facul
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