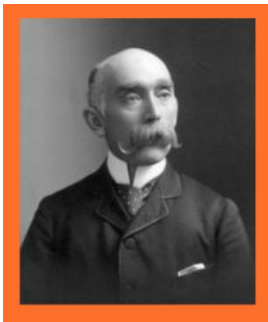


The Rev. Gerald Gallant, Moderator
Mrs. Donna McIlveen, Clerk

www.qeosynodpcc.ca

To: Synod 2026 Attendees

Greetings. Synod 2026 will begin with a service of worship including the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. An offering will be received during the opening worship. The Synod Council has designated the offering to be given to the Dr. Peter Bryce Indigenous Scholarship in Medicine, an initiative undertaken by Knox Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, and in partnership with the University of Ottawa.



Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce was a Canadian doctor, a leader in the field of Public Health, and an Indigenous health advocate at the turn of the 20th century. Born into a Presbyterian family in 1853, he pursued a career in medicine. In 1904 he was appointed chief medical officer of health for the Department of Indian Affairs (DIA). In 1907 he wrote a report on the high death rates in residential schools brought about by the spread of tuberculosis. The Government ignored his findings. Undeterred, he published a report entitled *"The Story of a National Crime: Being a Record of the Health Conditions of the Indians of Canada from 1904 to 1921"* after his retirement in 1922. Dr. Bryce died in 1932 and is buried in Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa.

The Dr. Peter Bryce Indigenous Scholarship in Medicine is a concrete way to show support for furthering the goals of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of 2015. The scholarship initiative aligns with The Presbyterian Church in Canada's 1994 Confession to God and to Indigenous People, following the denomination's involvement in the Residential School programs. The Presbyterian Church in Canada administered 11 Residential Schools on behalf of the federal government.

Initiated by Knox Church in early 2022, the scholarship is coordinated through the University of Ottawa's Bursary program, offering an annual award of \$2000 to an indigenous student applicant who is a full-time student in the Undergraduate Medical Education Program (UGME) in the Faculty of Medicine. Applicants are also required to demonstrate financial need and meet the requirements of the University's Eligibility for Focused Admissions, Scholarships and Bursaries for First Nations, Inuit and Metis people. Selection of an annual recipient is made by a committee composed of UOttawa's Director of Financial Aid and Awards, the Director of Indigenous Affairs and the Director of the Faculty of Medicine's Indigenous Program. So far, 3 scholarships of \$2000 have been awarded and presented in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

More information about the scholarship can be found at:

knoxottawa.ca/news/dr-peter-bryce-indigenous-scholarship-in-medicine

Envelopes will be provided and tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20.00 or more.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna McIlveen".

Donna McIlveen
Synod clerk