

# INDIGENOUS DENTAL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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IDAC Co-Founder and Board of Directors**

# History

## Timeline for the Indigenous Dental Association of Canada

### Incorporation of IDAC/ Non-profit

October 2021

Inspired by personal experiences and by The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

### Launch

March 2022

Webinar: Anti-Indigenous Racism and Reconciliation in Dentistry

### Funding

November 2022

Public announcement for 2-year support

### Physical Location

January 2023

Located on Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Urban Reserve in Saskatoon

### Grand Opening

November 17, 2023

Open invitation for those to come by the physical location to meet the Board of Directors and team

### Upcoming Events

TBD

- Jordan's Principle Oral Health Centre
- Jordan's Principle Webinar
- Indigenous Oral Health Research Centre
- Mentorship and Indigenous Oral Health Provider gatherings

# National Indigenous Oral Health Day October 15<sup>th</sup>

## Why is this day important?

- Indigenous peoples face unique barriers to oral health
  - Oral health inequities
  - Inequity: Inequality that is unjust, unfair, and avoidable
- It is important to recognize these challenges and barriers
  - How do we change if we don't know what needs to change
- Positive change requires different perspective

## What we accomplished on this day

- Inaugural National Indigenous Oral Health Day
- Updated membership on IDAC endeavours 2023
- Committee development for the first official National Indigenous Oral Health Day October 15<sup>th</sup> 2024





# Indigenous Oral Health Research Centre

## Research Indigenous oral health issues:

- Research is a “dirty word” for Indigenous communities
- Like First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) Regional Health Survey, IDAC moves forward with an Indigenous lens focusing on community needs (eg. OCAP)
- Physical location equipped with technology to securely store information; ISC supported technology budget for those that would like to research and have no access to technology
- Partnership (working alongside institutions and organizations)
- Lead (gain access to funding without institution affiliation)
- Support students in their studies

# Jordan's Principle Oral Health Centre

- Webinar
- Handbook
- Service Coordinator
- Oral Health Specific requests



# Closing the Smile Gap Campaign

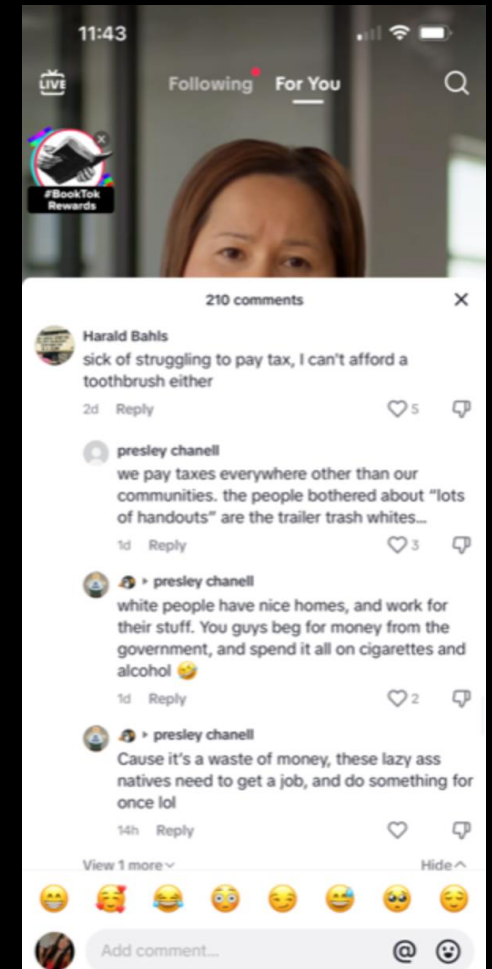
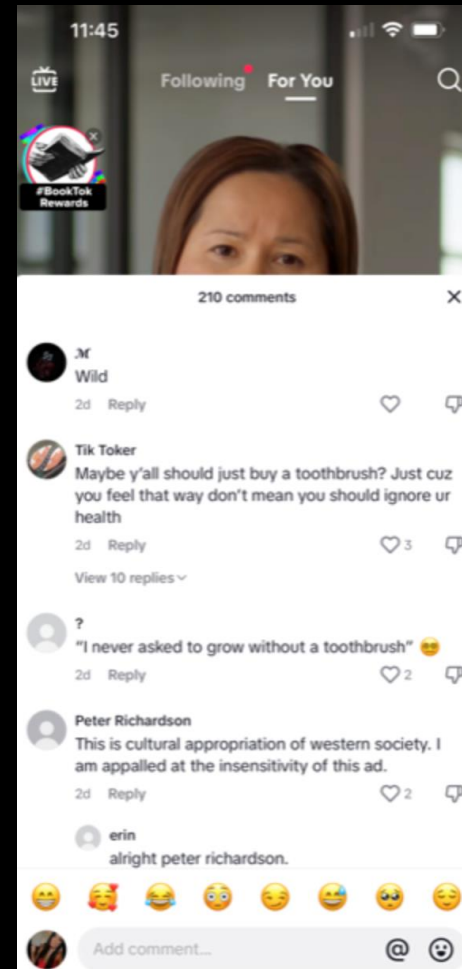
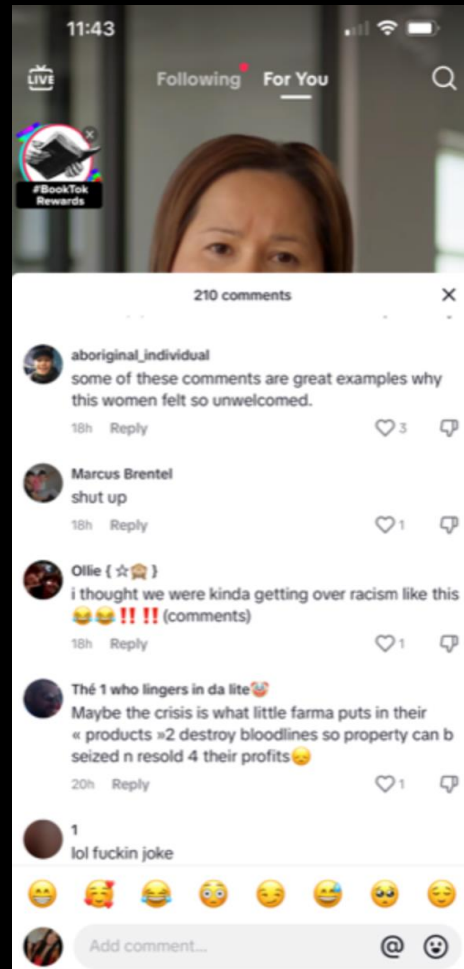
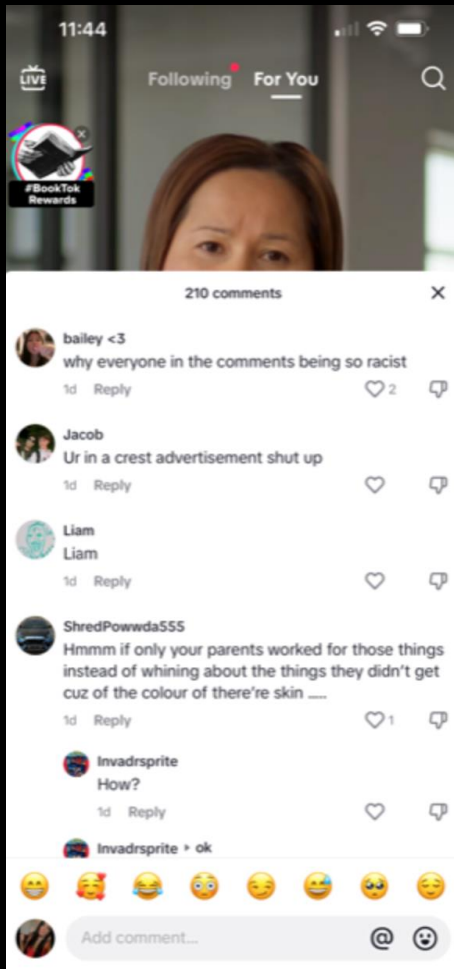
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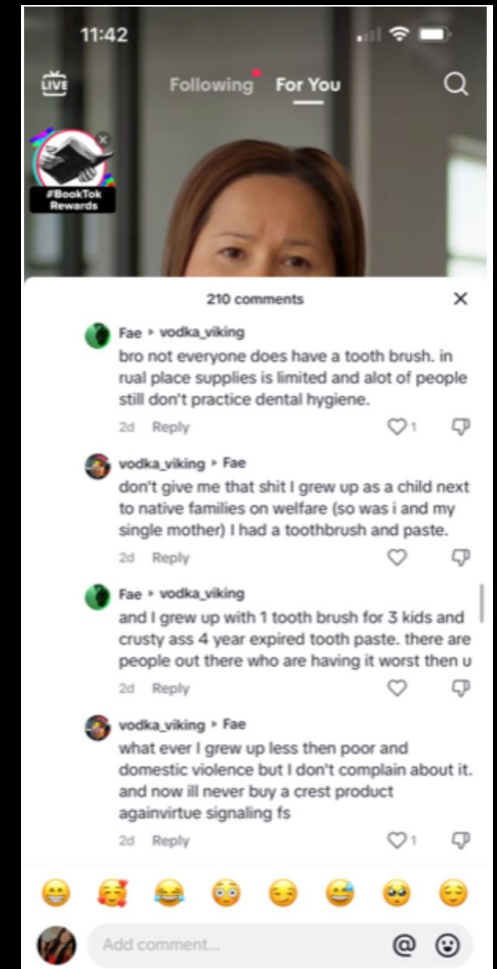
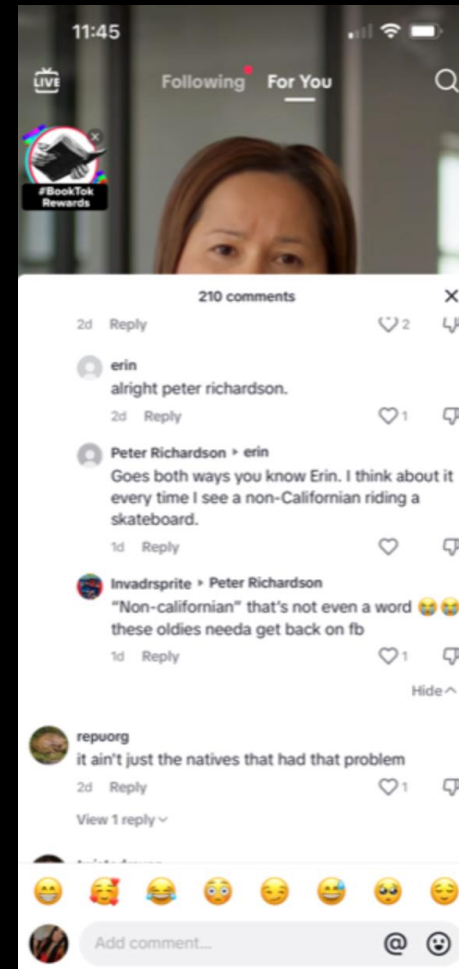
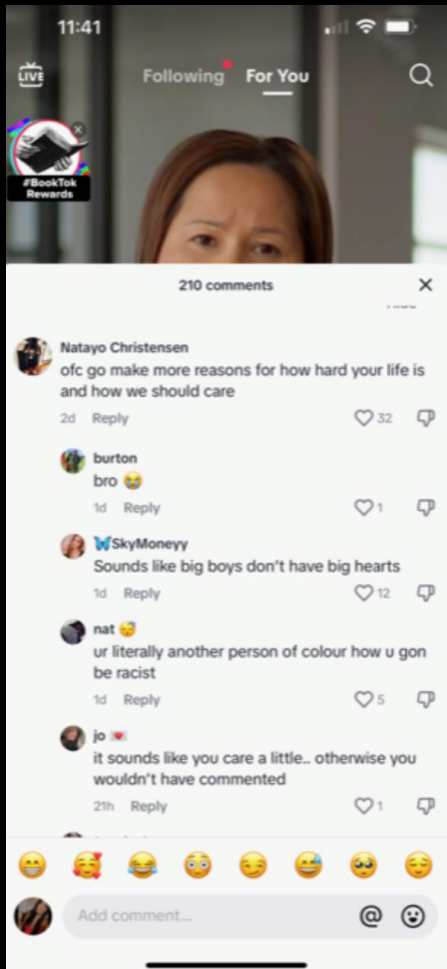
# Anti-Indigenous Racism in Dentistry

- Started this journey following the tragic death of Ms. Joyce Echaquan on September 28, 2020.
- Webinar on Anti-Indigenous Racism in Dentistry and Reconciliation
- Led to the early launch of IDAC
- Recently, IDAC participated in a campaign (Close the Smile Gap) with Crest and Oral B to address the Indigenous Oral Health Inequity, or the Oral Health Crisis
  - Highlight Indigenous oral health inequity in Canada
  - Highlight Indigenous oral health providers so that Indigenous children and youth have access to the profession









# Comments

- "why everyone in the comments being so racist"
- HmMMM if only your parents worked for those things instead of whining about the things they didn't get cuz of the colour of there're skin"
- "some of these comments are great examples why this women felt so unwelcomed"
- "shut up"
- "I thought we were kinda getting over racism like this (comments)"
- Lol fuc\*\* joke
- Maybe y'all should just buy a toothbrush? Just cuz you feel that way don't mean you should ignore ur health"
- "Sick of struggling to pay tax, I can't afford a toothbrush either"
  - "White people have nive homes, and work for their stuff. You guys beg for money from the government, and spend it all in cigarettes and alcohol"
  - "Cause it's a waste of money, these lazy ass natives need to get a job, and do something for once lol"
- "ofc go make more reasons for how hard your life is and we should care"
- "Red skins back at it again"
- "So sad Sorry to hear that. And those that make a joke should be ashamed of themselves. Shame on you"
- "First Indigenous Pediatric Dentist in Canada. She is doing great work helping all children in all nationalities across Canada. Way to go Dr. McKinstry"
- "it ain't just the natives that had that problem"
- "don't give a shi\* I grew up as a child next to native families on welfare (so was i and my single mother) I had a toothbrush and paste
- "What ever I grew up less then poor and domestic violence but I don't complain about it. And now ill never buy a crest product againvirtue signaling fs".

# Outcome

## What we learned from this campaign:

- Much needed societal paradigm shift from colonial way of understanding Indigenous people, especially Indigenous oral health.
- Anti-Indigenous Racism in Dentistry project to create cultural safety training dealing specifically with harmful behaviours in the dental clinic.
- While I expected this to happen, our partner had no idea and did not anticipate the racism
  - Anti-Indigenous racism is pervasive and entrenched in Canadian society
  - Shut down comments after 2 days due to racism
  - Has never had this with any other campaign
- Positives:
  - IDAC partnered another year on this campaign
  - 25 million+ impressions to date with this campaign
  - Support for Indigenous people





# Outcome: Indigenous woman in the oral health profession

- **Ongoing fear, apprehension, and hypervigilance to this behaviour inside and outside of dentistry**
  - Indigenous people are aware of what people like those in the comments think of us
  - Unfortunately results in misunderstandings, mistrust, social exclusion
- **In IDAC capacity, knowing that Indigenous people have had both positive and yet very negative interactions in oral health profession**

# Conclusion

- IDAC has forged many meaningful relationships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations over this past year, many are ongoing relationships on their Reconciliation journey.
  - AFN NIHB dialogue
  - Anti-Racism Committee with
- We heard, listened, understand and are taking action to step up for the children that do not have access to oral health services through Jordan's Principle
- We are working to make our first official National Indigenous Oral Health Day meaningful and memorable.
- We are still growing and are evolving every single day.
- Remind the audience what you covered in the previous slides.

# Questions & answers

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