



## CFMS Member Memo – June 22nd

Over the past year, very serious concerns of anti-Indigenous racism arose within the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) leadership following the resignations of the [Director of Global Health](#) and the [National Officer of Indigenous Health](#). In January 2021, the previous CFMS directors commissioned an external investigator to conduct an independent and impartial investigation. As the new Board of Directors, having entered the role on April 18<sup>th</sup> 2021, we have been waiting to make an extended statement in the hope that the full findings of the investigation would allow us to speak more accurately and meaningfully. We also wanted to ensure the investigator's independence in their assessments, and reporting of findings.

We recognize the community's investment in this matter and strive to keep our membership informed of our progress as we await the conclusion of the investigation. Since being elected, we have:

- (a) Retained a social justice and equity-driven law firm to advise and guide the current Board on reforming our non-profit bylaws to support our vision of creating a safer and more equitable environment for Indigenous learners to engage with the CFMS. The law firm is also advising the Board on the legal implications surrounding public release of the completed investigation. We are committed to ensuring there will be a fair and very transparent investigation as permissible by law.
- (b) Met with the investigator to assess how we can cooperate to ensure the support and safety for the two individuals to participate in the investigative process. To that end, we have committed more resources towards the investigation to facilitate this.

We share your frustration with how long this process has taken. Although we are dedicated to upholding the value of accountability to our membership, as this is an ongoing investigation, we need to respect the privacy of the parties involved and not to interfere with the investigative process.

We will release another statement upon the completion of the investigation to update you on the status of the public release.

Best wishes,

Joseph Boyle

Edgar Akuffo-Addo

Sheharzad Mahmood

Interim President

Anti-Harassment Lead

Western Regional Director