

Understanding the realities of care

Findings from a 2025 ICCC survey of current participants further underscore these dynamics. More than 80% of respondents reported traveling long distances, often more than 4 hours, to deliver care. Many serve predominantly Indigenous patient populations within team-based models of care.

The survey also reflects a strong commitment to culturally informed care. More than half of the respondents reported incorporating Elders, Knowledge Keepers, or traditional wellness providers into their practice. Many also integrated traditional approaches alongside Western medicine, reflecting principles such as Two-Eyed Seeing.

At the same time, physicians identified ongoing challenges, including professional isolation, emotional strain, and systemic barriers. These insights reaffirm the importance of connection and support for those working in complex and underserved settings.

Advancing practice through connection

Within this context, the ICCC provides a trusted space for open dialogue, mentorship, and mutual support among physicians navigating similar complexities. Physicians describe their work as both a privilege and a responsibility, supporting communities that have experienced significant harm within

colonial systems while working to improve care experiences within.

At its core, the ICCC is rooted in relationships between clinicians, with communities, and across the health care system. It reflects a simple but critical understanding: supporting those who provide care is essential to advancing culturally safe and antiracist health care systems. ■

To learn more about the ICCC, email isar.edi@doctorsofbc.ca.

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